

Date: 06.11.2024



Syllabus - Teaching Program for the Course

Introduction to Linguistics

Masha Esipova | Department of English Literature and Linguistics

Course No 184-1

Course Type:	course
Scope of credits:	—
Year of study:	—
Semester:	2024-2025, Semester A
Day & Time:	Lectures: Tuesday 16-18, Thursday 10-12 Recitations: Thursday 12-14
Office hours:	Lecturer: Tuesday 15-16, 502/003-021 (or by appointment) TA: Thursday 14-15, room TBA (or by appointment)
Lecturer Email:	mariia.esipova@biu.ac.il
TA:	Natasha Dvorin
TA Email:	dvorinn@biu.ac.il



Course description and learning goals

Course Abstract

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 aspects of linguistic knowledge: phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, and pragmatics. We will also discuss sociolinguistics, language acquisition, psycho/neurolinguistics, and applying the mindset and the toolkit of a linguist beyond language proper. 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? Throughout the course, we will be looking at language in both the spoken and the signed modalities, discovering cross-modal linguistic universals as well as modality-specific phenomena.

Learning objectives

1. The students will get familiarized with the fundamental notions and tools of linguistics as a scientific study of language.
2. In the process, the students will learn how to identify empirical puzzles and develop basic, but precise analytical solutions for said puzzles.
3. The students will also develop a better understanding and appreciation of linguistic diversity and will become better informed about the consequences of linguistic prejudice.



Course structure (subject to change)

Week No.	Lesson topic	Readings
1	Introduction. What is Linguistics?	Language Files, ch. 1
2-3	Morphology	Language Files, ch. 4; Fromkin et al., ch.2
4-5	Syntax	Language Files, ch. 5; Fromkin et al., ch. 3
6-8	Semantics and pragmatics Buffer/consolidation	Language Files, ch. 6
8-10	Segmental phonetics and phonology. Prosody	Language Files, ch. 2-3
11	Sociolinguistics	Language Files, ch. 10-11
12	Language acquisition Psycho- and neurolinguistics	Language Files, ch. 8-9
13-14	Linguistics beyond language Buffer/consolidation	Patel-Grosz et al. 2023



Final grade

Description of the product	Weight in the final score
Quizzes	20% of the final grade
Take-home midterm	40% of the final grade
Take-home final	40% of the final grade



Course requirements

Attendance: you can miss two lectures and two tutorials without an explanation. Additional absences require justification for a passing grade, but contact the instructor if you need more flexibility.

Plagiarism policy

Any instance of plagiarism in your work will immediately result in you failing this course and will be reported to the administration. Please consult the department’s guidelines on what constitutes plagiarism:

https://english.biu.ac.il/sites/english/files/shared/what_is_plagiarism_biu_english_literature_and_linguistics.pdf

Using generative AI (such as ChatGPT) to assist you on graded assignments is not allowed and, if discovered, will be treated as an instance of plagiarism.



Prerequisites

None



Bibliography: Up-to-date reading, viewing, and listening content items

The readings will be made available to the students electronically. Main readings for the course:

- Bergmann, A., Hall, K.C. and Ross, S.M. 2007. *Language Files*. The Ohio State University Press.
- Fromkin, V., Rodman, R. and Hyams, N. 2014. *An Introduction to Language*.
- Patel-Grosz, Pritty, Salvador Mascarenhas, Emmanuel Chemla & Philippe Schlenker. 2023. Super Linguistics: an introduction. *Linguistics and Philosophy* 46. 627–692.
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10988-022-09377-8>