

Linguistics 1111 (Winter 2023)  
**Nature of Language I**  
Course Information and Syllabus



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**General Information**

**Course:** Nature of Language I – 11598 – LING 1111 – 002

**Instructor:** Dušan Nikolić

**Email:** [dnikolic@mtroyal.ca](mailto:dnikolic@mtroyal.ca)

**Class meeting times:** Monday and Wednesday, 2:30 pm–3:50 pm, in person

**Class meeting location:** Lincoln Park (LP) | Room T231

**Office hours:** Wednesday, 12:00am - 13:20pm

**Office:** EA3020

**Course Description:**

This course is an introduction to the theory and methodology of linguistics, which is the scientific study of language. We will learn about the primary branches of linguistics – phonetics, phonology, morphology, and syntax. We will examine the knowledge of language as an element of human cognition and develop the skills necessary to analyze and understand basic linguistic applications and data.

**Course Outcomes:**

Through lectures, readings, exercises, and other activities, you should come to understand and be able to use the vocabulary, symbols, and concepts of theoretical linguistics. You should also be able analyze introductory language data using linguistic methodologies.

**Course Web Page:**

- 1) D2L: <https://learn.mru.ca/d2l/home>
- 2) External website: <https://dusannikolic.com/ling1111/>

**Lectures:**

All lectures will be held in person. All lecture notes, handouts, and homework exercises—along with updated versions of this syllabus—will be posted to both D2L and the external course website listed above. Please check the sites on a regular basis if you are interested in having access to these materials.

### **Contingency cases:**

All lectures will be held in person. However, in case of instructor's illness or any other unforeseen circumstances, the lectures will move to an online delivery. In that case, the lectures will be held through Google Meet during the meeting times specified above in the syllabus.

*Notice of Recording:* If the course is mandated to move online, we will use Google Meet. Mount Royal University has contracted Google to provide educational technology software for the course Nature of Language I – LING 1111 – 002 where, the instructor may record lectures using Google Meet and make them available to registered students through a link on D2L for up until 10 days after the course is completed. Users, including any recorded student participants, are advised that the personal information collected during the recordings will only be used for educational purposes and is collected under the authority of the FOIP Act – section 33(c) and the *Post-Secondary Learning Act* in the Province of Alberta.

Users are further advised that the downloading of posted videos other than for the purposes of student personal learning through the link on D2L, may violate the copyright of the course instructor or others.

For additional questions regarding the collection, use, disclosure and protection of personal information please contact:

Shereen Ashraf,  
Department of Humanities  
[humanities@mtroyal.ca](mailto:humanities@mtroyal.ca)

## Course Requirements:

|                               |     |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| Homework exercises (HW):      | 20% |
| D2L Quizzes:                  | 10% |
| Phonetics Test:               | 15% |
| Phonology Test:               | 15% |
| Morphology Test:              | 15% |
| Syntax Test:                  | 15% |
| Quick Writes (Participation): | 10% |

## Grading:

Final grades will be assigned according to the scale below. Class participation and bonus tasks will be considered in cases of borderline scores. Students can check their scores on homework, tests, quizzes, and quick writes throughout the semester on D2L. The grading scale for the course will be as follows:

|    |        |    |       |    |       |    |       |
|----|--------|----|-------|----|-------|----|-------|
| A+ | 95-100 | B+ | 77-79 | C+ | 67-69 | D+ | 55-59 |
| A  | 85-94  | B  | 73-76 | C  | 63-66 | D  | 50-54 |
| A- | 80-84  | B- | 70-72 | C- | 60-62 | F  | 0-49  |

A grade of .5 and above will be automatically rounded to the next grade (e.g. a grade of 79.6% (B+) will be rounded to 80% (A-)); a grade below .5 will remain at the specified grade (e.g. a grade of 76.4% (B) will remain at 76.4% (B)). This only applies at the end of the semester when final grades in the course are assigned.

## Course Textbooks:

William O'Grady & John Archibald, eds. (2021). *Contemporary Linguistic Analysis: An Introduction*, 9th edition. Toronto: Pearson Education Canada.

William O'Grady & John Archibald, eds. (2021). *Study Guide to Contemporary Linguistic Analysis: An Introduction*, 9th edition. Toronto: Pearson Canada.

## Additional Materials:

Students may wish to consult the Text Enrichment Site for the textbook at:

<http://www.pearsoned.ca/text/ogrady/>

Here you will find extra reading material, sources for the chapters, sound files for the examples and exercises in the phonetics chapter, and answers for the questions at the end of each chapter.

