

## Ling 2010Q: The Science of Linguistics

**Instructor:** Claire Moore-Cantwell

**Contact:** [claire.moore-cantwell@uconn.edu](mailto:claire.moore-cantwell@uconn.edu)

**Lecture:** Tues/Thurs 2:00–3:15, MONT 419

**Office hours:** Tuesday 11:00-12:00, OAK 355 (my office)

**Course Description:** Humans alone wield the power of language: the power to express complex ideas and desires; the power to create and understand an infinite number of never-before-uttered sentences; the power from birth to master, flawlessly, an incredibly intricate grammatical system.

So what is language? What are the different components of language? How do children learn language? Which properties (if any) underlie all human languages? These are the questions that linguists ask, and the questions that we will explore in this course.

We will take a whirlwind tour through the formal, structural properties that we find across the world's languages—phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics.

You will each choose a language, which will be yours for the semester. Throughout the course you will apply the general concepts we are discussing in class to better understand that language, and you will periodically share your findings with the class in short presentations.

**Readings:** Readings will be from the online textbook *Introductory Linguistics* by Bruce Hayes. You can find a link on the course website, or at:

<http://www.linguistics.ucla.edu/people/hayes/20/Text/HayesIntroductoryLinguistics2015.pdf>.

**Course Website:** Lecture notes, readings, homework, and review materials will be posted on the course website, which currently can be found at:

[http://www.clairemoorecantwell.org/ling2010Q\\_004/index.html](http://www.clairemoorecantwell.org/ling2010Q_004/index.html).

**Grading:** Course grades will be determined by the rubric below.

Participation: 5%

Homework: 30%

Language presentations: 15%

Midterm Exam: 20%

Final Exam: 30%

A	93-100	C	73-76
A-	90-92	C-	70-72
B+	87-89	D+	67-69
B	83-86	D	63-66
B-	80-82	D-	60-62
C+	77-79	F	0-59

**Lecture:** Class lectures will be based on handouts, which I will print for you each class, and which you should bring to all following lectures. These handouts will also be posted on the course website, after each class.

You are expected to complete the assigned reading by the day of lecture.

Participation in lecture and regular attendance is expected.

**Homework:** Homework assignments will be posted on the course website on the dates listed in the schedule, and will be due on the dates listed in the schedule by the beginning of class (to me, by email, or to my mailbox in OAK 368).

Late assignments will not be accepted unless there is a documented and legitimate excuse.

Students are encouraged to work together on homework, but must turn in their own write-ups. You should not have the exact same answer as somebody else. This will be considered plagiarism and university policies on dealing with plagiarism will apply.

Write-ups must be legible – it doesn't matter if it is done in pen, in pencil, or on the computer, but if I can't read it, I can't grade it. If you know you have extremely messy handwriting, please type!

**Language Presentations:** Throughout the semester there will be four occasions on which you will present ver briefly on findings from the language you have chosen as your focus language for the semester. These presentations will be accompanied by short writeups, which you should hand in to me at the time of the presentation, or email me beforehand. If you will be absent on one of the presentation days (noted in the syllabus), please make arrangements with me beforehand, and as soon as possible.

**Midterm Exam:** There will be a midterm exam on Thursday October 20th, which will mostly consist of short answer questions and cover just a portion of the course material.

You may reschedule the midterm exam only if you have a documented and legitimate excuse. Please let me know as soon as possible if this is the case.

**Final Exam:** The final exam will consist mostly of short answer questions and will be cumulative, i.e., it will cover all of the course material. However, there will be slightly more weight on the post-midterm part of the course (syntax and semantics).

The final exam will take place during exam week (December 12–18).

If you need to reschedule the final exam, you must do so through the Office of Student Services and Advocacy.

**General Notes:** This is a Q course, which means that we will be relying heavily on primary data, analysis, hypothesis-testing, and formalisms.

