# Introduction to Linguistic Theory

**Linguistics 201**  
**Fall 2021**

**Lecturer:**  
Kyle Johnson  
N452 Integrative Learning Center  
Tuesday 9–11

**Teaching Assistants:**  
Kaden Holladay  
N421H Integrative Learning Center  
Tuesday 12–2

Yosho Miyata  
N421A Integrative Learning Center  
Wednesday 9–11

Mariam Asatryan  
N421E Integrative Learning Center  
Monday 9:45–11:45

This course satisfies umass's r2 “analytical reasoning” general education requirement. It teaches analytic reasoning through an examination of linguistic data. We will first see how the grammars of languages can be treated as formal systems. Then we will learn some of the principles responsible for the behavior of these systems and learn how to apply them to new linguistic data. Linguistic science breaks the sound stream that corresponds to speech into discrete building blocks, and then formulates laws that determine how those building blocks combine to form meaningful units. In addition to learning some of those laws, we will learn the methods linguists have developed for discovering them. By the end of the course, you will be able to do basic linguistic analysis – modeling the processes that make a continuous stream of sound carry the structures that humans interpret as meaning. You will also be able to express the laws you deduce from linguistic materials using the formalisms developed by linguists.

Assignments are usually posted on Monday and are due the following Monday. Late assignments will be accepted only if: (1) On the day the assignment is due, you submit a note with a statement that your homework will be late, (2) You turn in the assignment on the following Wednesday, and (3) You don't do this more than three times. Collaboration on homework is encouraged, but you should turn in your own, individual, assignment (no group answers). The homework constitutes 35% of the final grade, each midterm constitutes 15% and the final constitutes 35%. The tests are cumulative. Each homework assignment contributes equally to the grade. I will give you a snapshot of the progress you are making towards the final grade after the first midterm. The scale to be used in calculating final grades we will negotiate after the second midterm.

The assignments and tests draw exclusively from the material presented in class (both lectures and discussion). Homework, handouts and the occasional lecture note will be posted on the class website. If you have trouble downloading this material, let me know.
UMass has an Academic Honesty Policy which was established to ensure that the learning environment at the university is honest and fair. The policy is designed to provide faculty and students with options for handling incidents. The Academic Honesty Board handles all cases of academic dishonesty on campus. Formal definitions of academic dishonesty, examples of various forms of dishonesty, and the procedures which faculty must follow to penalize dishonesty are contained in the Academic Honesty Policy. There are two main pathways for resolving cases where dishonesty is suspected: the informal resolution and the formal charge. Both these paths require that the faculty member first inform the student of the concern and offer a meeting. For more information, go to http://www.umass.edu/honesty/. Collaborative work on homework assignments is encouraged in this class, so the usual categories of academic dishonesty – e.g., copying other’s work – don’t apply to homework assignments. It is only on the tests that academic dishonesty is possible. The homework assignments in this class are designed to prepare you for the tests, and so I would strongly recommend doing those problems on your own, perhaps with help from the instructors or classmates. If you merely copy answers from someone’s assignment, you will not be prepared for the tests.

The University of Massachusetts Amherst and I are committed to providing an equal educational opportunity for all students. If you have a documented physical, psychological, or learning disability on file with Disability Services, you may be eligible for academic accommodations to help you in this course. If you have a documented disability that requires an accommodation, please notify me within the first two weeks of the semester so that we may make appropriate arrangements.

The following schedule is subject to change as we go forward; watch the website for those changes.
The Plan

1-2

September 1: Introduction
September 8: Articulatory Phonetics

September 13: International Phonetic Alphabet
Assignment One

September 15: Acoustic Phonetics

September 20: Phonotactic Constraints
Assignment Two
Assignment One Due

September 27: Allophones
Assignment Three
Assignment Two Due

September 29: Allophones and Phonemes

October 4: Features
Assignment Four
Assignment Three Due

October 11: No Class

October 6: Allophonic Rules

October 13: Southern Congo and Zoque
Assignment Four Due

October 18: Phonotactic Constraints

October 25: Morphology
Assignment Five

October 20: MIDTERM

October 27: Headedness and Inflection

November 1: Inflection and Derivation
Assignment Six
Assignment Five Due

November 8: Phrase Structure Rules
Assignment Seven
Assignment Six Due

November 3: Introduction to Syntax

November 10: Ambiguity

November 5: More ambiguity
Assignment Seven Due

November 22: Movement (remote class)
Assignment Eight

November 17: MIDTERM

November 24: No Class

December 1: Acquisition of Phonology

December 6: Acquisition of Syntax
Assignment Nine Due

December 16: FINAL
ILC S331 1:00–3:00

December 8: Review