

INTRODUCTION TO COMPARATIVE LINGUISTICS

Instructor: Dr. Ted Taylor

Phone: 549-2383

Office: 164 Psychology Bldg.

E-mail: ted.taylor@colostate-pueblo.edu

Office Hours: MW 1:00-2:50 & Fri. 1:00-1:50

Text: O'Grady, Archibald, Aronoff, and Rees-Miller. 2001. *Contemporary Linguistics*. Fifth Edition. New York: Bedford/St. Martin's.

Goal

To give you a basic understanding of how languages are structured and of the ways in which languages are related. The knowledge about the structure of language that you gain in this course will improve your ability to understand and learn other languages and your ability to understand and use your own language.

Requirements and Policies

1. There will be four fifty-minute exams during the term and a two-hour-and-twenty-minute final exam. All examinations will be concerned both with the understanding of basic terms and concepts and with the ability to describe and analyze linguistic data. Each exam will be based on topics and ideas dealt with in lectures and required readings up to the date of the exam. The final exam will have a take-home part (consisting of linguistic data to analyze) and an in-class part (consisting of short-answer questions).

2. Short exercises and problems will be assigned from time to time, to be discussed in class and to be handed in for credit. Homework will be graded only in that you will receive credit for doing it.

You will receive only partial credit for late or incomplete homework.

3. Short quizzes may be given from time to time.

4. Attendance is required. To get full credit for attendance, make sure that you are in your assigned seat when class starts.

5. Course grades will be based on performance on all exams and exercises—and on attendance. The items contributing to your course grade are weighted as follows: final exam 30%; first exam 15%; second exam 9%; third exam 13%; fourth exam 18%; exercises, quizzes, and participation 10%; and attendance 5%.

Your overall grade for the course will be A, B, C, D, or F (without a plus or minus).

You must pass the final exam in order to pass the course.

6. There will be no make-up exams. If you miss an exam due to an unexcused absence, your grade for that exam will be "F." If you miss an exam due to an excused absence, then your grade for the missed exam

will be the same as your grade for the final exam. I will excuse your absence from an exam only if extenuating circumstances that you can document prevent you from taking the exam at the scheduled hour and only if you let me know about the extenuating circumstances in advance, when that is possible.

Accommodations for Disabilities

This university abides by the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which stipulates that no student shall be denied the benefits of an education “solely by reason of a handicap.” If you have a documented disability that may impact your work in this class and for which you may require accommodations, please see the instructor as soon as possible to arrange accommodations. In order to receive accommodations, you must be registered with and provide documentation of your disability to the Disability Resource Office, which is located in the Psychology Building, Suite 236.

Topics and Assignments

- 8/25 Introduction.
- 8/27 Introduction. Read Chapter 1. HOMEWORK DUE: Exs. 2, 3, 5 (Chapter 1). For Ex. 5, just tell which sentences you think are acceptable.
- 8/29 Phonetics. Read Ch. 2, §1-5.4 (pp. 15-27) and §5.6-5.8 (pp. 29-31). (Work ahead on exercises.)
- 9/1 Phonetics. Read Ch. 2, §6-6.3 and §7. HOMEWORK DUE: Exs. 3, 4, 5, and 7 a)-f).
- 9/3 Phonetics. HOMEWORK DUE: Ex. 6.
- 9/5 Phonetics. Read Ch. 2, §8-8.3 and §10. HOMEWORK DUE: Exs. 7 g)-h), 8, and 10.
- 9/8 Phonetics. HOMEWORK DUE: Exercise “Articulatory Descriptions of Consonants” (handout).
- 9/10 Phonetics. HOMEWORK DUE: Ex. 9 a), b), c), d), f), j); Ex. 12.
- 9/12 EXAMINATION I, Chs. 1 & 2.
- 9/15 Phonology. Read Ch. 3, §1-1.2, pp. 57-62.
- 9/17 Phonology. Read Ch. 3, §2-2.3 & §2.5-2.6. Homework to be arranged.
- 9/19 Phonology. Read Ch. 3, §3-3.1 and §5-5.3 . Homework to be arranged.
- 9/22 Phonology. Read Ch. 3, §6 & 6.2. HOMEWORK DUE: “Tamil Data for Phonological Analysis” (handout).

