

**Introduction to Linguistic Theory (01:615:201, Sections 01-04)**

Fall 2019

<b>Lecture Time</b>	Tuesdays 1:10-2:30pm
<b>Lecture Location</b>	Milledoler Hall 100
<b>Recitation</b>	Thursdays 1:10-2:30 (locations vary by section)
<b>Course Website</b>	Canvas
<b>Instructor</b>	Troy Messick
<b>E-mail</b>	troy.messick@rutgers.edu
<b>Office</b>	18 Seminary Place Room 302
<b>Office Hours</b>	Tuesday 10am-noon (or by appointment)



<b>Sec</b>	<b>Instructor</b>	<b>E-mail</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Office Hours (18 Seminary-B)</b>
1	Meg Gotowski	<a href="mailto:megan.gotowski@rutgers.edu">megan.gotowski@rutgers.edu</a>	SC-206	Tu/Thu 4:00-5:00pm
2	Dine Mamadou	<a href="mailto:dine.mamadou@rutgers.edu">dine.mamadou@rutgers.edu</a>	HH-A5	Tu 3:00-4:00pm Thu 10:30-11:30am
3	Akane Ohtaka	<a href="mailto:akane.ohtaka@rutgers.edu">akane.ohtaka@rutgers.edu</a>	HH-A3	M 2:00-3:00pm W 3:00-4:00pm
4	Chen Zhou	<a href="mailto:cz273@linguistics.rutgers.edu">cz273@linguistics.rutgers.edu</a>	SC-105	Thu 12:00-1:00pm & 3:00-4:00pm

**About the course**

This course is an introduction to the study of linguistics and contemporary linguistic theory. *Linguistics* is a broad term that encompasses basically anything having to do with the scientific study of human language. Linguists use mathematical systems (often called ‘formal systems’) to develop precise theories that help us understand the incredibly rich cognitive processes that allow us to use language to communicate with each other, conduct an internal monologue, and so much more.

In this course, we’ll focus on several key areas of modern linguistic theory: morphology (the study of words and word formation), syntax (the study of how sentences and phrases are built and structured), semantics (the study of how words and phrases are associated with meaning), and phonetics and phonology (the study of “speech sounds”, broadly — scare quotes because we can also study the phonetics and phonology of signed languages!).

**Course learning goals**

At the completion of this course, students will be able to:

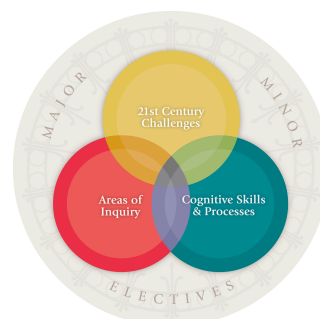
- Understand significant subfields within linguistics.
- Understand, create, and manipulate representations and analyses in phonetics, morphology, syntax, semantics, phonetics, and phonology.

Department learning goals met by this course:

- Students will reason about language; identify how incorrect or irrational assumptions and prejudices distort understanding of language; demonstrate knowledge about language in the world including a sophisticated understanding of linguistic and cultural variation, and evaluate popular views on the nature of human languages and their speakers.
- Majors and Minors will also demonstrate technical mastery over the tools of linguistic analysis in syntax, phonology and semantics and apply linguistic theory in these areas. They will investigate linguistic data and analyze it; demonstrate strong problem-solving skills; extend their understanding of theoretical linguistics into other domains of linguistic research; apply the techniques of linguistics that they have learned in the core courses to new topics; and access current research in the field. Some students will investigate language in a broader context, where it can be systematically and rationally explored using their sophisticated understanding how language works.

This course has been approved as a Core Curriculum Course and satisfies the following Core Curriculum learning goals:

- Understand the nature of human languages and their speakers. [AHq]
- Apply effective and efficient mathematical or other formal processes to reason and to solve problems [QR]



## Readings

You do not need to buy a textbook for this course. Required readings are posted as pdf files on Canvas within the corresponding module (e.g., the Phonetics reading can be found in the Phonetics Module).

## Grades

Your final grade for this course is based on a mix of homework assignments, midterm and final exams, and attendance/participation (both in lecture and recitation). The percentage-wise breakdown is below. You also have the opportunity to earn 2% extra credit by participating in experiments (more on that below)

6 out of 8 assignments (lowest 2 dropped)	50%
Midterm and Final Exam	40% (20% each)
Attendance & participation	10%

## Homework

Eight (8) homework assignments are distributed regularly throughout the semester via the course website on the Friday before it is due. The weeks during which homework assignments are due are indicated on the course schedule. Homework must be turned in no later than **Friday of that week** via the course website. Late homework will not be accepted. Your lowest two assignments will be dropped from your final grade. Students must complete and submit their own original work for each assignment.

Homework assignments are used to gauge how well each student is absorbing the material. The assignments may at times seem difficult. If you find yourself struggling with an assignment, please contact your TA or the instructor or attend office hours.

