

Ling 501 Fundamentals of Linguistics

Schedule #22031

Spring 2018

TuTh 11:00am–12:15pm

Room EBA-412

This course will serve as a broad introduction to linguistics, building a foundation for further study in the field. The first half of the course will be devoted to introducing the four basic layers of language: **morphology, phonetics, phonology, and syntax**. Next we will turn to **semantics** and **pragmatics**, investigating the ways the people use language to convey meanings. We will then take a broad look at **historical** and **areal linguistics** looking at some of the amazing ways that languages vary across space and time. Finally, with a basic picture of linguistic systems in mind, we will look at **discourse** (language use in texts in dialogues) and **sociolinguistics** (language in its social context).

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- describe and give examples of ways in which human languages are all alike and how they may differ
- use the basic terminology of linguistics to describe language phenomena
- apply the tools of linguistic analysis to the sounds, words, and sentences of a language
- explain the ways in which languages change over time
- describe differing uses of language in its social context

Instructor

Rob Malouf

Office: SHW 244

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

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Requirements

The final grade will be based on homeworks (25%), two midterm exams (20% each), and a final exam (35%). 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 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.

General policies

- **There will be no make-up exams without prior arrangements. If you can't make it to an exam, let me know in advance!**
- 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.

Important dates

Midterm exams Feb. 1, Mar. 20
Final exam May 8

Readings

The required textbook for this course is:

Carol Genetti, ed. 2014. *How Languages Work: An Introduction to Language and Linguistics*. Cambridge University Press. <http://www.cambridge.org/genetti>

It is for sale in the campus bookstore and on Amazon and the other usual places. Updates and additional material can be downloaded from the publisher's website. All course information, additional readings, assignments, slides, etc. will be available on Blackboard.

Proposed schedule

Week 1	Introduction	Chapter 1
Week 2–3	Phonetics	Chapter 2
Week 4–5	Phonology	Chapter 3, 10
Week 6–7	Morphology	Chapter 4
Week 8–9	Syntax	Chapter 5, 6
Week 10–11	Semantics and pragmatics	Chapter 7, 8
Week 12	Discourse	Chapter 9
Week 13	Sociolinguistics	Chapter 11
Week 14	Historical linguistics	Chapter 12, 13
Week 15	Wrap up and review	—