

Syllabus: LING-UA 1 Language

New York University, Summer 2018

Up to date as of May 22, 2018

Schedule

Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, at 4–5:35PM
Room 104, 10 Washington Place

Instructors

Masha Esipova ([ˈmʌʃə ˈjesɪpəvə])

Homepage: https://sites.google.com/a/nyu.edu/masha_esipova/masha.esipova@nyu.edu

Office hours: by appointment (room 613, 10 Washington Place)

Yining Nie ([jɪˈnɪŋ ˈniː])

Homepage: <https://wp.nyu.edu/yiningnie/yiningnie@nyu.edu>

Office hours: by appointment (room 407, 10 Washington Place)

Required textbook

Language Files: Materials for an Introduction to Language and Linguistics, 12th edition:
<https://linguistics.osu.edu/research/pubs/lang-files>

We will occasionally assign readings from other sources, which will be uploaded to NYU Classes.

Course description

This course is an introductory survey of linguistics, a field that studies language from a scientific perspective. We will cover the basics of the major subfields: phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, pragmatics, and sociolinguistics. We will also discuss language acquisition, sign language linguistics, psycho- and neurolinguistics, and computational linguistics. Some of the main questions we will address in this course are: Is language innate or learned? What do native speakers of a language know about the sounds, words, and sentences of the language they

speak? How do social factors such as region, gender, and ethnicity affect language use? How is language processed in the brain?

The course will provide you with the necessary background to continue on to more advanced courses in linguistics. It satisfies the Introductory Course requirement for the linguistics major and is a prerequisite for some other linguistics courses. The course is a MAP exemptor for CAS students, and satisfies the Societies and Social Sciences course requirement.

Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for this course. We do not assume any prior knowledge of linguistics.

Workload and grade calculation

50% Homework. There will be 5 homework assignments throughout the course. The homeworks should be submitted **before class** on the day that they are due. **Late submissions will not be accepted** unless an extension has been granted in advance.

25% Midterm. Tests are in-class and closed-book. The dates for both the midterm and the final are fixed (see below). **There will be no make-up tests** except if necessitated by religious holidays (see below) or documented health-related reasons.

25% Final. See “Midterm” above.

Your letter grade for the class will be assigned on the following scale.

A	95–100%	B	83–86%	C	73–76%	D	63–66%
A–	90–94%	B–	80–82%	C–	70–72%	F	0–62%
B+	87–89%	C+	77–79%	D+	67–69%		

Policies and other remarks

Attendance policy. We know that you are serious students but that you are also adults who budget time between coursework, jobs, personal/family commitments, and unforeseen circumstances. Because of this, you are not required to attend class, and there is no participation component of the grade. However, as in any course, you will do best if you come to class every time and on time.

Extra credit. There may or may not be opportunities for extra credit. If extra credit is issued, it will be intended as an equal opportunity for everyone in the class to improve their grades, so it will not be issued to individual students upon request.

How to contact us. The best way is by e-mail (see above for our e-mail addresses), or talk to us right before or right after class. Allow us 24 hours to respond to your email. Responses to emails on weekends should not be taken for granted. We will also be happy to meet you by appointment.

Personal situations. If anything arises during the term that may affect your classroom performance, please come talk to us. If you wait until the end of the term, we won't be able to help you. We're more likely to be able to address the situation if you speak to us when it happens. If something catastrophic happens in your life that prevents you from continuing your studies for an extended period of time, you should talk to the Dean of Students (currently Dean Kalb, richard.kalb@nyu.edu).

Special needs. If you are registered with the Moses Center for Students with Disabilities, come talk to us at the beginning of the term so we can make the necessary arrangements. For more information on the Moses Center, please visit their website: <http://www.nyu.edu/csd/>

Religious observance. Whenever feasible, we will avoid scheduling exams and deadlines on religious holidays (please let us know if we have overlooked one). If you anticipate missing an exam or an assignment deadline because of any documented religious observance, you should tell us in advance whenever possible; you will not be penalized for any exam or assignment deadline missed on that day or days, and you will be given a make-up exam or an assignment deadline extension.

