Introduction to Linguistic Theory (LING201):
Syllabus

Lecture: Monday, Wednesday 1:25-2:15
Discussion Sections: Fridays (time depends upon section)
Room: Thompson 106
Course Website: http://people.umass.edu/scable/LING201-SP13
(Readings will be posted on Moodle)

Personnel Information: ¹

Instructor: Seth Cable
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227 South College
Hours: Mon. 10-12

Teaching Assistants:
Michael Clauss
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303 South College
Hours: Mon. 2:30-3:30
Fri. 10:30-11:30

Joshua Levy
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426 Tobin
Hours: Wed. 2:30-4:30

Aleksei Nazarov
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303 South College
Hours: Tues. 2:30-4:30

¹ Note that any student is free to attend any TA’s office hours (not just the TA for the student’s section).
1. **General Course Description**

The main goal of this course is to two-fold: (i) to introduce students to the basic methodology and results of modern linguistics, (ii) to teach analytic reasoning through the examination of linguistic phenomena and data. This means that you will be taught:

- A basic introduction to some of the main results and ideas of modern linguistic theory
- The scientific reasoning behind them, so that you might apply that reasoning to novel cases, both in language and in other spheres of life.

A more detailed schedule appears later in this syllabus (Section 5), but broadly speaking you will be given a basic tour of the following key sub-areas of linguistic science:

- **Phonetics and Phonology** (sound structure) **Weeks 3 – 6**
- **Morphology** (word structure) **Weeks 7 – 9**
- **Syntax** (sentence structure) **Weeks 9 – 13**
- **Typology** (language variation) **Week 13**
- **First Language Acquisition** (child language learning) **Week 14**
- **Psycholinguistics** (language and the brain) **Week 14**

Given the course’s focus on formal reasoning, it satisfies the ‘R2’ general education requirement.

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2. **Course Requirements**

There are four main requirements, three of which will contribute towards your final grade.

2.1 **Class Attendance**

You will not be graded on attendance, but it is absolutely key to your success in this class. As mentioned later, the content of this course will come primarily from class lectures. Thus, it will not be possible simply to ‘do the reading’ and pass the course.

It is also critical that you attend the Friday discussion sections. These sections will provide key practice in the techniques explained in lecture, and allow you the opportunity to ask detailed questions regarding homework problems.

As a general warning, even though we do not base your grade directly on attendance, if you do not attend class, *you will fall behind and you will fail to pass the course.*
2.2 Homework (1/3 of Final Grade)

There will be nine homework assignments, which will together constitute 1/3 of your final grade.

2.2.1 Distribution of Homework

- Homework assignments will not be distributed in class. Rather, they will be posted on the course website, at the following URL: http://people.umass.edu/scable/LING201-SP13/Assignments/

- Homeworks will be assigned on Mondays and due the following Monday.

- On the Wednesday following the Monday due date, an answer key to the assignment will be posted on the course website, at the URL listed above.

2.2.2 Submission of Homework

- Homework will be submitted in hardcopy, before the start of lecture on Monday.

- Each TA will have a box for homeworks at the front of the lecture hall. You are to deposit your homework in the box for the TA leading your discussion section.

- *Homeworks cannot be submitted any other way (no submissions by e-mail or left in our departmental mailboxes)*

2.2.3 Collaboration Policy

Students are permitted to collaborate on homework assignments. *However:*

- Each person must hand in their own write-up of the assignment (no direct copies or jointly authored assignments allowed)

- You must list at the top of your assignment all those persons you’ve collaborated with

2.2.4 Lateness Policy

- If your homework is not ready on the Monday when it’s due, you may submit a note explaining that the assignment will be submitted before Wednesday lecture.

- If the assignment has not been submitted by the beginning of lecture on Wednesday, *it will not be accepted*

- You are only allowed to submit homework on Wednesday a total of *three times.*
2.3 Midterm Exams (1/3 of Final Grade)

There will be two in-class midterm exams, which will together constitute 1/3 of your final grade.

- The first mid-term will be on March 4th
- The second mid-term will be on April 8th
- The mid-terms will be cumulative.

2.4 Final Exam (1/3 of Final Grade)

There will be a final exam, which will constitute 1/3 of your final grade.

- The date of the final has not yet been determined, but I will notify you as soon as it has
- The final exam will be cumulative

3. Course Materials

3.1 Textbook

There is no required textbook for the course. However, most of the readings will be excerpted from the following textbook. If you’d like a linguistics textbook, this work is recommended:


A number of readings will also be taken from the following book, which is highly recommended as a work of popular science writing on linguistics.


