

# SPAU-4925-ABW: Introduction to Linguistics

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The Graduate Center, CUNY

Spring, 2020

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Office Hours: by appointment

Class Room: 606  
Class Hours: Wed: 9:00-11:40AM

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## Course Description

This course is an introduction to linguistics, which is the scientific study of language. Students will receive a foundation in the core areas of linguistics, including morphology, phonetics, phonology, syntax and semantics. These foundations will then allow students to explore some of the applied fields of linguistics, such as language documentation and language acquisition. The course will approach language from a scientific perspective, encouraging students to develop an aptitude for critical analysis.

## Course Materials

- *Linguistics: An Introduction to Language and Communication*, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition. Adrian Akmajian, Richard A. Demers, Ann K. Farmer, Robert M. Harnish, ISBN-13: 978-0262013758
- Course notes and additional readings for each chapter will be available on Canvas.

## Course Objectives

By the end of the semester, students should be able to:

- Refute many popular myths about language.
- Explain the difference between prescriptive grammar and descriptive grammar.
- See human language as an orderly, rule-governed system.
- Use the International Phonetic Alphabet to describe speech sounds.
- Identify some phonological, morphological, syntactic, and semantic features of language.
- Describe some cross-linguistic differences in morphology and syntax.
- Discuss the relationship between language and society.

## Letter Grade Distribution

$\geq 93.00$	A	73.00 - 76.99	C
90.00 - 92.99	A-	70.00 - 72.99	C-
87.00 - 89.99	B+	67.00 - 69.99	D+
83.00 - 86.99	B	63.00 - 66.99	D
80.00 - 82.99	B-	60.00 - 62.99	D-
77.00 - 79.99	C+	$\leq 59.99$	F

## Grading Policy

I reserve the right to curve the scale dependent on overall class scores at the end of the semester.

- 10% Attendance and Participation
- 15% Group Presentation
- 30% Midterm Exam
- 15% Homework
- 30% Final Exam

## Attendance and Participation

- Please attend classes on time and finish required readings before class.
- If you must miss a class, please email me for clarification. Missing more than **3** classes will affect your grade.

## Midterm and Final Exam

- Midterm and Final exam will be closed book, closed notes, in-class exams.
- Total score for midterm and final exam will be 100'. There will be 20 multiple choice questions, 2' each. Four short essay questions, 10' each. One long essay question, 20'.
- Make-up exam is only available to those who have reasonable excuses. If you have to miss the exam, please contact me **BEFORE** exam day.

## Group Presentation

- Each group consists of 3 people and the presentation should last around 20 minutes.
- The group presentation should reflect the materials the Special Topics session for that chapter. Presentation topic should be communicated with the instructor beforehand.

## Homework

- Homework assignments are opportunities for you to practice the material covered in class.
- Homework will not be corrected for credit, but it will be discussed and reviewed during class as preparation for exams.
- Homework credits are given on the basis of submission.
- There will be extra credit homework assignments.

## College Policies

### **Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:**

Students with disabilities who are enrolled in this course and who will be requesting documented disability-related accommodations should make an appointment with the Office of Disability Services, rkohn1@yu.edu, during the first week of class. The office is located in 215 Lexington Ave, Suite 505. Once you have been approved for accommodations, please submit your accommodation letter and discuss any specifics with me to ensure the successful implementation of your accommodations.

### **Academic Support**

The Office of Academic Support provides services to students on the Beren Campus who are looking for guidance with difficult assignments and research papers. Individual support is available to those who are experiencing difficulties organizing schoolwork, managing the balance of schoolwork and life, and improving study habits. The office is located at 215 Lexington Ave, Suite 505. Students can sign up for appointments by logging on to <http://yu2.mywconline.com>. Click on the arrow next to 'Academic Advisement' and locate the link for Student Academic Support

## Weekly Schedule

The schedule is tentative and subject to change.

Week	Date	Topic and Readings	Due
Week 1	Jan. 22	Introduction Chapter 1	
Week 2	Jan. 29	Morphology Chapter 2	Homework 1
Week 3	Feb. 5	Phonetics Chapter 3	Homework 2
Week 4	Feb. 12	Phonology Chapter 4	Homework 3
Week 5	Feb. 19	Language Variation Chapter 7	Homework 4 Group Presentation 1
Week 6	Feb. 26	Language Change Chapter 8	Homework 5 Group Presentation 2
<b>Week 7</b>	<b>Mar. 4</b>	<b>Midterm</b>	
Week 8	Mar. 11	Syntax I Chapter 5	Homework 6
Week 9	Mar. 18	Syntax II Chapter 5	Homework 7
Week 10	Mar. 25	Semantics Chapter 6	Homework 8
Week 11	Apr. 1	Pragmatics Chapter 9	Homework 9
<b>Week 12</b>	<b>Apr. 8</b>	<b>NO CLASS</b>	
<b>Week 13</b>	<b>Apr. 15</b>	<b>NO CLASS</b>	
Week 14	Apr. 22	Language Acquisition Chapter 11	Homework 10 Group presentation 3
<b>Week 15</b>	<b>Apr. 29</b>	<b>NO CLASS</b>	
Week 16	May 6	Sociolinguistics Reading Materials will be provided on Canvas	Homework 11 Group Presentation 4
<b>Week 17</b>	<b>May 13</b>	<b>Reading Day</b>	
<b>Week 18</b>	<b>May 20</b>	<b>Final Exam</b>	

