

Ling 501 Fundamentals of Linguistics

San Diego State University

Schedule # 5989

Fall 2023

TuTh 2:00pm–3:15pm

Room HH-210

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 dialogs) and **sociolinguistics** (language in its social context). This class has no pre-requisites.

Instructor

Prof. Rob Malouf

Website: malouf.sdsu.edu

Email: rmalouf@sdsu.edu

Office hours: Tu Th 1:00–2:00 or by appointment

Real office: SHW 244

Zoom office: SDSU.zoom.us/j/81450093766

Students are provided with an SDSU Gmail account, and this SDSU email address will be used for all communications. University Senate policy notes that students are responsible for checking their official university email once per day during the academic term. For more information, please see Student Official Email Address Use Policy here: senate.sdsu.edu/policy-file/policies/facilities#collapsed20e126_12

SDSU provides disability-related accommodations via the Student Ability Success Center (sascinfo@sdsu.edu). Please allow 10–14 business days for this process.

Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. Please let me know if you would prefer an alternate name and/or gender pronoun.

Student Learning Outcomes

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

Course Materials

The required textbook for this course is:

Carol Genetti, ed. 2018. *How Languages Work: An Introduction to Language and Linguistics*. 2nd edition. Cambridge University Press. hlw.id.ucsb.edu

Make sure you get the second edition! It is for sale or rent in the campus bookstore and on Amazon and all 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 Canvas.

Schedule

Module	Topic	Readings
1	Introduction	Chapter 1
2	Phonetics	Chapter 2
3	Phonology	Chapter 3
4	Morphology	Chapter 4
5	Words	Chapter 5
6	Syntax	Chapter 6
7	Semantics	Chapter 7
8	Pragmatics	Chapter 8
9	Discourse	Chapter 9
10	Historical	Chapter 12
11	Language Contact	Chapter 13
12	Sociolinguistics	Chapter 11

Course Design

Course grades will be based on weekly quizzes and homeworks, two mid-term exams, and a comprehensive final exam:

- Quizzes (20%)
- Homeworks (20%)
- Midterm 1 (20%)
- Midterm 2 (20%)
- Final exam (20%)

Tentative dates for the midterms are October 7 and November 21, and the final will be December 14.

Grading Policies

Working in groups on homework assignments is encouraged. However, please turn in your own individual write-up. Homework should be submitted via Canvas as a PDF file. Late homeworks will be accepted with a grade penalty of one point.