

## PRINCIPLES OF LINGUISTICS (TESL 500): Spring 2008

Instructor: Karen Taylor  
Office: McKinley 156  
Office Hours: M/W 2-4, 8-9 p.m.  
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Course Dates: Jan 16 – May 7  
Day/ time: Wed. 5:30-8 p.m.  
Classroom: Katzen 112  
[katmail68@yahoo.com](mailto:katmail68@yahoo.com)  
[del.icio.us/katmail68](http://del.icio.us/katmail68)

### Course Texts

- **Required:** Fromkin, Victoria, Robert Rodman, and Nina Hyams (2006). *An Introduction to Language*. Eighth Edition. Thomson/Heinle.
- **Recommended:** Crystal, David (1997). *Cambridge Encyclopedia of Language*. Second Edition. Cambridge University Press.
- Additional readings will be distributed in class or in E-Reserves on Blackboard.

### Course Requirements

Attendance & participation	5%
Leading class discussion on a selected topic	10%
Language Journal	10%
In-class Exams (15% + 15% + 15%)	45%
Homework – collected three times throughout course	10%
Linguistics-in-Context Project (Presentation 10%, Paper 10%)	20%

### Blackboard

There is a Blackboard site for this course. Your first Blackboard posting is due Sunday, September 9<sup>th</sup>. If you have trouble logging on, contact the Center for Teaching Excellence (202-885-2305) or the University IT Help Desk (202-885-2550 or [help@american.edu](mailto:help@american.edu)).

### Academic Integrity

All course work is subject to the standards and procedures of the University Academic Integrity Code. All work must be one's own unless appropriate collaboration has been approved in advance.

### Reading assignments

Should be completed by the class date for which they are listed. While the examinations will focus on the reading in Fromkin *et al.*, the recommended readings in Crystal will prove very useful for deepening your understanding for essay questions.

### Homework assignments from Fromkin *et al.*

Should be written out and brought to class on the date assignment is listed. We will review selected problems in class. Problems not assigned make good practice exercises and might appear on exams. A copy of the answer key is on E-Reserves. HOWEVER, you are strongly advised to consult it only AFTER attempting the problems.

## Reference materials

Make liberal use of the glossary in the back of Fromkin *et al.* and of reference dictionaries and encyclopedias in the P29 call number area of the AU Library Reference collection. Some particularly useful titles are listed below:

Asher, R.E., Editor-in-Chief (1994). *The Encyclopedia of Language and Linguistics*, 10 vols. (P29.E48) NOTE: New edition (2005) available online at <http://www.sciencedirect.com.proxyau.wrlc.org/science/referenceworks/0080448542>

Crystal, David (1992). *An Encyclopedic Dictionary of Language and Languages*. (P29.C68)

Frawley, William, Editor-in-Chief (2003). *International Encyclopedia of Linguistics*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. 4 vols. (P29.I58 2003)

## PRINCIPLES OF LINGUISTICS SYLLABUS OVERVIEW

1. Jan 16 What is Language?; Video: "Colorless Green Ideas"
2. Jan 23 *Brain and Language*
3. Jan 30 *Morphology*; Discussion: Predicting New Words
4. Feb 6 *Syntax*
5. Feb 13 *Syntax* (cont.); JOURNAL SUBMISSION I; Review for Exam I
6. Feb 20 EXAM I / Homework due ; Discuss Linguistics-In-Context Project

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7. Feb 27 *Semantics*
8. Mar 5 *Phonetics*; Discussion: Dialects in America; Submit L-I-C Topics/Groups  
**Mar 12 No class – Spring Break**
9. Mar 19 *Phonetics/ Phonology*;
10. Mar 26 *Phonology*; Discussion: Stroke Victim Acquires Foreign Accent; Review for Exam II
11. Apr 2 EXAM II / Homework due; Work on Linguistics-In-Context Project

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12. Apr 9 *Lang. Acquisition*; Discussion: Chimps and Language; JOURNAL SUBMISSION II;
13. Apr 16 *Language In Society*;  
Discussion: Fast Talk; Discussion: He Said, She Said
14. Apr 23 PRESENT Linguistics-In-Context Projects; Review for Exam III  
**Apr 30 No class – Study Day**
15. May 7 EXAM III/ Homework due

