

# Syllabus

## ENG535M---FOUNDATIONS OF LANGUAGE STUDIES

First trimester, School year 2005-2006

Instructor: Dr. Hsiu-chuan Liao

Time: Saturday 8:00–11:15AM

Place: Y-606

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Office Hours: Friday 2:00-5:00, and by appointment.

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course is an introduction to the methods that linguists use for describing languages. It covers major areas of linguistic analysis: phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, and historical linguistics. The overall goals are (a) to develop the skills necessary to analyze the structure of language, and (b) to provide a general training in analytic thought.

By the end of the course, students are expected to be able to:

- (i) recognize the diversity of language systems and their fundamental similarities;
- (ii) understand and use the basic terminology of linguistic subfields, including phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, and historical linguistics;
- (iii) use linguistic analysis to investigate the organizing principles of languages.

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

TIMELY completion of homework assignments	30%
Mid-term examination (July 9)	35%
Final examination (August 27)	35%

**GRADING POLICY:** An 'A' really means 'excellent'—90% or better for the overall course.

- Make-up exams will be given and deadlines extended **ONLY** in DOCUMENTED cases of illness or crisis.
- The course grade is based entirely on how well the above requirements are fulfilled; no second chances or alternative work can be given.
- Students are responsible for material and information covered in classes that they miss.

**REQUIRED READING:**

O'Grady, William, John Archibald, Mark Aronoff, and Janie Rees-Miller, eds. 2001.  
*Contemporary linguistics: An introduction* (4<sup>th</sup> edition). Boston and New York:  
 Bedford/St. Martin's.

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic/Activity</b>
Week 1	May 28	Orientation
Week 2	June 4	Language: A preview (Ch. 1)
Week 3	June 11	Phonetics (Ch. 2)
<b>Week 4</b>	<b>June 18</b>	<b>Independent Study--Commencement</b>
Week 5	June 25	Phonetics (Ch. 2); Phonology (Ch. 3)
Week 6	July 2	Phonology (Ch. 3); Mid-term Review
Week 7	<b>July 9</b>	<b>Mid-term Exam</b>
<b>Week 8</b>	<b>July 16</b>	<b>Independent Study—10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Ph.D. program in Applied Linguistics</b>
Week 9	July 23	Morphology (Ch. 4)
Week 10	July 30	Morphology (Ch. 4); Syntax (Ch. 5)
Week 11	August 6	Syntax (Ch. 5); Semantics (Ch. 6—Section 3.3)
Week 12	August 13	Historical Linguistics (Ch. 7)
Week 13	August 20	Historical Linguistics (Ch. 7); Final review
Week 14	<b>August 27</b>	<b>Final Exam</b>