

LNGS1001      **Structure of Language**

6 Credit Points

Prof B Foley

**Prohibition:** LNGS1004, LNGS1005 **Offered:** Semester 1 **Classes:** Two 1 hour lectures and one 1 hour tutorial per week **Assessment:** Ten short problem based assignments, each about 150 words, for a total of 1500 words; one 1 hour mid-term exam (equivalent to 1000 words); one 2 hour formal final examination (equivalent to 2000 words)

This unit is a comparative look at the general structure of human language. It looks at the sounds of human language: how the speech organs make them and their variety, in particular, a detailed description of English consonants and vowels and how to transcribe them. It investigates what is a possible word in English and other languages. It looks at the way speakers put words together to form sentences and how and why is English different from Japanese or even Irish.

*Textbooks*

V. Fromkin, R. Rodman, N. Hyams, P. Collins, M. Amberber and Mark Harvey. 2009. An Introduction to Language. Cengage Learning. Sixth Edition.

LNGS1002      **Language and Social Context**

6 Credit Points

Dr T Borowsky

**Offered:** Semester 2 **Classes:** Two 1 hour lectures and one 1 hour tutorial per week **Assessment:** Five 250 word short assignments (totalling 1500 words), one 1 hour midterm exam (1000 words) and one 2 hour final exam (2000 words)

This unit introduces the study of the interrelationship between language and society. It is concerned with phenomena of language change and how that leads to varieties in a language. How are these varieties linked to social differences? What distinguishes male speech from female speech or what are the linguistic styles of different social classes or ethnic groups? What is slang, or jargon, and what distinguishes a casual conversation from an interview?

*Textbooks*

Mesthrie, R., Swann, J., Deumert, A., Leap, W. 2000. 'Introducing Sociolinguistics'. Edinburgh University Press.

LNGS2602      **Syntax**

6 Credit Points

Assoc Prof J Simpson

**Prerequisite:** LNGS1001 or LNGS1005 or LNGS1004 **Prohibition:** LNGS2002 **Offered:** Semester 1 **Classes:** Two 1 hour lectures and one 1 hour workshop per week **Assessment:** Five problem sets, totalling equivalent 2500 words and one 2 hour examination - consisting of problems (equivalent 2000 words) Syntax deals with how we combine words into phrases, clauses and sentences and how we understand these combinations. Syntax is almost purely internal to language and plays a major role in organising the language system. We look at syntactic concepts in English, languages of Europe and Asia, and those of small traditional communities around the world. Using a problem solving approach, we develop explicit models to describe syntactic phenomena that allow generalisations leading to testable predictions about possible structures.

*NB: This unit is available as a designated 'Advanced' unit for students who are already enrolled in the BA (Advanced) degree program.*

LNGS2603      **Functional Grammar**

6 Credit Points

Prof J R Martin

**Prerequisite:** One of ENGL1000, ENGL1005, ENGL2619, ENGL2647, LNGS1001, LNGS1002,

LNGS1003, LNGS1004, LNGS1005, LNGS2601, LNGS2602, LNGS2604, LNGS2620, LNGS2621, MECO1001, MECO1003, WRIT1001 **Prohibition:** LNGS2003 **Offered:** Semester 1 **Classes:** Two 1 hour lectures and one 1 hour workshop per week **Assessment:** Four 500 word term assignments and one 2 1/2 hour exam

This unit takes a functional view of grammar, considering the ways in which English is organised to build up our picture of reality, to enable us to interact in conversation and to make our contribution coherent and relevant. It is designed to give students analysis skills in the analysis of ideational, interpersonal and textual meaning in the clause, the nature of inter-clausal relations, and the structure of nominal, verbal and adverbial groups and prepositional phrases.

*Textbooks*

Geoff Thompson, *Introducing Functional grammar*.

### LNGS2604 **Discourse Analysis**

6 Credit Points

Assoc Prof J Simpson

**Prerequisite:** One of ENGL1000, ENGL1005, ENGL2619, ENGL2647, LNGS1001, LNGS1002, LNGS1003, LNGS1004, LNGS1005, LNGS2601, LNGS2602, LNGS2603, LNGS2620, LNGS2621, MECO1001, MECO1003, WRIT1001 **Prohibition:** LNGS2004 **Offered:** Semester 2 **Classes:** Two 1 hour lectures and one 1 hour workshop per week **Assessment:** Four 500 word term assignments and one 2500 word essay

This unit of study provides an introduction to discourse analysis, which is concerned with the way in which texts are organised in relation to their social context. In linguistics, the term 'discourse' covers both a) the organisation of linguistic units above the sentence level (cohesion), and b) language in use or context (register and genre). The course will include analysis of texts combining language with image, from the perspective of critical discourse analysis.

