



Department of Spanish Studies, General Linguistics and Literature Theory
University of Alicante

31710 GENERAL LINGUISTICS I

Degree in Catalan Studies – Degree in Arabic and Islamic Studies
Degree in English Studies – Degree in Spanish: Language and Literatures
Degree in French Studies
ECTS credits: 6 (150 hours)
Semester II (Group 4)
Facilitator: Irma M Muñoz Baell
Academic year: 2011-2012

Planned Weekly Schedule

theory sessions

This weekly schedule has been designed in accordance with the **European Space for Higher Education framework**, in which ECTS is a student-centred system based on the student workload required to achieve the learning outcomes and competences to be acquired. 6 ECTS credits correspond to 150 hours of work, namely 60 hours of in-class work and 90 hours of out-of-class work. The schedule below shows the learning activities you are required to complete each week for the theory sessions (5 hours per week of student workload). This schedule is subject to revision during the semester if class needs warrant. Any changes will be announced on the **Virtual Campus**. But, please remember it is your responsibility to check your Virtual Campus and attend class so that you know of revisions.

Do not forget that continuous assessment is an essential feature of the European Space for Higher Education process. Accordingly, **class attendance and active participation are mandatory**. If you do not reach the minimum number of hours (% class attendance minimum: 80%) and/or fail to hand in the student peer review activities, you will not pass the subject even if you have completed the assigned activities. You are expected to attend all classes, to arrive on time, to remain in class for the entire sessions, to come prepared, and to participate in class discussions. If you have trouble with a concept, it is likely that other students are as well, so take advantage of class time to discuss those topics that you feel need clarification and discussion. This will ensure the exchange of ideas and the clarification of puzzling questions. If for some reason you find it necessary to arrive late, you will be responsible for all information, including announcements or changes to this schedule made during your absence. If you are absent for the entire class session, you are also responsible for all assignments and other announcements made during the class meeting. Every unjustified absence will lower your final grade. Health and compassionate concerns must be documented and notified within one week of having missed the class.

Finally, if you come to class without having prepared your assigned readings and/or activities for that day, you will not be allowed to participate in that session, and you will be given a failing grade. **Please remember to check the Planned Weekly Schedule and the Virtual Campus ('Sessions') after every class to find out about readings and reading assignments for the following session**. "I didn't know what I had to do for today" or "I couldn't read it because I had problems downloading the file/s last night" do not constitute a reason for failing to prepare in-class discussions. Some of the material presented will be relatively complex and may require careful study to be properly understood. You should, therefore, allow yourself enough time to read the material before you come to class. **Doing the reading and preparing the reading assignments are indispensable for your understanding and your participation in class**. You are expected to read each assigned reading at least twice and prepare the reading assignments in order to participate in class discussions. So, do not leave it for the day or evening before an assigned reading is due. In class we will attempt to pull together strands of the readings to show what fundamental issues and positions are represented and help you see the big picture. **You must be ready**



to discuss each assigned reading in class. You may be called at random to answer questions and/or contribute to the discussion in class. Remember that your class work is enhanced by conscientious attendance and intelligent participation individually, in pairs and/or in group, and hurt by visible lack of preparation in class. Late work will not be accepted unless prior arrangements are made with me and you provide a written excuse.

Readings and handouts will be posted in .pdf format on the Virtual Campus ('Sessions' section). **If, for any reason, you miss a class, you are expected to download and prepare materials before you come to the next class session.**

Honesty policy. I expect each student to do his/her own work. So, I have "zero tolerance" for cheating, plagiarism, submitting someone else's work as one's own, unauthorized collaboration on assignments and papers, using "notes" during exams, submitting work previously submitted for another course, or facilitating acts of academic dishonesty by others. **The penalties are severe!**

You are also expected to respect one another, to respect me, and to respect yourself. To that end, I expect you to read and adhere to the following rules:

- Shut off your cell phone at the beginning of the class.
- Do not read newspapers in class.
- Do not make fun or verbally attack others. Discuss ideas, not people!!
- Take responsibility for making the class successful. It is your class. I am the facilitator but class discussion will be largely the "work" of you, not me. Ask yourself what you can do during each session to move the class forward in a positive way.
- Do not pack early. If, for any reason, you must leave early or you have an important call coming in, notify me before class.
- Do not chew gum or eat when the class is being conducted.
- Do not talk to other students during class hours, this distracts other students and this behaviour will count towards your participation grade.
- If you have any problem or concern with the course or with the facilitator, please come and see me during my office hours.

