

Syllabus

Spring 2009 L44 Ling 170D 03: Introduction to Linguistics

<i>Venue</i>	McDonnell Hall 361 (Building 65 on this map , at H-7)
<i>Times</i>	Tue, Thur 11:30–1:00
<i>Instructor</i>	
Name	Brett Kessler ['brɛt 'kɛslə]
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Office	Psychology Building 235A
Office hours	Wednesday 1:00–3:00 PM

Required Text: Hudson, Grover. 2000. *Essential introductory linguistics*. Malden MA: Blackwell. ISBN 9780631222842.

Web site: The web site for the course will frequently contain supplemental and updated material. Logon at <http://spell.psychology.wustl.edu/IntroLing> and give IntroLing for the user name. Password will be given in class. Please note that we will not be using Telesis – do not look there for assignments!

Examinations: There will be three exams, given during regular class hours on the dates listed on the last page. Absolutely no collaboration on the exams will be allowed, and allegations of misconduct will be reported to the academic integrity officer. The second and third exams directly test only the material covered since the preceding exam, but questions will often build on earlier material.

Because people sometimes have to miss an exam due to circumstances beyond their control, we will have an optional make-up exam on May 4, at the time the University scheduled for our final exam (1:00 to 3:00 PM). Your score on this exam will replace any single missed exam. If you will have already taken all three regular exams, the make-up score will replace the lowest of those three scores. If you do not take this make-up test, or if you get a lower score than on any of the three regular exams, it will have no effect on your grade. This make-up exam covers all the material presented in the course.

I strongly recommend that you plan to be present to take a test on May 4, because there is no way of knowing whether you will want to raise your grade four months from now. At the same time, I also urge you not to blow off any of the three regular tests because you plan to make it up in May. That strategy usually leads to grief.

All tests are multiple choice. Because the book covers more material than the course, summaries of the crucial points you may be tested on will be posted on the Web site to

serve as study guides for the tests. In case of conflict, information presented in class or on the summaries takes precedence over the presentation in Hudson.

Quizzes: There will be 9 quizzes. They will be of various formats, normally very short mini-tests administered in class. No make-up assignments will be offered, but you will be able to drop the lowest quiz score.

Homework: There will be several homework assignments. You are strongly encouraged to do these assignments, as preparation for class discussions and graded tests and quizzes, but homeworks will not be graded. Solutions will normally be explored in class, posted on the Web, or both.

You should normally expect to spend 8 hours per week on this course: 3 hours in the classroom, and about 5 hours studying and doing homework.

Attendance: Attendance at all lectures is strongly encouraged. You won't be penalized for skipping a class or not returning after an intermission, but please do not leave while class is in session. I will not spend time outside of class helping you compensate for absences, nor will skipping class be considered a good reason for not knowing about assignments, rescheduled exams, etc.

When in class, students should avoid behaviour that interferes with other students' ability to pay attention to the material. Disruptive behaviour includes, but is not limited to, talking or making other noise, eating, arriving late and leaving early. Beverages are OK. Infractions may result in lowered grades, eviction from class, or other commensurate penalties.

Special accommodations: If you suspect you have a physical or mental disability that could limit your rights to equal access to this class, you should contact the university's [Disability Resources](#) (DR) in the Center for Advanced Learning in Cornerstone, tel. (314) 935-4153. They will determine what accommodations are required, and will give you a letter to take to me, explaining what we need to do. Please do so within two weeks at the latest.

Other policies: The policies of Washington University and the College of Arts and Sciences apply. The provisions of this syllabus may also change at any time; such changes will be announced in class and posted on the Web site.

Grading: Exams are assigned a maximum of 28 points each, and quizzes are assigned up to 2 points each. Semester grading will be based on the sum of the 3 highest-scoring tests and the 8 highest-scoring quizzes. Letter grades will be assigned on the following schedule:

		88	B+	78	C+	68	D+
93	A	83	B	73	C	63	D
90	A-	80	B-	70	C-	60	D-

If you disagree with how a test or quiz was scored, you have the right to appeal it. Please bring it up with the instructor within a week after the results are returned. Because your semester grade is based on the sum of numerical scores, not on the average of letter grades, it is advisable to appeal errors in grading even if the change would not change the letter grade for that test.

Midterm grades will be assigned by prorating the scores from the first test and the quizzes administered before Spring Break. Grades of Pass will be assigned under the Pass/Fail option if the student receives 70 points or more – that is, the equivalent of a C-, *not* a D-. No grades of Incomplete will be assigned. No extra credit assignments will be given.

Schedule: Chapter assignments are from Hudson, and should be read before the start of class on the day they are listed. It is recommended that you read them again after class and work through some exercises as well. You should also keep up with the on-line synopses in real time as well.

Date			Chapter	Topic
Jan	13	Tu		What is Linguistics?
Jan	15	Th	2-3	Articulation
Jan	20	Tu		Advanced Articulation
Jan	22	Th		Transcription
Jan	27	Tu		Phonemes
Jan	29	Th	13	Phonology
Feb	3	Tu	14	Phonological features
Feb	5	Th		TEST 1
Feb	10	Tu	1	Signs
Feb	12	Th	4	Morphology
Feb	17	Tu	5	Morphology
Feb	19	Th	15	New Words
Feb	24	Tu	16	New Words
Feb	26	Th		New Words
Mar	3	Tu	6	Syntax
Mar	5	Th	7	Syntactic Trees
Mar	10	Tu		<i>No class: Spring Break</i>
Mar	12	Th		<i>No class: Spring Break</i>
Mar	17	Tu	18	Yet More Syntax
Mar	19	Th	17	Semantics
Mar	24	Tu		TEST 2
Mar	26	Th	23-24	Change
Mar	31	Tu	25	Families
Apr	2	Th	26	Dialects
Apr	7	Tu	8-9, 11	Children
Apr	9	Th	10	Brains
Apr	14	Tu	20	Universals
Apr	16	Th	12	Animals
Apr	21	Tu	25-27	Sociolects
Apr	23	Th		TEST 3
May	4	Mo		Make-up exam, 1:00-3:00