*Textbooks*

J R Martin & David Rose, *Working with Discourse*, 2nd edition.

### LNGS2613 **Computer Applications in Linguistics**

6 Credit Points

Dr M Zappavigna

**Prerequisite:** Two of LNGS1001, LNGS1002, LNGS1003, LNGS1004, LNGS1005, WRIT1001 **Prohibition:** LNGS2027, LNGS2007 **Offered:** Semester 2 **Classes:** 2 1hr lectures **Assessment:** 6 written assignments - each equivalent to 1000 words.

This unit of study introduces students to the many uses of computers in the humanities with specific reference to linguistics: computer lexicography; building and searching text corpora, examining speech signals, collocations, style, authorship, discourse structure and syntactic constructions. Accessing information on languages and linguistics through library catalogues, electronic mailing lists, FTP sites and the World Wide Web. Other linguistics units (like phonetics, field methods, historical linguistics and semantics) will benefit from some basic knowledge of the use of computers.

### LNGS2614 **Language Acquisition**

6 Credit Points

Assoc Prof J Simpson

**Prerequisite:** Two of LNGS1001, LNGS1002, LNGS1003, LNGS1004 LNGS1005, WRIT1001 **Offered:** Semester 2 **Classes:** one 2 hr lecture and one 1 hr tutorial/wk **Assessment:** Research paper, other written assignments (total of 4500 words)

Around the age of two when a child knows virtually nothing at all about complex systems s/he begins to acquire and use one of the most complex of all systems: language. This is done without any formal instruction or even in many cases with any real attention being paid to it. This is a remarkable feat as

anyone who has tried to learn another language can attest. How the child does this is the subject matter of this course. We will consider what it is about the human child that makes language learning possible and why dogs or chimpanzees for example do not learn language. What is the role of the child's caretaker? Do parents actually teach their children or not? Why do children babble? How do they learn not to say ungrammatical things when no one ever says them or even tells them they are impossible? When do they learn different aspects of the grammar? How do they know that you can say 'I gave the book to Mary' and 'I gave Mary the book' and 'I opened the book for Mary' but not 'I opened Mary the door'? We will look at many experimental studies illustrating the child's knowledge of complex aspects of grammar. Topics covered: innateness; maturation; topics in the acquisition of phonology, morphology, syntax and semantics. Each student will have first hand experience in studying the emergence of language.

### LNGS2615      **Language, Brain and Mind**

6 Credit Points

Assoc Prof J Simpson

**Prerequisite:** Two of LNGS1001, LNGS1002, LNGS1003, LNGS1004, LNGS1005, WRIT1001, LNGS2620 and LNGS2621 **Offered:** Semester 1 **Classes:** (one 2 hr lectures & one 1 hr tutorial)/wk

**Assessment:** research paper, reading journal, class presentation, mid-term exam

We will discuss current findings in the field of psycholinguistics. How is language represented and processed or computed by the brain. We will look at experimental work considering the methods and results in an effort to understand the apparent ease with which language is used in everyday life as well as considering the implications of psycholinguistic research for linguistic theory. Topics discussed: language and the brain, speech perception, the mental lexicon and lexical retrieval, sentence and discourse comprehension, language production, language and cognition, nativism.

### LNGS2620      **Phonetics**

6 Credit Points

Dr T Borowsky

**Prerequisite:** LNGS1001 **Prohibition:** LNGS2601 **Offered:** Semester 1 **Classes:** Two 1hour lectures and one 1hour tutorial/lab per week. **Assessment:** 500 word assessment on acoustic analysis. 500 word assessment on transcription tasks. 2500 word final exam. 1000 word quiz.