Examination

Your course grade will be based on the *cumulative point total* from the following assignments:

Weight	Assignment
0%	Student Introductory Assignment (deadline: week 4) The Student Introductory Assignment (SIA) consists of introducing yourself to me by letting me know your unique needs and expectations for this course. It is designed to let me know you are in class and facilitate interaction. It is due in the theory class session of week 4. Even though this assignment is not graded, you must complete it and hand it in to me on time.
40%	Continuous assessment (work done in the practical sessions)
10%	Self-study and preparation of theory and practice sessions, small and large group discussions, and so on
50%	Final examination
100%	Total

[Note: students only get credit for *correct* answers. If you feel that I have graded anything incorrectly or improperly, please contact me outside of class, preferably during my office hours. I will be happy to address your concerns]



Month	Week	Day	Driving question	Out-of-class work (3 h)	In-class work (2 h)	
February	2	6	What can I learn in this course? What is Linguistics about?		Planned Weekly Schedule IA	
	3	13	Are there myths and misconceptions about language?	SIA R1 – web pages RA1	SPR-A1 TBL-A1	
	4	20	Are all languages equal?	R2 – pages 6-7 RA2	SIA SPR-A2 TBL-A2	
	5	27	Is it easy to be systematic and objective about language study?	R3 – pages 2-5 RA3	SPR-A3 TBL-A3	
	March	6	5	Where do traditional grammatical rules come from?	TBL-A4	SPR-A4 TBL-A4
7		12	What kinds of grammatical rules are there?	R4 – pages 13-15 RA4	SPR-A5 TBL-A5	
8		19	<i>Public Holiday</i>			
9		26	Is there a correct and an incorrect way of using language?	TBL-A6	SPR-A6 TBL-A6	
April		10	2	What mediums of language are there?	R5 – pages 7-8 – pages 399-402 RA5	SPR-A7 TBL-A7
	<i>Holy Week (April 5-April 16)</i>					
	12	23	What is sign language?	R6 – web pages & short videos RA6	SPR-A8 TBL-A8	
	13	30	How many languages are there in the world?	R7 – web pages – pages 357-359 RA7	SPR-A9 TBL-A9	
	May	14	7	How is language studied? What does it mean that language is studied scientifically?	R8 – pages 410-411 RA8	SPR-A10 TBL-A10



Month	Week	Day	Driving question	Out-of-class work (3 h)	In-class work (2 h)
May	15	14	What is Modern Linguistics?	R9 – pages 3-15 – pages 407-409 – page 412 RA9	SPR-A11 TBL-A11
	16	21	Do I know language better now? What have I learned in this theory sessions?	Final exam preparation: <i>reviewing your reading assignments, team based learning activities and class notes</i>	FWA

IA – Introductory Activity

SIA – Student Introductory Assignment

R – Reading

RA – Reading Assignment

SPR-A – Student Peer Review Activity

TBL-A – Team Based Learning Activity

FWA – Final Week Activity

List of readings (R):

- R1** 1) Strategies for Reading More Critically - <http://writing.colostate.edu/guides/reading/critread/pop2d.cfm>.
- 2) Myths - <http://www.sinclair.edu/sec/eng245/Myths/myths.htm>.
- R2** CRYSTAL, David (1987): “The equality of languages”, in *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of language*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- R3** CRYSTAL, David (1987): “The prescriptive tradition”, in *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of language*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- R4** CABTREE, Monica y POWERS, Joyce (comp.) (1991): “Prescriptive vs. Descriptive Rules of Grammar”, *Language Files: Materials for an Introduction to Language*, Columbus: Ohio State University Press, 5th ed.
- R5** 1) CABTREE, Monica y POWERS, Joyce (comp.) (1991): “Speech and Writing”, *Language Files: Materials for an Introduction to Language*, Columbus: Ohio State University Press, 5th ed.
- 2) CABTREE, Monica y POWERS, Joyce (comp.) (1991): “Visual languages: true language?”, *Language Files: Materials for an Introduction to Language*, Columbus: Ohio State University Press, 5th ed.
- R6** 1) PERLMUTTER, David M.: *What is Sign Language?*, Washington DC: Linguistic Society of America. Available from: URL: http://www.lsadc.org/info/pdf_files/Sign_Language.pdf.
- 2) Mini-lecture: The truth about sign language - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eCXAUTESfE>.
- 3) Silent Odyssey trailer - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fFUeGiYyH6I&feature=related>.
- R7** 1) ANDERSON, Stephen R.: *How Many Languages Are There in the World?* Washington DC: Linguistic Society of America. Available from: URL: http://www.lsadc.org/info/pdf_files/howmany.pdf.
- 2) CRYSTAL, David (1987): “World languages”, *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of Language*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- R8** CRYSTAL, David (1987): “Obtaining linguistic data”, *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of Language*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- R9** 1) FINCH, Geoffrey (2000): “The development of Linguistics”, *Linguistic terms and concepts*, Series How to Study. London: Macmillan Press.
- 2) CRYSTAL, David (1987): “Twentieth-century linguistics”, *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of Language*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- 3) CRYSTAL, David (1987): “The domain of linguistics”, *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of Language*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.