Ling 503 Functions of Language

Spring 2019
TuTh 9:30am–10:45am
Room EBA-245
Schedule #22003

Course description

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.

Prerequisites

Students taking this class should have already taken either Ling 420 or Ling 501 (or equivalent).

Instructor

Rob Malouf
Office: SHW 244
Office hours: Tu 2:00–3:00 or by appt
Email/GTalk: `rmalouf@sdsu.edu`
Web: `malouf.sdsu.edu`

Student Learning Outcomes

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

Requirements

The final grade will be based on homeworks (15%), three midterm exams (20% each), and a final paper (25%). 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.

Readings

The required textbooks for this course are:

> Daniel Silverman. 2017. *A Critical Introduction to Phonology: Functional and Usage-Based Perspectives.* Bloomsbury Academic.

> 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.

Course policies

Academic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty includes cheating, plagiarism or other forms of academic dishonesty that are intended to gain unfair academic advantage. See section 41301 of the University policies. Plagiarism is defined as "formal work publicly misrepresented as original; it is any activity wherein one person knowingly, directly and for lucre, status, recognition, or any public gain resorts to the published or unpublished work of another in order to represent it as one's own." (Alexander Lindey, *Plagiarism and Originality*, 1952). Any work, in whole or in part, taken from the Internet or other computer-base source without referencing the source is considered plagiarism. 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`.

Non-discrimination. San Diego State University complies with the requirements of Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as well as other applicable federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination. No person shall, on the basis of race, color, or national origin be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination in any program of the California State University. SDSU does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs and activities. SDSU does not discriminate on the basis of sex, gender, or sexual orientation in the educational programs or activities it conducts. More detail on SDSU's Nondiscrimination Policy can be

found the SDSU General Catalog, University Policies. Students should direct FERPA, Title IX, Discrimination, Harassment or any other protected categories inquiries and concerns to the office of Employee Relations and Compliance, phone number is 619-594-6464 and their website is `http://oerc.sdsu.edu`.

Student grievances. SDSU is committed to maintaining a safe and healthy living and learning environment for students, faculty and staff. Sections 41301, Standards for Student Conduct, and Sections 41302–41304 of SDSU Policies regarding student conduct should be review. If a student believes that a professor's treatment is grossly unfair or that a professor's behavior is clearly unprofessional, the student may bring the complaint to the proper authorities. See SDSU policies on Student Grievances.

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

Student services. Student services A complete list of all academic support services is available on the Academic Success section of the SDSU Student Affairs website. For help with improving your writing ability, the staff at the SDSU Writing Center is available in person and online. Counseling and Psychological Services offers confidential counseling services by licensed psychologists, counselors, and social workers. More info can be found at their website or by contacting (619) 594-5220. You can also Live Chat with a counselor `http://go.sdsu.edu/student_affairs/cps/therapist-consultation.aspx` between 4:00pm and 10:00pm, or call San Diego Access and Crisis 24-hour Hotline at (888) 724-7240.

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). 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.

Students with disabilities. If you are a student with a disability and believe you will need accommodations for this class, it is your responsibility to contact Student Ability Success Center at (619) 594-6473. To avoid any delay in the receipt of your accommodations, you should contact Student Ability Success Center 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 Ability Success Center. Your cooperation is appreciated.

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 strucutre (cont.)**

- Week 15   **Wrap-up and review**