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**SYLLABUS – PRINCIPLES OF LINGUISTICS  
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<b>WEEK 1</b>	<p>TOPIC: What is Language? VIDEO: "Colorless Green Ideas" (VHS 2962, part I)</p> <p><b>Wed Jan 16</b></p> <p>BLACKBOARD DISCUSSION BOARD POSTINGS Post on "Discussion Board" (Forum 1 and Forum 2) <b>DUE by 8 pm on Sunday, Jan 20.</b></p>	
<b>WEEK 2</b>	<p>TOPIC: Brain and Language</p> <p><b>Wed Jan 23</b></p>	<p>READINGS -- Fromkin <i>et al.</i> Ch. 1, 2 -- Wong Fillmore &amp; Snow, "What Teachers Need to Know About Language"</p> <p>Homework: Fromkin <i>et al.</i> : <u>Ch. 1: 2, 5, 8, Ch. 2: 2, 8</u></p>
<b>WEEK 3</b>	<p>TOPIC: Morphology</p> <p><b>Wed Jan 30</b></p> <p>DISCUSSION: Predicting New Words</p>	<p>READINGS -- Fromkin <i>et al.</i>:Ch. 3. Morphology -- Allan Metcalf (2002) <i>Predicting New Words</i> (in Blackboard E-Reserves)</p> <p>Homework: Fromkin <i>et al.</i> : <u>Ch.3: 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9</u></p>
<b>WEEK 4</b>	<p>TOPIC: Syntax</p> <p><b>Wed Feb 6</b></p>	<p>READINGS --Fromkin <i>et al.</i>:Ch. 4. (pp. 115-150)</p> <p>Homework: Fromkin <i>et al.</i> : <u>Ch. 4: 3, 6, 7, 13</u></p>
<b>WEEK 5</b>	<p>TOPIC: Syntax (cont.)</p> <p><b>Wed Feb 13</b></p> <p>Journal Submission I DUE</p> <p>REVIEW FOR EXAM I</p>	<p>READING: --Fromkin <i>et al.</i>: Ch. 4. (pp. 150-163)</p> <p>Homework: Fromkin <i>et al.</i>: <u>Ch. 4: 18, 19</u></p>
<b>WEEK 6</b>	<p><b>Wed Feb 20</b></p> <p>EXAM I (Covers Fromkin <i>et al.</i>, Ch. 1-4; video; class discussion)</p> <p>Homework DUE</p> <p>L-I-C Projects: Introduction to Experimental Design; Form Groups</p>	

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<b>WEEK 7</b>  Wed Feb 27	<p>TOPIC: The Meaning of Language (Semantics)</p>	<p>READINGS: --Fromkin <i>et al.</i>: Ch. 5.</p> <p>Homework: Fromkin <i>et al.</i> : Ch. 5: 6, 8, 13, 16</p>
<b>WEEK 8</b>  Wed Mar 5	<p>TOPIC: Phonetics</p> <p><u>Discussion</u>: Dialects in America</p> <p>L-I-C PROJECTS: Submit Topics and Groups; Schedule meetings with Professor Taylor</p>	<p>READINGS: -- Fromkin <i>et al.</i>: Ch. 6: -- Dialect Reading TBA HW DUE: Fromkin <i>et al.</i>: <u>Ch. 6</u>: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11</p>

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<b>WEEK 9</b>  Wed Mar 19	TOPIC: Phonetics/ Phonology	READINGS: --Fromkin <i>et al.</i> : Ch. 7. (pp. 255-282; 286-292)  HW DUE: Fromkin <i>et al.</i> : Ch. 7: 3, 6, 9, 11
<b>WEEK 10</b>  Wed Mar 26	TOPIC: Phonology (cont.)  Discussion: Stroke Victim Acquiring Foreign Accents  REVIEW FOR EXAM II	READINGS: --BBC, "Stroke Gives Woman Foreign Accent" (see link in Blackboard, External Links)
<b>WEEK 11</b>  Wed Apr 2	EXAM II (Covers Fromkin <i>et al.</i> , Chapters 5-7; class discussion)  Homework DUE  L-I-C Projects: Meet with groups	
<b>WEEK 12</b>  Wed Apr 9	TOPIC: Language Acquisition  <u>Discussion</u> : Chimps and Language VIDEO: "Chimp Talk" (DVD 1419)  JOURNAL SUBMISSION II due	READINGS: --Fromkin <i>et al.</i> : Ch. 8. --NPR article (see link in Blackboard)  HW DUE: Fromkin <i>et al.</i> : Ch. 8: 2, 9
<b>WEEK 13</b>  Wed Apr 16	TOPIC: Language in Society  <u>Discussion</u> : Fast Talk  <u>Discussion</u> : He said, She said	READING: --Fromkin <i>et al.</i> : Ch. 10. --Tannen: "Did You Catch That?" -- Tannen: TBA: <i>He said, She said</i>  Homework: Fromkin <i>et al.</i> : Ch. 10: 1, 5, 6
<b>WEEK 14</b>  Wed Apr 23	POT LUCK DINNER  PRESENT Linguistics-in-Context Projects SUBMIT write-ups of Linguistics-in-Context Projects	
<b>WEEK 15</b>  Wed May 7	EXAM III (Covers Fromkin <i>et al.</i> , Chapters 8, 10, and overarching ideas from this course, including videos and class discussion)  HOMEWORK DUE	

*Grades for all individual course components will be posted on the "Grade Book" function on Blackboard, and final grades for the course will be posted, through the Registrar's Office, online.*