

LX250: Foundations of Language

Fall 2010
Tuesday, Thursday 2-3:30
Room: Kenmore Classroom Building 101

Instructor:

Jonathan Barnes
CAS Program in Linguistics
Dept. of Romance Studies
621 Commonwealth Avenue, Room 119
617-353-6222
jabarnes@bu.edu

Office Hours: Wednesday 9:30-11:30, Thursday 3:30-4:30, or by appointment

Teaching Fellows:

Eunju Bang
621 Commonwealth Avenue, Room B08
617-358-4642
ejbang@bu.edu
Office hours: M 10-12

Diana Garity
621 Commonwealth Avenue, Room B08
617-358-4642
dmgarity@bu.edu
Office hours: M, W 2:30-3:30

Sierra Laidman
621 Commonwealth Avenue, Room B08
617-358-4642
slaidman@bu.edu
Office hours: T, Th 10:30-11:30

Course Information:

Text required: *Contemporary Linguistics*. William O'Grady, John Archibald, Mark Aronoff, & Janie Rees-Miller. Boston/New York: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2010. ISBN: 9780312555283. **Sixth Edition**.

Shop around, if you like, but be sure to get the right editions of this book!

Other Resources:

- There is a wealth of information and wonderful links to linguistics resources on our program website: <http://ling.bu.edu>. Check it out!
- The International Phonetic Alphabet for your computer:
<http://scripts.sil.org/IPAhome>

Course Requirements:

- Regular attendance (!!!) and class participation: 5% of grade. Missing lecture in this class will make you *deeply unhappy* come exam time...
- Regular problem sets: 40% of grade. Homework must be turned in by the *beginning* of class on the day that it is due. Please include date and assignment number at the top of each assignment. Staple together multiple pages of a single assignment. (Various top-left corner origami techniques may be fun and aesthetically pleasing, but are typically not very effective over the long term...) Homework must be legible. Lowest score will be dropped. Late homework, without *prior* excuse, will not be accepted. At all. Ever!
 - You may, if you wish, collaborate with your fellow students on homework assignments. You must, however, state CLEARLY on each assignment the identities of your collaborators, and you must each write up your homeworks individually.
- Readings: Do these carefully. This will make your homework assignments substantially easier, and won't hurt on exams either. Lectures present information to *supplement*, not reiterate, the contents of the readings.
- Discussion sections: Every student should be registered for a section. These sections provide you with a chance to review and practice in smaller groups material presented in lecture. They are a valuable resource for you, and they are not optional.
- 2 exams (and at least one quiz): 30% of grade
- Cumulative final exam held in KCB 101, Friday, December 17, 9:00-11:00 AM: 25% of grade.

A Reminder:

CAS Student Academic Conduct Code:

As a member of a CAS course, it is essential that you read and adhere to the CAS Student Academic Conduct Code. In particular, several types of plagiarism (any attempt to represent the work of another as your own) are defined by this academic conduct code. A copy is available in CAS 105.

Syllabus:

WEEK	DATE	TOPIC	ASSIGNMENTS
1	Sep 2	What is language? What is linguistics?	READ: CL, ch. 1
2	Sep 7, 9	Basic Concepts Phonetics	READ: CL, ch 2
3	Sep 14, 16	Phonetics and Phonology	READ: CL, ch 3
4	Sep 21, 23	Phonology	
5	Sep 28, 30	Morphology	READ: CL, ch. 4
6	Oct 5, 7	Oct 5: Phon/Morph Review Oct 7: Exam #1	
7	Oct 12, 14	NO CLASS OCTOBER 12! ☹ Oct 14: Syntax	READ: CL, ch. 5
8	Oct 19, 21	More syntax	
9	Oct 26, 28	Yet more syntax Semantics	READ: CL, ch. 6
10	Nov 2, 4	Nov 2: Pragmatics Nov 4: Review	
11	Nov 9, 11	Nov 9: Exam #2 Nov 11: Language in society; Language variation	READ: CL, ch. 14
12	Nov 16, 18	More Language in society; Language change	READ: CL, ch. 7, 8
13	Nov 23	Language change	
14	Nov 30, Dec 2	Pidgins and creoles; Acquisition	READ: CL, ch. 10, 11
15	Dec 7, 9	Language and the brain; Conclusion and review	READ: CL, ch. 12, 13

Note: This schedule is tentative and subject to change.