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## Course organization:

1. **Modules:** The course is divided into four modules: Phonetics, Phonology, Morphology, and Syntax.
2. **Quick Writes.** There will be 20 quick write assignments, and each will carry 0.5% of the total Quick Writes grade. The Quick Writes are short problem-solving and writing assignments which you will complete at the beginning of almost every class. The content of the quick write assignment will (almost always) be based on future class discussion. Students may miss 3 quick writes over the semester with no penalty.
3. **D2L Quizzes.** The D2L quizzes are mainly multiple-choice quizzes testing your knowledge of the covered material. The quizzes will ask you to evaluate the problems and analyze linguistic data. The quizzes will be posted on D2L, and you will have a 24-hour period to access them. Once you access them, you will have 1 hour (60 minutes) to complete them. Each quiz is worth 2.5% ( $2.5 \times 4 = 10\%$  total).
4. **Homework.** Homework provides you with an opportunity to apply the knowledge and analytic skills learned during the weekly lectures and discussion sections. Four (4) homework assignments will be assigned throughout the course of the semester. The due date and time for each homework will be provided when that homework is posted online during the semester; homework assignments will generally be posted about a week before they are due. Homework assignments are long and have a number of exercises, so please start working on your homework as early as possible.
5. **Tests.** There will be four (4) tests throughout the term covering the four modules: Phonetics, Phonology, Morphology, and Syntax. They will be timed tests, and these will be taken during the classes, which means that their duration will be 80 minutes. If you are ill or cannot take a test due to a personal emergency during the scheduled time, please let me know as soon as possible. Each test is worth 15% of your total grade. Tests replace mid-term and final exams.

## Course Information:

1. **Late Policy.** You are expected to complete all assignments and/or quizzes by their due date. Any assessment(s) not completed by their due-date will result in a grade of zero for that assessment unless you have a valid excuse (see below).
2. **Absences.** Any absence for a test will result in a grade of zero for that assessment unless the absence is a valid one (see below). In the event of a valid absence, you must notify me of your absence before the scheduled test time. You will be expected to provide appropriate documentation. If you supply appropriate documentation, you will be allowed to complete the test. This must be done as soon as possible, and at my convenience.
3. **Valid excuses.** Valid excuses are those that are of an extreme and unforeseen nature such as health or personal crisis. Holiday plans do *not* constitute a valid excuse. Failure to keep up with the course material for work or other personal reasons including work obligations is *not* a valid excuse.
4. **Office hours.** Office hours will be held every week throughout the semester with the exception of the Winter reading break (February 21-24). They will be held on Wednesdays from 12PM – 13:20PM in EA3020. There are no specific topics that will be covered during office hours, and attendance is not required. Office hours are solely intended for students who have specific questions or concerns. Office hours are a good place to get help with concepts that you are having difficulty. If you cannot make it to the office hours, I am also available Monday through Friday via email ([dnikolic@mtroyal.ca](mailto:dnikolic@mtroyal.ca)). You can typically expect a response to your email within 24 – 48 hours.
5. **Classroom Etiquette.** Please make every effort to be on time for class and stay for the duration of the class. Please refrain from any behaviors that may disrupt either me or your fellow classmates. Recording of class content is only permitted if you provide supporting documentation from Accessibility and Inclusion Services. Remember, food and beverages (other than a water bottle and/or coffee/tea) are not permitted in the classroom.

### *Course Schedule*

Please note that this schedule is subject to change before the end of the semester.