## Academic Integrity Policy: Undergraduate Schools

Yeshiva University – UTS, SCW, YC, & Sy Syms

Enhanced December 2019

### Exam Policies

#### **Overall Expectation**

Yeshiva University's undergraduate education strives to do much more than impart information and skills to students. At the core of our educational goals is character development and preparation for the workplace based on our Jewish tradition and values. First, and arguably foremost, of the questions we need to keep asking ourselves is: Am I dealing honestly in my business dealings? (Shabbat 31a) The process of internalizing honesty requires years of development before entering the workplace, and it is thus during college that you define who you will be after you graduate. It is with this in mind that we present the academic integrity expectations and policies that will enable the development of the character traits at which we know you can excel.

Given the critical importance of academic integrity across our institution, *every* potential breach of academic integrity must be addressed by formal process – without exception or special allowance. In this vein, the highest standards and expectations for integrity will apply across all of Yeshiva University's undergraduate courses.

This document focuses on the policies and processes for exams: midterms and finals. An upcoming companion document will focus on the policies and processes for other assignments, such as group projects and research papers.

#### **Cross-School Coordination**

Allegations of violations will be reviewed by a university-wide Academic Integrity Committee (AIC) comprised of representatives from each undergraduate school. If the AIC finds that there was a violation, when deciding on a penalty the AIC will consider such factors as the severity of the violation, whether it was a first-time offense, and whether the student acknowledged wrongdoing. The process chart in Figure 1 documents the existing review process adopted in December 2018, which will be followed by the AIC.

#### **Exam Policies**

##### A) Classroom set-up

Faculty will assign students to seats as they enter the room, and for multiple-choice and short-answer exams, multiple alternating versions of the test will be distributed for students sitting next

to each other. All personal items (books, bags, phones, smart watches, coats, etc.) must be left at the front of the room.

#### B) Bathroom use policy

Students will not be permitted to leave the room while they are taking the exam, even to use the bathroom, unless accompanied by a proctor. Once students begin a test, they will need to hand in their answers if they leave the room unaccompanied, and they cannot return to the testing room.

#### C) Active proctoring

Professors and proctors will monitor students' actions throughout the exam. They will not use a laptop or phone during the exam (unless for exam-related matters), allowing them to better observe with undivided attention. Professors and proctors will regularly walk around the room and remain attentive throughout the exam.

#### D) Allowable hardware

All test booklets will be provided by the professor (unless students are explicitly allowed by the professor to use their own). Only simple ten button calculators without memory capacity and without communication capabilities will be allowed during applicable exams, unless an alternate style of calculator is explicitly approved, or directly provided, by the professor.

If laptops are explicitly permitted during an exam, no applications besides those explicitly approved (including for messaging) may be open on a student's computer (even if hidden). Proctors will monitor any laptop usage closely – before and throughout the exam.

#### E) Monitoring equipment

If possible, testing rooms equipped with cameras, or other monitoring equipment, should be utilized.

### **Exam Formats**

Faculty will create new exams for their courses each semester and will be judicious in using test banks (see expectations below). For multiple-choice and short-answer exams, students sitting next to each other will receive multiple alternating versions. Non-essay exams will not be administered as take-home exams.

Faculty are encouraged to submit past exams to the library, to serve as a public resource for students.

When the use of test-bank questions is appropriate for a discipline and course, these are the expectations for their usage in exams:

- All students should be informed that the exam will include questions taken from test banks.
- The questions must be taken from multiple test banks.
- The test bank associated with the course's textbook(s) must not be used.

### **Make-up Final Exams**

Professors will prepare a different, entirely new exam for students who have been approved for a make-up exam. Therefore, we make reasonable efforts to limit approved deferrals to cases where there is documented proof<sup>1</sup> of the following circumstances:

- Three exams scheduled on the same day
- Marriage, bar/bat mitzvah, or birth of immediate family member
- Death of immediate family member, including grandparents
- Jury duty
- Hospitalization
- Documented illness

Students seeking a make-up exam must contact the Exam Director of the appropriate school. Except in emergencies, this needs to take place before the scheduled exam is administered. Students will receive a formal response indicating whether or not a make-up exam has been approved.

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<sup>1</sup> The documentation for a medical excused absence should be a "charge master" (a bill for service that indicates the ICD9 code for what was treated during the visit) provided by a licensed health provider given to the patient at the time of visit. Documentation from family members (whether sharing a last name or not) will not be accepted.

**Figure 1: Academic Integrity Process Chart**

