

# Ling 503 Functions of Language

**Schedule #21986**

**Spring 2017**

**TuTh 9:30am–10:45am**

**Room EBA-251**

This course provides an introduction to functional linguistics, building on the foundation laid in Ling 501. The first third of the course will be devoted to empirical methods in linguistics, including corpus linguistics. The next third will focus on phonetics and phonology, the study of linguistic sound systems. The final third of the course will address questions of cross-linguistic morphology and syntax, and to the ways that speakers use these devices to encode discourse relations. By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- understand and apply multiple linguistic methodologies describe the phonological, morphological, and syntactic patterns of an unfamiliar language
- recognize and describe the discourse-functional properties of the major construction types
- use up-to-date computational tools for linguistic data collection and analysis
- recognize grammatical similarities and differences across languages
- critically evaluate theoretical claims about linguistic structure

## **Instructor**

Rob Malouf

*Office:* SHW 244

*Office hours:* Tu 1:00–2:00, Th 8:30–9:30, or by appt

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## **Requirements**

The final grade will be based on homeworks (15%), three midterm exams (15% each), and a final paper (40%). Besides being a big part of the course grade, the homework assignments will be excellent practice for the exams. Working in groups on homework assignments (but not exams!) is encouraged. However, please turn in your own individual write-up. Late homeworks will be accepted (with

a grade penalty) for **one week only** after the deadline. There will be no make-up exams without prior arrangements. If you can't make it to an exam, let me know **in advance!** In the final paper, students will be required to apply one (or more) of the analytic techniques covered in the later parts of this course to data they have collected using the methods covered in the earlier parts.

No form of academic dishonesty, including cheating or plagiarism, will be tolerated in the class. Following Executive Order 1006, all instances of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities for investigation. For more information about the judicial process, see <http://csrr.sdsu.edu>. For more information about what plagiarism is and how to avoid it, see <http://its.sdsu.edu/tech/plagiarism.html>.

No one may record lectures or class discussions without prior permission. Students who make recordings without permission can be reported for misconduct.

If you are a student with a disability and believe you will need accommodations for this class, it is your responsibility to contact Student Disability Services at (619) 594-6473. To avoid any delay in the receipt of your accommodations, you should contact Student Disability Services as soon as possible. Please note that accommodations are not retroactive, and that I cannot provide accommodations based upon disability until I have received an accommodation letter from Student Disability Services. Your cooperation is appreciated.

The CSU has affirmed its commitment to “protecting access, affordability, intellectual freedom, inclusivity, and diversity for all students ... including supporting DACA students.” Discrimination, harassment, or retaliation against students, faculty, and staff on the basis of race, religion, gender, sexuality, disability, nationality, immigration status and other categories of identity is prohibited. If you have concerns about your status at the university, please visit <http://studentaffairs.sdsu.edu/EOP/> for information or contact the Dean of Students or the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs in your College.

## **Readings:**

The required textbooks for this course are:

Dani Byrd and Toben H. Mintz. 2010. *Discovering Speech, Words, and Mind*. Wiley Blackwell.

Paul R. Kroeger. 2005. *Analyzing Grammar: An Introduction*. Cambridge University Press.

These books will be for sale in the campus bookstore and at Amazon, etc. Updates and additional material can be downloaded from the publishers' websites.

All course information, readings, assignments, slides, etc. will be available on Blackboard. Additional readings will be made available in class or via the “Course documents” section of the course website.

## **Proposed schedule:**

- Week 1 **Accessing linguistic corpora**
- Week 2 **Comparing corpora**
- Week 3 **Collocations**
- Take-home exam: **Corpus linguistics**
- Week 4 **Acoustic phonetics**
- Week 5 **Phones and phonemes**
- Week 6 **Alternations**
- Take-home exam: **Phonetics and phonology**
- Week 7 **Words and word structure**
- Week 8 **Word formation**
- Week 9 **Basic syntactic constructions**
- Week 10 **More syntactic constructions**
- Take-home exam: **Morphology and syntax**
- Week 11 **Functions of morphology**
- Week 12 **Functions of syntax**
- Week 13 **Discourse structure**
- Week 14 **Discourse structure (cont.)**
- Week 15 **Wrap-up and review**