| <i>Week</i> | <i>Date</i> | <i>Day</i> | <i>Lecture Topic</i>                           | <i>Chapters</i> |                 |
|-------------|-------------|------------|--|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1           | 9/1         | Mon        | Overview + Language: a preview                 | Ch.1            |                 |
|             | 11/1        | Wed        | Language: a preview + Phonetics: Transcription | Ch.1 + Ch.2.1   |                 |
| 2           | 16/1        | Mon        | Phonetics: Consonants                          | Ch. 2.3 – 2.5   |                 |
|             | 18/1        | Wed        | Phonetics: Vowels                              | Ch. 2.6 – 2.7   |                 |
| 3           | 23/1        | Mon        | Phonetics: Stress + Processes                  | Ch. 2.8 & 2.9   | D2L Quiz 1      |
|             | 25/1        | Wed        | Phonetics: Practice Exercises                  |                 | HW1: Phonetics  |
| 4           | 30/1        | Mon        | <b>Phonetics: Test #1</b>                      |                 |                 |
|             | 1/2         | Wed        | Phonology: Segments                            | Ch. 3.1         |                 |
| 5           | 6/2         | Mon        | Phonology: Syllables                           | Ch. 3.2         |                 |
|             | 8/2         | Wed        | Phonology: Features                            | Ch. 3.3         |                 |
| 6           | 13/2        | Mon        | Phonology: Derivations & Rules                 | Ch. 3.4         | D2L Quiz 2      |
|             | 15/2        | Wed        | Phonology: Practice Exercises                  |                 | HW2: Phonology  |
| 7           | 20/2        | Mon        | Reading Break: No class                        |                 |                 |
|             | 22/2        | Wed        | Reading Break: No class                        |                 |                 |
| 8           | 27/2        | Mon        | <b>Phonology: Test #2</b>                      |                 |                 |
|             | 1/3         | Wed        | Morphology: Words & Morphemes                  | Ch. 4.1         |                 |
| 9           | 6/3         | Mon        | Morphology: Derivation + Inflection            | Ch. 4.2 & 4.4   |                 |
|             | 8/3         | Wed        | Morphology: Compounding + Processes            | Ch. 4.3 & 4.5   | D2L Quiz 3      |
| 10          | 13/3        | Mon        | Morphology: Practice Exercises                 |                 | HW3: Morphology |
|             | 15/3        | Wed        | <b>Morphology: Test #3</b>                     |                 |                 |
| 11          | 20/3        | Mon        | Syntax: Categories & Phrase Structure          | Ch. 5 & 5.1     |                 |
|             | 22/3        | Wed        | Syntax: Phrase Structure + Complements         | Ch. 5 – 5.2     |                 |
| 12          | 27/3        | Mon        | Syntax: Sentences & Move                       | Ch. 5.3         |                 |
|             | 29/3        | Wed        | Syntax: Verb Raising                           |                 | D2L Quiz 4      |
| 13          | 3/4         | Mon        | Syntax: Practice Exercises                     |                 | HW4: Syntax     |
|             | 5/4         | Wed        | <b>Syntax: Test #4</b>                         |                 |                 |

## **SOME IMPORTANT UNIVERSITY INFORMATION:**

### **Academic Regulations:**

Academic Regulations can be found in the MRU Calendar. It can be accessed online via your [mymru.ca](http://mymru.ca) account. Students are advised to familiarize themselves with those sections of the Calendar which pertain to dates of withdrawals, academic dishonesty, academic disqualification, and student rights and responsibilities.

No withdrawals will be allowed after the withdrawal date for the semester (found in the MRU Calendar). *It is your responsibility as a student to withdraw.* If you do not meet the requirements of the course and you have not officially withdrawn (in which case you will receive a “W”), you will receive an “F”. The withdrawal deadline for the Fall 2021 semester is November 12<sup>th</sup>.

### **Code of Student Conduct:**

The *Code of Student Conduct* outlines both academic and non-academic misconduct. It is the responsibility of the student to be familiar with this code. The complete *Code of Student Conduct* is available through the Office of Student Conduct (C 109), the Student’s Association of Mount Royal University or at: <https://www.mtroyal.ca/codeofstudentconduct>.

Academic misconduct will **NOT** be tolerated. See the Mount Royal *Code of Student Conduct* for a discussion of the different types of violations and possible consequences.

### **Accessibility and Inclusion Services:**

*Accessibility and Inclusion Services* offers accommodations for students with physical or learning disabilities. You must be registered with Accessibility and Inclusion Services to access academic accommodation. If you are a student with an Academic Accommodation Memo and a Professor Acknowledgement form from Accessibility Services, please email your professor(s) as soon as possible to set up an appointment to discuss your accommodations. These discussions cannot take place in class or between classes.

If you are a student experiencing a disability who may require academic accommodation and have not yet registered with Accessibility and Inclusion Services, please contact their office at 403-440-6868. Similarly, if you require academic accommodations for a reason other than a disability, please email your professor to discuss your particular situation, or contact Accessibility and Inclusion Services at 403-440-6868. To find out more about Accessibility services, please check out: <https://www.mtroyal.ca/AcademicSupport/ResourcesServices/AccessibilityServices>.

Links to other student resources including Student Learning Services, Career Services, Mental Health Services, and The Iniskim Centre can be found on the course D2L site. You can also visit the Mount Royal Website <https://www.mtroyal.ca>.