FL 100 Comparative Linguistics
page three

- 9/24 Phonology. HOMEWORK DUE: “Practice Problem: Phonemes and Allophones” (handout).
- 9/26 EXAMINATION II, Ch. 3.
- 9/29 Morphology. Read Ch. 4: introduction, §1-2.1 (up to p. 121), and §4-4.1.
- 10/1 Morphology. HOMEWORK DUE: Ex. 13.
- 10/3 Morphology. HOMEWORK DUE: Exs. 1 and 4.
- 10/6 Morphology. Read Ch. 4, §3-5.8 (pp. 123-138). Homework to be arranged.
- 10/8 Morphology. Read Ch. 4, §2-2.1 & §3-4.7. HOMEWORK DUE: Exs. 12 & 15.
- 10/10 Morphology. HOMEWORK DUE: Exs. 8, 9, & 16.
- 10/13 Morphology. HOMEWORK DUE: Exs. 6, 10, & 11.
- 10/15 EXAMINATION III, Ch. 4.
- 10/17 Syntax. **(The readings for the syntax unit are posted on BlackBoard, in Course Documents. Click the link named "Syntax Readings." The homework exercises are from our text.)** Read Ch. 5, §1-1.4 (pp. 163-175). HOMEWORK DUE: Ex. 2.
- 10/20 Syntax. In Chapter 5, read §2-2.3 (pp. 177-180) and "Appendix: How to Build Tree Structures," up to "Transformations" (pp. 216-219). (Ignore the "CP shell"). HOMEWORK DUE: Ex. 3.
- 10/22 Syntax. HOMEWORK DUE: Exs. 5 & 8.
- 10/24 Syntax. Read Ch. 5, §3-3.3 (pp. 183-187). Try to figure out what a transformation is. We will simplify the tree structures in class.
- 10/27 Syntax. Read Ch. 5, §4-4.3 (pp. 194-202). HOMEWORK DUE: “Generative Grammar Exercise II” (handout) and “Exercise: Discovering Transformations” (handout).
- 10/29 Syntax and Semantics. Read Ch. 6, §1-1.3. HOMEWORK DUE: Syntax Exs. 10 a)-c) & 11 a)-c) (from the syntax chapter in the text, p. 197). Write a SYNTACTIC DERIVATION for each of the sentences 10 a)-c) & 11 a)-c).
- 10/31 Semantics. Read Ch. 6, §3-3.2. HOMEWORK DUE: Ex. 4.
- 11/3 Semantics. HOMEWORK DUE: Exs. 1, 2, and 5.
- 11/5 Semantics. In Ch. 6, read §2.2 and §3.3 (to the top of p. 224). HOMEWORK DUE: Exs. 3 & 7 (see §2.2).

FL 100 Comparative Linguistics
page four

- 11/7 Semantics. In Ch. 6, read §4-4.3. HOMEWORK DUE: Ex. 10. (For Ex. 10, identify the thematic role of each NP in sentences a)-e). Otherwise, disregard the directions in the textbook.) Print out the take-home questions for Exam IV from the Course Documents for FL 100, in Blackboard, and bring these to class.
- 11/10 EXAMINATION IV, Chs. 5 & 6.
- 11/12 Historical Linguistics. In Ch. 7, read §1-1.2 & §2-2.3.
- 11/14 Historical Linguistics. In Ch. 7, read §3-3.5 & §5-5.2. HOMEWORK DUE: "Language Change Exercises" (from Course Documents in BlackBoard).
- 11/17 Historical Linguistics. In Ch. 7, read §4-4.2 & §6-6.3. HOMEWORK DUE: "Semantic Change Exercise" (from Course Documents in BlackBoard).
- 11/19 Historical Linguistics.
- 11/21 Historical Linguistics. HOMEWORK DUE: "Reconstruction of Proto-Turkic" (handout). **Pick up take-home part of final exam.**
- 11/24-11/28 THANKSGIVING BREAK.
- 12/1 Classification of Languages. Read Ch. 8, §1-2.1.
- 12/3 Classification of Languages. Read Ch. 8, §2.2-2.4. HOMEWORK DUE: Exs. 2 & 3. Start homework exercises for next time.
- 12/5 Classification of Languages. Read Ch. 8, §3-3.3. Homework to be arranged. TAKE-HOME PART OF FINAL DUE.
- 12/12 Friday, 10:30-12:50. FINAL EXAMINATION.