This unit will provide an introduction to the study of articulatory, acoustic and perceptual phonetics. Approaching the study of phonetics from both the theoretical and practical sides students will learn about the anatomical and physiological bases of the production of speech sounds. They will learn to produce and discern a wide range of the sounds observed in human languages and have practise in transcribing these sounds as well as applying these skills to the wider field of transcription, for example song texts/musical transcription. An introduction to the physical (acoustic) properties of speech sounds provides the basis for an understanding of what acoustic factors matter in speech perception.

*NB: This unit is available as a designated 'Advanced' unit for students who are already enrolled in the BA (Advanced) degree program.*

### LNGS2621      **Phonology**

6 Credit Points

Dr T Borowsky

**Prerequisite:** LNGS1001 **Prohibition:** LNGS2601 **Offered:** Semester 2 **Classes:** Two 1hour and one 1hour tutorial per week. **Assessment:** One 2000 word assessment: 5 problem sets: phonological analysis exercises. One 2500 word final exam.

This course will provide a foundation in the principles and methods of linguistic argumentation particularly with respect to phonological analysis and the interaction of phonetics and phonology. Development of theories from SPE through to Optimality Theory. Topics include: basic phonological analysis; distinctive features, underlying representations, abstractness, rules and constraints, the role and function of prosodic

structure: the prosodic hierarchy syllables, tone and stress; markedness.

*NB: This unit is available as a designated 'Advanced' unit for students who are already enrolled in the BA (Advanced) degree program.*

### LNGS3601      **Semantics and Pragmatics**

6 Credit Points

Dr N Riemer

**Prerequisite:** one of LNGS2602 [Syntax], LNGS2603 [Functional Grammar], ENGL2619 [Semiotics of Language] and ENGL2653 [Varieties of English Grammar] **Prohibition:** LNGS3026, LNGS3006

**Offered:** Semester 1 **Classes:** Two 1 hour lectures and one 1 hour tutorial per week **Assessment:** Three 500 word exercises and one 3000 word essay

Semantics deals with the meaning of words, phrases, sentences and texts, and the relations between those meanings. Pragmatics deals with how speakers use context and shared information to convey information additional to the semantic content of what they say, and with how hearers make inferences on the basis of this information. Our goal is to explore the diversity of ways in which meaning can be expressed linguistically in different languages, as well as of what constitutes evidence for meaning.

*NB: Compulsory for Honours students; other students may select as an option. This unit is available as a designated 'Advanced' unit to students enrolled in the BA (Advanced) degree program.*

### LNGS3604      **Field Methods**

6 Credit Points

Dr J Simpson

**Prerequisite:** Credit average in 18 senior credit points of Linguistics including three of: LNGS2601 (or LNGS2001), LNGS2602 (or LNGS2002), LNGS2603 (or LNGS2003) or LNGS2604 (or LNGS2004), LNGS2620, LNGS2621 **Prohibition:** LNGS3925 **Offered:** Semester 1 **Classes:** One 2 hour seminar and a 1/2 hour consultation per week **Assessment:** Two 1500 word assignments and one 3000 word assignment

Techniques for eliciting, recording and analysing linguistic data collected from a speaker of a previously undescribed language. Formal elicitation of individual words and simple phrases. Analysis of the phonology and basic morphology of the language. Text collection. Individual focus on some aspect of the phonological, lexicogrammatical or semantic system of the language.

*Textbooks*

Recommended readings:

Newman, Paul, and Ratliff, Martha eds. 2001. Linguistic fieldwork. Cambridge; New York: Cambridge University Press.

*NB: This unit is available as a designated 'Advanced' unit for students who are already enrolled in the BA (Advanced) degree program.*

### LNGS3606      **Phonological Theory**

6 Credit Points

Dr T Borowsky

**Prerequisite:** LNGS2601, or LNGS2620 and LNGS2621 **Prohibition:** LNGS3002 **Offered:** Semester 1 **Classes:** 2 hour weekly seminar **Assessment:** Four Problem sets (2500 words) and Research paper (3500 words)

The course will include discussion of issues in the content and structure of phonological representations and formalisms leading to the development of Optimality Theory. Topics include: the content and structure of phonological representation; multi-tiered phonology, syllable structure, epenthesis, metrical phonology, lexical phonology and the cycle/strata, prosodic phonology, feature geometry, underspecification theory, and the interfaces between phonology other modules of the grammar.

