

Linguistics 210
Introduction to Linguistic Analysis

Fall 2008

1:00-2:30 TTh, 269 DENN

FI: John Lawler — 466 Lorch Hall — 763-9177 (Off) & 360/224-0598 (Cel)

GSI: Terry Szymanski — 459A Lorch Hall — 763-9218 (Off)

Coursework: This class is basically analytical and methodological in its orientation. It is a *Collegiate Fellows Course*, principally designed to teach general analytic thought processes, but in order to do the general, we must have specifics to concentrate on. Our main work will be the close observation of language and linguistic phenomena, problem definition, and exploration of various methods of inquiry. Class time will be devoted to raising and dealing with such questions as: What techniques do we have for making sense of data? What kinds of assumptions are we making, and how do we justify them? What kinds of conclusions are we led to, and how do we justify **them**? What do we do if we are led to several different accounts of the same phenomenon? How do we evaluate the analytical processes we employ in conducting our studies? In the back of your mind, you should always be asking: **“What does all this have to do with *me*, and with thinking?”**

There is a textbook, David Crystal’s *Cambridge Encyclopedia of Language*, available at **Shaman Drum** (which is principally a reference work with a glossary of terms; it does not contain assignments and there will not be any tests on it), and a coursepak, available at **Excel** on South U, (which consists largely of data problems and other assignments).

All language is patterned; therefore all linguistics is pattern recognition. Thus, all our course work will involve solving data problems in various languages, including English; as in any science, we solve such problems by finding and describing the patterns of organization in the data. Since we are working from scratch, your active participation is **important**. You will be assigned frequent (usually daily) homework, which will become the basis for the day’s work in class.

Homework (and exams) may be done in groups; everybody in the group gets the same grade. You may organize your own groups (of 3 or less; exceptions considered individually) but need not stay with the same one for each assignment. Our class work will develop into, and be supplemented by, online discussions, which you should check **daily**. These assignments are **not** optional. We will also have take-home midterm and final exams.

Grading: The various elements of the course will count as follows:

Daily Assignments, including quizzes	20 %
Class participation, including online.....	20 %
Midterm Exam (1-week take-home, not counting vacation)	30 %
Final Exam (1½-week take-home, not counting vacation)	<u>30 %</u>
Total	100 %

As a rule of thumb, 90-100% would be the *A* range; 80-90%, *B*; 70-80%, *C*; etc.

These are approximate ranges, not a contract. *I* is not a grade I use promiscuously.

**PLEASE BEAR IN MIND THAT THIS IS A LARGE CLASS.
THEREFORE, LATE ASSIGNMENTS CANNOT BE ACCEPTED.**

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Office Hours, in Professor Lawler's (/lɔləɪz/) office:

466 Lorch Hall, office phone (76)3-9177, T Th 2:30-3:30 PM
(i.e, right after class; walk back with me) ... and by appointment.

Terry Szymanski is our Graduate Student Instructor and will be posting his office hours in 459A Lorch Hall, office phone 763-9218.

Email: jlawler@umich.edu, tdszyman@umich.edu

Web: <http://www.umich.edu/~jlawler/210.html>

Class Schedule (subject to modification)

TTh	Sep 2, 4	Introduction: The analysis of structure
F	Sep 5	Friday sections begin
TThTTh	Sep 9, 11, 16, 18	Processes of word formation (Morphology)
TThTTh	Sep 23, 25, 30, Oct 2	The sounds of language (Phonetics)
TThTThTh	Oct 7, 9, 14, 16, 23	Sound patterning in language (Phonology)
Th	<u>Oct 16</u>	<u>Midterm Exam handed out</u>
T	<i>Oct 21</i>	<i>Midterm Study Break (no class)</i>
T	Oct 28	Midterm Exam due in
TThTThT	Oct 28, 30, Nov 4, 6, 11	Sentence formation (Syntax)
TThTTh	Nov 13, 18, 20, 25	Systems of Meaning (Semantics & Pragmatics)
Th	<u>Nov 25</u>	<u>Final Exam handed out</u>
T	<i>Nov 27</i>	<i>Thanksgiving (no class)</i>
TTh	Dec 2, 4	Review and Selected Short Subjects
T	Dec 9	Final Exam due in; Evaluation

To repeat:

Homework is not optional. Regular homework problems are due the next class; large problems are due one week after they are distributed. Homework, which may optionally be done in groups, may not always be collected, though large problem sets **will** be. There will also be a number of individual quizzes, often announced in advance, which will be given in lecture. We will attempt to return work the same week in section.

Class participation is not optional. You are expected to contribute to the discussion of issues, to ask questions if you don't understand something, and to answer others' questions if you do. Remember, class participation (including online participation) counts as much as homework. If **you** don't understand something, rest assured that there are others who don't as well, and they will be grateful to you for asking. And so will your teachers.