3.2 Slides, Lecture Notes, and Class Handouts

The main content of the course will all be presented directly in lecture. Following each lecture, I will post the lecture slides to the course website, at the following URL:

http://people.umass.edu/scable/LING201-SP13/Slides-Handouts/

This website will also contain links to the handouts required for class. *These handouts must be printed out prior to class.* I will send an announcement by e-mail when a handout has been posted and must be printed out for lecture.
3.3 Readings and Tutorials

The assigned readings will be posted on the Moodle site for the course, which you should have access to if you are registered. In addition, the readings will be listed on the class website, along with recommended tutorials, at the following URL:

http://people.umass.edu/scable/LING201-SP13/Readings-Tutorials/

A Word on the Class E-Mail List

Many important announcements will be sent via e-mail, particularly announcements regarding homeworks and materials that must be printed out for class. It is thus imperative that you be on the general e-mail list for the course.

If you are registered for the class, you should already be on the list. If you are not registered yet, be sure to provide your e-mail information to your section TA, so that you can promptly begin to receive announcements regarding the class.

4. Some Important Dates

The following are some important dates relating to the class, which you should bear in mind in making your broader plans for the term:

February 4       Last Day to Drop with No Record
February 18      NO CLASS (Presidents Day)
February 19      Monday Schedule (on a Tuesday)

March 4          First Midterm
March 7          Last Day to Drop with a ‘W’
March 16 – 24    NO CLASS (Spring Break)

April 8          Second Midterm
April 15         NO CLASS (Patriots Day)
May 1            Last Class
May ??          Final Exam
5. **Schedule of Topics**

The following is a preliminary schedule of topics. We may diverge slightly from this schedule, and I will notify you if we do. *No matter how the individual topics might change, the dates of the midterms and the finals are fixed, and will not change (barring catastrophe).*

**Week 1:**

*Wednesday Lecture (1/23)*  
CANCELLED DUE TO ILLNESS

**Week 2:**

*Monday Lecture (1/28)*  
Review Syllabus and Policies, Linguistics as Cognitive Science  

*Wednesday Lecture (1/30)*  
Language Learning as a ‘Human Instinct’

**Week 3:**

*Monday Lecture (2/4)*  
Articulatory Phonetics and the International Phonetic Alphabet: Consonants

*Wednesday Lecture (2/6)*  
Articulatory Phonetics and the International Phonetic Alphabet: Vowels

**Week 4:**

*Monday Lecture (2/11)*  
Introduction to Phonology: Syllabification and Phonotactic Constraints

*Wednesday Lecture (2/13)*  
The Basics of Phonemes and Allophones I

**Week 5:**

*Tuesday Lecture (2/19)*  
The Basics of Phonemes and Allophones II

*Wednesday Lecture (2/20)*  
Phonemic Analysis: Determining Allophonic Variation I
Week 6:

*Monday Lecture (2/25)*
Phonemic Analysis: Determining Allophonic Variation II

*Wednesday Lecture (2/27)*
Phonemic Analysis: More Advanced Cases

Week 7:

*Monday Lecture (3/4)*
First Midterm Exam

*Wednesday Lecture (3/6)*
Introduction to Morphology: Affixation and Morphological Structure

Week 8:

*Monday Lecture (3/11)*
Morphological Theory I: Exotic Types of Word Formation, Heads and Compounds

*Wednesday Lecture (3/13)*
Morphological Theory II: Inflectional versus Derivational Morphology

Week 9:

*Monday Lecture (3/25)*
Morphological Analysis: Allomorphs and Morphophonemics

*Wednesday Lecture (3/27)*
Introduction to Syntax: Syntactic Categories and Phrase Structure Rules I

Week 10:

*Monday Lecture (4/1)*
Introduction to Syntax: Syntactic Categories and Phrase Structure Rules II

*Wednesday Lecture (4/3)*
Syntactic Ambiguity and Extensions to Phrase Structure Notation

Week 11:

*Monday Lecture (4/8)*
Second Midterm Exam
Wednesday Lecture (4/10)
Syntactic Recursion, Conjunction, and Constituency I

Week 12:

Wednesday Lecture (4/17)
Syntactic Recursion, Conjunction, and Constituency II

Week 13:

Monday Lecture (4/22)
Syntactic Selection and X-Bar Notation

Wednesday Lecture (4/24)
Linguistic Typology: Language Universals, Formal and Functional Explanations

Week 14:

Monday Lecture (4/29)
First Language Acquisition: The Development of Language in the Child

Wednesday Lecture (5/1)
Psycholinguistics: How the Brain Processes Language
Wrap Up and Review for the Final