LNGS3608      **Corpus Linguistics and Linguistic Theory**

6 Credit Points

Dr T Borowsky

**Prerequisite:** LNGS2601 [or LNGS2001] and one of LNGS2602, LNGS2002, LNGS2003, LNGS2603

**Offered:** Semester 1 & Semester 2 **Classes:** 3 - 4 hours per week **Assessment:** Design a corpus-500 words, do a frequent listing software -500 words, Analysis - 1,000 words, Research Essay - 2-2,500 words

This unit of study examines the impact of corpus linguistics on the development of new linguistic theory. This involves more than an introduction to corpus methodology ( including methods involved in building, annotating, analysing and storing a corpus and its metadata). Students will also learn assessment of representativeness, statistical significance, and qualitative analysis methods. They will explore the linguistic insights corpus linguistics offers, how these have affected modern theories for language, and how corpus linguistics can be used in language teaching.

*NB: This unit is available as a designated 'Advanced' unit to students enrolled in the BA (Advanced) degree program.*

LNGS3690      **Issues in Theoretical Linguistics**

6 Credit Points

Dr T Borowsky, Prof B Foley

**Prerequisite:** Credit average in 18 senior credit points of Linguistics. The units must include LNGS2601 [or LNGS2001], and at least one of LNGS2602, LNGS2002, LNGS2003 and LNGS2603 **Prohibition:**

LNGS3914 **Offered:** Semester 1 & Semester 2 **Classes:** One 2 hour seminar per week **Assessment:** One 4000 word paper [this may be staged to include abstract preparation and bibliographic work, and to incorporate revision on the basis of feedback from this and from the tutorial paper which may include peer feedback] and one 2000 word tutorial paper

This unit introduces students to the methods of linguistic argument through careful study of a current debate in theoretical linguistics. Students learn to identify and assess the underlying assumptions, to work out what evidence would confirm or disconfirm the hypotheses made by different parties in the debate, and to draw conclusions as to which hypotheses are more likely to be useful or correct. They also learn to situate the debate within the wider contexts of linguistic theories and language description. Students are asked to contact staff members to discuss potential topics.

LNGS3699      **Linguistics Research Issues**

6 Credit Points

Dr T Borowsky, Prof B Foley

**Prerequisite:** Credit average in 18 senior credit points in linguistics, including at least 2 of LNGS2601, LNGS2001, LNGS2602, LNGS2002, LNGS2603, LNGS2003, LNGS2604, LNGS2004, LNGS2620, LNGS2621. **Prohibition:** LNGS3940 **Offered:** Semester 1 & Semester 2 **Classes:** One 2hour seminar per week **Assessment:** One 6000 word research paper which will be done in stages and reported on through each stage and presented formally in seminar

This seminar aims to prepare students for research in linguistics through critical reading and discussion of current issues and approaches in research and criticism, focussing on a particular subfield of linguistics.

*NB: This unit is available as a designated 'Advanced' unit to students enrolled in the BA (Advanced) degree program.*

LNGS4011      **Linguistics Honours**

12 Credit Points

Dr T Borowsky

**Prerequisite:** Prerequisites: Credit average in 48 senior credits points, including at least three of the five units LNGS3601, LNGS2602, LNGS2604, LNGS2620, LNGS2621. **Offered:** Semester 1 & Semester 2  
**Classes:** 2 hour seminar per option per week

The Honours program in Linguistics consists of:

a thesis written under the supervision of one or more members of academic staff, which may include members of staff from other departments for students undertaking joint honours.

2 seminars that meet weekly for two hours for one semester.

an unassessed support seminar that meets weekly for one hour for one semester

The thesis should be of 18,000-20,000 words in length. Each seminar requires 6000-8000 words of written work or its equivalent.

The thesis is worth 50% of the final Honours mark and each of the seminars is worth 25%.

Seminars will be offered from the following list in 2010:

Systemic Functional Linguistics master-class (Michele Zappavigna)

Language study in the field (Toni Borowsky, Bill Foley, Linda Barwick, Jane Simpson)

Special seminar (Toni Borowsky, Bill Foley, Linda Barwick, Jane Simpson)

Students considering enrolling in Linguistics IV honours are encouraged to consult with the Linguistics Honours Coordinator as early as possible, preferably towards the end of their third year. The Department of Linguistics encourages joint honours programs.