

Ling 70100, Introduction to Theoretical Linguistics
Fall 2021, Wednesday 11:45–1:45 PM, Room TBA

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Ling 73800, Practicum
Fall 2021, Time and Room TBA

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Course Description

An introduction to the intellectual foundations, methods, and motivations of theoretical Linguistics. What kinds of questions do linguists ask? What do some of the answers look like? And why? The course will cover fundamental concepts in the core areas of theoretical Linguistics (Phonology, Morphology, Syntax, and Semantics). A substantial component of the course will be the discussion and demonstration of analytical techniques used in contemporary linguistics and applied to problem sets. A practicum (LING 73800) is attached to this course, taught by a graduate student teaching assistant.

Course Goals

Students in this course will gain a general understanding of the concerns, methods, and substance of the core subfields of theoretical Linguistics: Phonology, Morphology, Syntax, and Semantics. Students will become familiar with argumentation and analysis in these subfields.

Learning Objectives

Students in this course will gain familiarity with the terminology, core concepts, central questions, and prominent analytical tools of theoretical linguistic analysis. Upon completion of the course, students will be able to read primary theoretical literature and be prepared to take introductory level courses in linguistic theory.

Class Topics and Reading Assignments

Meeting	Date	Topics and Reading Assignments
Class 1	TBA	Syntax & Semantics Reading: Beck & Gergel 2014, Ch. 1; Radford 2004, Ch. 1
Class 2	TBA	Syntax I Reading: Carnie 2013, Ch. 2; Sportiche et al. 2014, Ch. 3 (up to p. 74)
Class 3	TBA	Syntax II Reading: Carnie 2013, Ch. 4; Sportiche et al. 2014, Ch. 5, pp. 105-113
Class 4	TBA	Case Study: Nupe Syntax Reading: \emptyset
Class 5	TBA	Semantics I Reading: Beck & Gergel 2014, Chs. 5-7
Class 6	TBA	Semantics II Reading: Beck & Gergel 2014, Ch. 8

Class 7	TBA	Semantics & Pragmatics Reading: Gamut 1991 vol. 1, Ch. 6
Class 8	TBA	Articulatory Phonetics Reading: Ladefoged & Johnson 2011, Chs. 1 & 6
Class 9	TBA	Acoustic Phonetics Reading: Ladefoged & Johnson 2011, Ch. 8
Class 10	TBA	Auditory Phonetics Reading: Raphael et al. (2011), Chs. 10 & 11 (pp. 222-238; 243-252)
Class 11	TBA	Segmental Phonology I Reading: Hayes 2009, Ch. 2
Class 12	TBA	Segmental Phonology II Reading: Hayes 2009, Chs. 4 & 7
Class 13	TBA	Suprasegmental Phonology Reading: Hayes 2009, Chs. 13 & 14; Gussenhoven & Jacobs 2011, Ch. 10
Class 14	TBA	Case Study: Nupe Morpho-phonology Reading: Hayes 2009, Ch. 5; Gussenhoven & Jacobs 2011, Ch. 10

Textbook

There is no required textbook for this course. All readings and course materials will be posted in the course Dropbox folder.

Course Dropbox Folder

Link: [TBA](#)

Assessment

You are required to do all the assigned readings, attend all lectures and practica, and submit all homework assignments. You are encouraged to discuss homework assignments with your classmates, but you must submit your answers individually. There are no exams for this course.

Throughout the semester, you will be expected to prepare for each practicum by meeting beforehand with classmates, virtually, in groups of two or three, and doing two things: 1) working on the pre-assigned practicum exercises and 2) coming up with two questions (total) about material from the course (these could be questions about assigned readings, material from lectures, or material from practicum exercises/homework). Your collaborative practicum exercise work and questions need not be submitted, but you are expected to have them prepared before each practicum.

- Attendance and class participation 30%
- Homework assignments 70%

Course Reading List

Beck, Sigrid and Remus Gergel. 2014. *Contrasting English and German Grammar: an Introduction to Syntax and Semantics*. Berlin: De Gruyter Mouton.

- Carnie, Andrew. 2013. *Syntax: A Generative Introduction* (3rd Edition). West Sussex: Wiley-Blackwell.
- Gamut, L.T.F. 1991. *Logic, Language, and Meaning, Vol. 1*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Gussenhoven, Carlos and Haïke Jacobs. 2011. *Understanding Phonology* (3rd edition). London: Hodder Education.
- Hayes, Bruce. 2009. *Introductory Phonology*. West Sussex: Wiley-Blackwell.
- Ladefoged, Peter and Keith Johnson. 2011. *A Course in Phonetics* (6th edition). Boston: Wadsworth, Cengage Learning.
- Radford, Andrew. 2004. *Minimalist Syntax: Exploring the Structure of English*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.
- Raphael, Lawrence J., Gloria J. Borden, and Katherine S. Harris. 2011. *Speech Science Primer: Physiology, Acoustics, and Perception of Speech*. Baltimore: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins.
- Sportiche, Dominique, Hilda Koopman, and Edward Stabler. 2014. *An Introduction to Syntactic Analysis and Theory*. West Sussex: Wiley-Blackwell.