Academic Honesty Policy. Cheating will not be tolerated and may cost you your grade and have repercussions in your career (for example, having a cheating record will all but negate your chances of getting into a decent law school).

Collaboration on homework assignments is allowed and encouraged, but we expect that the work you turn in is your own and that you understand the answers you are giving. *If you collaborate on a homework assignment, you must indicate the names of the students you collaborated with on the solution you hand in; you must also write up your own solution and different group members cannot hand in identical solutions.*

If you use any resource other than the textbook and lecture notes as you prepare your homework assignment, you must provide a scholarly citation for the resource and explain the extent to which you have used it.

The following is a non-exhaustive list of examples of what counts as cheating in this course: (i) copying a homework or exam from another student, with or without the student's knowledge; (ii) plagiarism, that is: reproducing data or ideas from a scholarly source, website, or other resource (other than the textbook and lecture slides) without attributing authorship where it is due; (iii) including solutions obtained from answer keys or similar sources into one's homework submission. Please read the University policies on Academic Integrity, which are described on <http://cas.nyu.edu/page/academicintegrity> for CAS and on <http://tinyurl.com/nyu-policy> for NYU (also via <http://www.nyu.edu> > About NYU > Policies and Guidelines > University Policies and Guidelines > Academic Affairs & Faculty > Academic Integrity for Students at NYU).

You will fail any homework on which you have cheated, even if you have only cheated on a part of it. You will fail the course and be reported to the University if you cheat repeatedly or if you cheat on a test.

Schedule

The following is a preliminary schedule of the course. Changes to it will be announced in class.

Date	Teaching	Topics	Readings	HW
5/21	ME+YN	Introduction	Pinker	
5/22	YN	Morphology: Introduction; Lexical categories; Morphological processes	Files 4.0–4.2; Fromkin et al., pp. 22–53	
5/23	YN	Morphology: Morphological structure and analysis	Files 4.4; Fromkin et al., pp. 54–69	
5/24	ME	Syntax: Introduction; Syntactic categories; Syntactic constituency	Files 5.1, 5.3; Fromkin et al., pp. 76–87; optional resource for the syntax module: https://tinyurl.com/heycock	
5/28	Memorial Day—no class			
5/29	ME	Syntax: Phrase structure trees	Fromkin et al., pp. 87–129	HW1 due
5/30	ME	Syntax: Phrase structure trees	—	
5/31	ME	Semantics: Introduction; Propositions	Files 6.0, 6.1, 6.3	
6/4	ME	Semantics: Predication	Files 6.4	HW2 due
6/5	ME	Semantics: Modification	—	
6/6	ME	Semantics/pragmatics: Presuppositions; Implicatures	Files 7.0, 7.5, 7.1–7.3	
6/7	ME+YN	Midterm review		HW3 due
6/11	Midterm			
6/12	YN	Phonetics: English vowels and consonants	Files 2.0–2.2	
6/13	YN	Phonetics: Beyond English	Files 2.4, 2.5, 3.1	
6/14	YN	Phonology: Phonemes and allophones	Files 3.0, 3.2–3.5	
6/18	YN	Sociolinguistics: Introduction; Variation	Files 10	HW4 due
6/19	ME+YN	Sociolinguistics: Language and linguistics on trial (video)	Files 11.3; optional: Rickford & King	
6/20	ME	Sign language linguistics	Files 1.5, 2.7, 4.2.3, 9.3.4; optional: Sandler & Lillo-Martin	
6/21	ME	Language acquisition	Files 8	
6/25	YN	Psycho- and neurolinguistics	Files 9	HW5 due
6/26	Guest	Computational linguistics	Files 16	
6/27	YN	Final review		
6/28	Final exam			