

01:615:497:01 Advanced Undergraduate Seminar Syllabus

Fall 2020

Online, synchronous course

Class Time and Venue

Mondays 9:50 - 12:50

Class meetings take place via Zoom within Canvas.

Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Bruce Tesar

E-mail: tesar@rutgers.edu

Office Hours: held via Zoom

Tuesdays 4:30 - 5:30 pm

Thursdays 11 am - 12 pm

or by appointment

Students who are unable to be online for one of the standard office hours are strongly encouraged to contact the instructor via e-mail to schedule an alternative meeting time.

Prerequisites

615:201 and (615:305 or 615:315 or 615:325)

Course Description

This semester's topic is stress. Stress refers to the relative degree of prominence certain syllables have relative to others in an utterance. Phonetically, that prominence can be realized in a variety of ways (often in combination): amplitude (loudness), pitch, duration, and tone. The patterns of stress vary from language to language, within certain boundaries, and stress can interact with other grammatical structures of phonology, syntax, and semantics.

Learning Goals

Course Learning Goals

Students will:

- apply the tools of linguistic analysis from the core courses to a particular topic.
- identify projects related to the topic of the course.
- search a variety of resources for material relevant to their project.
- work in teams to present their findings in a structured format.
- respond to questions and comments about their project.

Linguistics Departmental Learning Goals Addressed

Students will:

- reason about language scientifically; demonstrate knowledge of cross-linguistic variability and universal patterns in language; evaluate a range of views on the nature, origin, and/or structure of language; and identify what someone knows when they know a language.
- demonstrate technical mastery over the tools of linguistic analysis in syntax, phonology, semantics and pragmatics and apply linguistic theory in these areas. They will investigate and analyze linguistic data; demonstrate strong problem-solving skills; extend their understanding of theoretical linguistics into other domains on linguistic research; apply the techniques of linguistics to new topics; and access current research in the field.

Texts

There is no textbook for this course. Any required readings will be made available on Canvas.

Course Canvas Site

The Canvas site for the course is **2020FA - Adv Undergrad Semina 01:615:497:01**. All handouts, assignments, videos, and grades will be available on this site, and course announcements will be made via this site. Make sure that you have your Canvas options set so that notifications will reach you quickly, via e-mail or some other avenue.

Course Requirements

The final grades for this course are Pass / No credit.

Pass is an overall score of 70% or higher.

Presentations (70%)

- Language presentation (teams of two students each): 20%
- Initial project idea (individual): 10%
- Preliminary project report (by group): 10%
- Final project report (by group): 30%

Group assignments will be done using Google Docs in the Canvas Collaborations tool.

Final Presentation to the Department (20%)

Each group will make a final presentation of their work to the Linguistics Department at an end-of-semester online event.

Participation (10%)

Attendance in weekly class meetings. There is no penalty for missing up to two class meetings. Each additional missed class will result in a deduction of half the participation grade. A student with four or more absences without documented justification will get a zero for the participation portion of the grade.

Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend all classes, and that includes joining the class session before class begins. Students should use the University absence reporting website <https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra> (Links to an external site.) to indicate the date and reason for necessary absences (an email is automatically sent to me). This includes absences for religious observances, health issues, and university activities. If a student must miss class for a period longer than one week, they must see their Dean of Students for assistance in verifying the circumstances of the absence.

Course Schedule (subject to change)

- 9/8 Introduction to the course, stress
- 9/14 Stress in phonology
- 9/21 Stress in syntax
- 9/28 Stress in semantics / pragmatics
- 10/5 Discuss possible topics
- 10/12 Language reports
- 10/19 NO CLASS
- 10/26 Project pitches
- 11/2 Finalize groups and projects
- 11/9 Progress reports
- 11/16 Progress reports
- 11/23 Tips on presentation
- 11/30 Final presentations to class
- 12/7 Presentations to the department

Academic Integrity

The Rutgers University Academic Integrity Policy (Links to an external site.) is available online on the university's Academic Integrity (Links to an external site.) website. If you are uncertain about whether a particular action is permitted, **please ask the instructor first**.

Students may collaborate only on those projects that explicitly involve group work, not on assignments that are required to be done independently.

Student Hardships

Students who have financial concerns that impact their participation in the class, including difficulty getting reliable internet access or appropriate computing equipment, should contact the Dean of Students at deanofstudents@echo.rutgers.edu.

Students who have mental health challenges, personal struggles, or psychological concerns are encouraged to take advantage of CAPS (Counseling, Alcohol and Other Drug Assistance Program & Psychiatric Services) at Rutgers. Visit their site at <http://health.rutgers.edu/medical-counseling-services/counseling/> (Links to an external site.)

Intellectual Property Rights

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