

SYLLABUS

Course: ENGL 227 = LING 201: Elements of Linguistics = Introduction to Linguistics (Honors)
Semester: Spring 2013
Instructor: Prof. Dr. Victor Raskin (preferred form of address, Victor)
 Office: 441 Heavilon Hall. E-mail: vraskin@purdue.edu.
 Personal Web page (never quite up to date):
<http://web.ics.purdue.edu/~vraskin/Raskin.html> .
 Office hours: MWF 2:00-2:30 p.m. and (mostly) by appointment
Textbook: Chapters 4-9 of V. Raskin and I. Weiser, **Language and Writing**, Norwood, N.J.: Ablex, 1987) /RA/. The text is online on Blackboard.

No material needs to be purchased for the course, but much optional reading is available on request.

SUBJECT	Projected No. of Hours	READING
1. LANGUAGE: GENERAL FEATURES (a) Nature of this course (b) Facets of language (c) Linguistic method and intuition (d) Linguistics as a formal science (e) Language as communication	6	RA 4
2. PHONETICS/PHONOLOGY (a) Transcription (b) Articulation (c) Acoustics (d) The phoneme: distribution, phonemic structure (e) The phonological rule (f) Intonation	9	RA 5
3. MORPHOLOGY (a) The morpheme (b) The paradigm (c) Parts of speech	3	RA 6
4. SYNTAX (a) Subject, predicate, object, etc. (b) Syntactic structure: surface, deep (c) Transformational grammar	6	RA 7
5. SEMANTICS (a) Semantic entities and relations (b) Semantic features and componential analysis (c) Meaning, reference, paradoxes (d) Semantic interpretation/representation (e) Compositional semantics (f) Computational semantics	6	RA 8

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| 6. PRAGMATICS | 6 | RA 8 |
| (a) The user of language | | |
| (b) Communicational linguistics: | | |
| (c) Contextual semantics/pragmatics: | | |
| (d) Discourse analysis, text linguistics, conversational strategies | | |
| 7. LANGUAGE AND LANGUAGES | | RA 9 |
| (a) Linguistic variety: idiolect and dialect; sublanguage | | |
| (b) Language change: | | |
| (c) Linguistic typology and universals | | |
| (d) Elements of sociolinguistics | | |

Regular Assignments

Four two-question take-home assignments will be given throughout the course—the exact due date will be announced at the time the class is ready for each assignment, and up to two weeks will be allotted each time to turn it in. The assignments for the entire course will be posted on Blackboard Learn within a few weeks after the beginning of the semester. Occasionally, a linguistic movie may be shown, and an additional assignment may be related to its content and will typically earn bonus points. There are no mid-terms or finals, and make-up mechanisms will be available only for special circumstances. All assignments are to be e-mailed to the instructor, via Purdue (not BlackBoard!) e-mail, by or before the due dates. Students are encouraged to run up to 2 rough drafts by the instructor (by e-mail also) early on to make sure they are on the right track. Any student can test out of the course at any time by completing all the 4 assignments earlier and earning the grade they will accept.

Additional Honor Assignments

There may be several linguistic problems/puzzles, emulating linguistic research.

Grading Policy

Each question will be graded on the 100-point score, and the usual 90-80-70-60-pt. scale is used for determining the A-B-C-D letter grade.

Attendance Policy

Attendance is free for all responsible and successful students. Responsible students will be missing one or more classes only if they are confident that they can handle the material on the basis of reading the textbook chapters and other BlackBoard materials. Unfortunately, a typical non-attender fails the class or starts attending too late to earn a decent grade. A failing grade (< 60 pts.) on one question takes the privilege of free attendance away from the student; two failing grades preclude an A for the course; and the failing average grade after the first two assignments leads to an F. This hardly ever happens, though, and it is least expected in this privileged section.

Miscellanea

The course is taught as a non-competitive introduction in which every participant is expected to do well. A high percentage of A's for the attenders is typical even for a regular, non-honors section.

Suggestions and comments are most welcome.