## Exams

There are two (2) exams given throughout the semester: one midterm and one final. The midterm is given during our regularly scheduled class time in the same lecture hall. You will have all class period to complete the midterm. The final will be during the scheduled time for finals given out by the university and it is **not** cumulative. The midterm and final will be the same length and will consist of questions based on data sets, short answer and fill in the blank/multiple choice questions.

## Participation/attendance

Students are expected to attend all classes and recitations. Frequent and unexcused absences will substantially lower your Attendance & participation grade, and will likely make it difficult for you to succeed in the course. If you need to miss a class, **you must use the University absence reporting website** ([sims.rutgers.edu/ssra](http://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra)) to indicate the date and reason for your absence. An email is automatically sent to me.

## Extra Credit

- Some faculty and graduate students in the Department of Linguistics do experimental research on language. This research depends on the participation of undergraduate participants.
- You have the option of participating in Linguistics experiments during the semester. Each experiment usually takes between 20 and 45 minutes.
- Experiments are offered through the Linguistics department experiment management system (sona): <http://rutgerslinguistics.sona-systems.com/>. Towards the beginning of the semester, your name and email will be added to the experiment system. You will be issued an anonymous id to participate in experiments through this system. Once Linguistics experiments are posted, you can sign up online. Note that this system is different from the psychology pool, and you should not use a psychology ID to log in to the system.
- Any student enrolled in a Linguistics undergraduate course is eligible to participate in Linguistics experiments, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, language status, or impairments, disorders, or disabilities (as long as his/her instructor provides the opportunity). You cannot be denied participation for any of these reasons.
- You have the right to not participate in experiments to earn extra credit. You may speak with me about possible research alternatives, such as reading a pre-approved scholarly article in linguistics and writing a 2-page paper summarizing it.

## Academic Integrity

Please review the university's academic integrity policy: [academicintegrity.rutgers.edu](http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu). It's unethical and unacceptable to pass off anyone else's work as your own.

## Student Services at Rutgers

### Disability Services

Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. In order, to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an

intake interview, and provide documentation: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines>. If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus's disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible. To begin this process, please complete the Registration form on the ODS web site at: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form>.

### **[Just In Case Web App](#)**

<http://codu.co/cee05e>

Access helpful mental health information and resources for yourself or a friend in a mental health crisis on your smartphone or tablet and easily contact CAPS or RUPD.

### **Counseling, ADAP & Psychiatric Services (CAPS)**

**(848) 932-7884 / 17 Senior Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 / [www.rhscaps.rutgers.edu/http://health.rutgers.edu/medical-counseling-services/counseling/](http://www.rhscaps.rutgers.edu/http://health.rutgers.edu/medical-counseling-services/counseling/)**

CAPS is a University mental health support service that includes counseling, alcohol and other drug assistance, and psychiatric services staffed by a team of professional within Rutgers Health services to support students' efforts to succeed at Rutgers University. CAPS offers a variety of services that include: individual therapy, group therapy and workshops, crisis intervention, referral to specialists in the community and consultation and collaboration with campus partners.

### **Violence Prevention & Victim Assistance (VPVA)**

**(848) 932-1181 / 3 Bartlett Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 / [www.vpva.rutgers.edu/](http://www.vpva.rutgers.edu/)**

The Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance provides confidential crisis intervention, counseling and advocacy for victims of sexual and relationship violence and stalking to students, staff and faculty. To reach staff during office hours when the university is open or to reach an advocate after hours, call 848-932-1181.

### **Scarlet Listeners**

**(732) 247-5555 / <http://www.scarletlisteners.com/><https://rutgers.campuslabs.com/engage/organization/scarletlistenersh>**

Free and confidential peer counseling and referral hotline, providing a comforting and supportive safe space.

**Schedule (Tentative)**

<b>Week</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Tuesday Lectures</b>	<b>Thursday Recitations</b>	<b>Friday Homework</b>
1	Sep 3-6	Introduction to Linguistics	Introduction	
2	Sep 10-13	Phonetics I	Phonetics	
3	Sep 17-20	Phonetics II	Phonetics	HW 1 due
4	Sep 24-27	Phonology I	Phonology	
5	Oct 1-4	Phonology II	Phonology	HW 2 due
6	Oct 8-11	Phonology III	Midterm Review	HW 3 due
7	Oct 15-18	Midterm	Go over Exam	
8	Oct 22-25	Morphology I	Morphology	
9	Oct 29-Nov 1	Morphology II	Morphology	HW 4 due
10	Nov 5-8	Syntax I	Syntax	
11	Nov 12-15	Syntax II	Syntax	HW 5 due
12	Nov 19-22	Syntax III	Syntax	HW 6 due
13	Nov 26-29	<b>**Semantics I**</b>	No Class	
14	Dec 3-6	Semantics II	Semantics	HW 7 due
15	Dec 10-13	Semantics III	No Class	HW 8 due

\*\*\*The Tuesday of Week 13 is on a Thursday schedule so you will meet in your Recitation section.

The final exam time is **Monday December 16th from 8:00-11:00am**