I will give small (ungraded) quizzes every class, to get you to practice what we have just learned. These will be used to help me gauge how everyone is doing, and to see who has attended the class.

Please contact me by email or during office hours to discuss academic accommodations that may be needed during the semester due to a documented disability. If you have a disability for which you wish to request academic accommodations and have not contacted the Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD), please do so as soon as possible. The CSD engages

in an interactive process with each student and collaborates with students and their faculty to coordinate approved accommodations and services. The CSD is located in Wilbur Cross, Room 204 and can be reached at (860) 486-2020 or at [csd@uconn.edu](mailto:csd@uconn.edu). Detailed information regarding the process to request accommodations is available on the CSD website at [www.csd.uconn.edu](http://www.csd.uconn.edu).

**Schedule (subject to minor changes)**

<b>Week One</b>	
Tuesday, August 30	Review syllabus; Introduction to language/linguistics
Thursday, September 1	Phonetics <b>HW #1 posted</b> <i>Reading:</i> Hayes, ch. 10, pp. 355-382
<b>Week Two</b>	
Tuesday, September 6th	Phonetics <i>Reading:</i> Hayes, ch. 10, pp. 382-393
Thursday, September 8th	Phonetics <b>Presentations: Phonetics of your languages</b>
<b>Week Three</b>	
Tuesday, September 13th	Phonology
Thursday, September 15th	Phonology <b>HW #1 due; HW #2 posted</b> <i>Reading:</i> Hayes, ch. 11, pp. 394-426
<b>Week Four</b>	
Tuesday, September 20th	Phonology <i>Reading:</i> Hayes, ch. 12, pp. 427-435
Thursday, September 22nd	Phonology
<b>Week Five</b>	
Tuesday, September 27th	Phonology <b>Presentations: Phonology of your languages</b>
Thursday, September 29th	Morphology <i>Reading:</i> Hayes, ch. 2, pp. 18-26
<b>Week Six</b>	
Tuesday, October 4th	Morphology <i>Reading:</i> Hayes, ch. 2, pp. 27-41 <b>HW #2 due; HW #3 posted</b>
Thursday, October 6th	Morphology <i>Reading:</i> Hayes, ch. 2, pp. 41-51
<b>Week Seven</b>	
Tuesday, October 11th	Morphology <i>Reading:</i> Hayes, ch. 2, pp. 51-59
Thursday, October 13th	Morphology <b>Presentation: Morphology of your languages</b>
<b>Week Eight</b>	
Tuesday, October 18th	Review <b>HW #3 due; HW #4 posted</b>
Thursday, October 20nd	<b>Midterm Exam</b>

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**Schedule (continued)**

<b>Week Nine</b>	
Tuesday, October 25th	Syntax <i>Reading:</i> TBD
Thursday, October 27th	Syntax <i>Reading:</i> TBD
<b>Week Ten</b>	
Tuesday, November 1rd	Syntax <i>Reading:</i> TBD
Thursday, November 3th	Syntax <i>Reading:</i> TBD <b>HW #4 posted; Bonus HW posted</b>
<b>Week Eleven</b>	
Tuesday, November 8th	Syntax
Thursday, November 10th	Syntax <b>Presentation: Syntax of your languages</b>
<b>Week Twelve</b>	
Tuesday, November 15th	Semantics <i>Reading:</i> TBD <b>HW #4 due; HW #5 posted</b>
Thursday, November 17th	Semantics <i>Reading:</i> TBD
<b>Happy Thanksgiving!</b>	
<b>Week Thirteen</b>	
Tuesday, November 29th	Speech processing <i>Reading:</i> TBD <b>HW #5 due; HW #6 posted</b>
Thursday, December 1st	Sentence processing <i>Reading:</i> TBD <b>Review problems posted</b>
<b>Week Fourteen</b>	
Tuesday, December 6th	Review <b>HW #6 due</b>
Thursday, December 8th	Review <b>Bonus HW due</b>
<b>Exam Week</b>	

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