LNGT 0250
Morphology and Syntax

Who are we?
• Let’s know who we are first.
• Why are we here?
• LNGT 0250!

Course information and administrivia

Logistics
• Class meets twice a week, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 3:00 to 4:15pm, at RCD B11.

Class website
• Class website is here: http://sites.middlebury.edu/spring2016morphologysyntax/
• This is where all information pertinent to this class is posted, including the syllabus, assigned readings, homework assignments, and other useful links. So, visit the website as you prepare for every class.

Instructor
• Usama Soltan
  Office: Voter Lower Level, #016
  Email: usoltan@middlebury.edu
• Office phone extension: x5869
• Office Hours:
  - Mondays from 11:15am to 12:30pm,
  - Wednesdays from 1:30 to 3:00pm, and
  - By appointment (e-mail me to set up an appointment).
Course objectives: Content-wise

- Introducing linguists’ major findings over the last 60 years or so regarding the study of morphology (word structure) and syntax (sentence structure). I won’t list the exact topics here, because they are listed on the class schedule.

Course objectives: Learning skills targeted

- Problem-solving skills: Find patterns in a set of data from familiar and unfamiliar languages; draw generalizations from a set of data; make a hypothesis to explain a linguistic pattern and revise it in light of further data.
- Formalization skills: Express explanations of linguistic facts in formal rules and diagrams.
- Argue for or against a particular analysis of a set of linguistic facts using empirical evidence.
- Give an oral presentation and answer questions about it.
- Collaborate with others on a group project.
- Read a number of references and write a paper about a topic related to the content of the class.

Textbooks


Textbooks


Textbooks


COURSE REQUIREMENTS
Course requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course requirement</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance &amp; Participation</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Homework assignments</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Take-home midterm exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Linguistic Diversity Project Presentation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final paper</td>
<td>20%</td>
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Attendance and participation (14%)

- You are expected to attend every class. Missing class is only acceptable for one of the academically legitimate excuses. It’s really hard, if not impossible, to do well on homework assignments/midterm, or write a good paper without attending classes regularly.
- Also, please make sure you do the assigned readings BEFORE coming to class. It will help you (and help me too) a lot if you come to class prepared.

Attendance and participation (14%)

- Part of class participation may require you to attend linguistics talks or linguistics events on campus. These will be posted on the class schedule webpage, and will also be announced in class and/or via e-mail.

Homework assignments (36%)

- There will be six homework assignments to test your understanding of the material covered in class as well as enhance the general learning skills targeted in this course, applying the same reasoning and tools of linguistic analysis that we’ll be discussing in class.

Homework assignments (36%)

- You are NOT allowed to discuss homework questions with other students in the class. The work you turn in has to be yours, and yours alone. Copying someone else’s work will be treated as cheating, will receive no credit, and will be subject to the consequences of violating academic integrity, as described in the College’s Academic Honesty Statement.

A midterm exam (20%)

- Students are required to take an OPEN-BOOK TAKE-HOME midterm exam.
- The midterm exam is currently tentatively scheduled to be assigned on March 17th and is due on March 24th. If these dates change, I’ll make an announcement in class and post the new dates on the online class schedule.
- There is no final exam for this class.
A Linguistic Diversity Project (10%)

- Students will be working in groups of 3/4. Each group will ‘adopt’ a particular language region/family, read about it in Comrie et al’s Atlas and Pereltsvaig’s book, and give a joint presentation about it in class later in the semester.
- Group formation by language regions/families will be done in due time during the semester.

A final paper (20%)

- In addition, each student is required to write a 2000-word paper on a topic of your choice, related to the subject matter of the class, and subject to the approval of the instructor.
- A 250-word paper proposal specifying the topic, aspects of linguistic interest, and a list of at least 5 relevant references, is due on April 19th.
- Detailed guidelines on content and format of the final paper will be announced in due time.
- The final paper is due by e-mail on Friday May 20th at 1pm.

Delay policy for required work

- I will **not** accept assignments turned in after the deadline, unless the delay is caused by one of the academically legitimate reasons and supported by a Dean’s excuse and/or a doctor’s note.
- From experience, one main reason for missing deadlines is starting late on the assignment. So, make sure you start working on assignments early.

Class rules

- Cell phones have to be turned off before you come in to the class.
- You cannot use your laptop/iPad/etc., during class time, unless permission is given.
- Eating is not allowed during class time. Beverages are fine, though.
- Coming to class late is disruptive, so please do show up on time.

E-mail etiquette

- Not trying to be a stickler to formality here, but it does make sense, when corresponding with me, that you follow standard e-mail etiquette. Remember: You’re e-mailing (not texting) me.
- Your message should have a meaningful phrase in the subject line. You have to start with an appropriate salutation (e.g., Dear Prof. Soltan). Your message should be well written and clear. You should end it with one of the usual closing expressions (e.g., Sincerely, Regards, etc.), and your name.

E-mail correspondence

- I do check my e-mail regularly on weekdays, and I respond to e-mails as soon as I can.
- While you can e-mail me at any time on any day, please understand that e-mails received over the weekend may not receive an immediate answer since I may be away from my PC. But do not let that discourage you from e-mailing since I answer e-mails once I access my account.
Office hours and appointments

• You do not need an appointment for office hours. Simply stop by during the office hours. If I’m busy with another student, please do wait at the meeting room in Voter Lower Level (room #005) until I’m finished with the person ahead of you.
• When requesting an appointment outside office hours, you do need to give me at least a 24-hour notice. You cannot possibly e-mail me one morning asking to meet in the afternoon of the same day. If something is really urgent, do e-mail, but there’s no guarantee that I’ll be able to meet you at a notice shorter than 24 hours.

Honor Code

• Please remember that the Honor Code is in effect in this class. Please make sure to write the Honor Code Pledge “I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid on this assignment,” on all homework assignments, the midterm exam, as well as the final paper.
• Submitting work that is not your own or receiving unauthorized help is a violation of the code.
• If you have any questions about the Honor Code, please ask me, or check the following link on the college’s website:
   http://www.middlebury.edu/academics/administration/newfaculty/handbook/honorcode

Accommodation

• Students requesting accommodation must first complete the certification process with the Student Accessibility Services Office (formerly the Americans with Disabilities Act Office). The ADA committee will provide certification to the student, who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation.
• Full information is available here:
   http://www.middlebury.edu/studentlife/doc/ada

Grading

• I will follow the following system in assigning your letter grades:
  93%+ is A
  from 90%+ to 93% is A-
  from 87%+ to 90% is B+
  from 83%+ to 87% is B
  from 80%+ to 83% is B-
  from 75%+ to 80% is C+
  from 70%+ to 75% is C
  from 65%+ to 70% is C-
  from 50%+ to 65% is D
  50% and under is F.

Enjoy the journey!