

St. Jerome's University in the University of Waterloo

Department of English

Introduction to Linguistics (ENGL 306A)

Winter 2023

Class Times/Location: Tuesday and Thursday, 6:30pm-7:50pm, SJ2 2007

Instructor: Dr. Elena Afros

Email: eafros@uwaterloo.ca

Office Hours: Monday and Friday, 12pm-1pm, online via Teams; please email the instructor

Course Description: The course includes a general account of the nature of language and of the aims, methods, and basic principles of linguistic theory, as well as an introduction to each of the main sub-fields of linguistics: phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics. Its main concern is with imparting the basic conceptual foundations of linguistics and the methods of argumentation, justification, and hypothesis testing within the field.

Course Objectives: Course Introduction to Linguistics will

1. Lead students to examine their own beliefs and attitudes about language and language use
2. Make students aware of both the diversity of language systems and their fundamental similarities
3. Introduce students to the following subfields of linguistics: phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, and historical linguistics
4. Equip students with fundamental tools and techniques for linguistic analysis and give them some practice in using these to discover the organizing principles of a language

5. Acquaint students with the basic concepts necessary to further pursue linguistic studies

Required textbook: Finegan, Edward. *Language: Its Structure and Use*. 7th edition. Cengage, 2015. Additional readings (see Schedule and LEARN) are available on eReserves.

Course Requirements: To receive credit in this course students must complete five homework assignments (50%), a quiz (15%), and a final exam (30%); 5% of the final mark are reserved for class participation. Students are expected to attend classes regularly (six missed classes will result in “0” for Participation), actively participate in class discussions and group work, submit their homework on time, and write the quiz and the final exam. Late assignments are not accepted (unless accompanied by the doctor’s note). Homework assignments must be submitted into LEARN Dropbox (see LEARN for more details).

For Schedule, see LEARN.

Covid 19 Information

The instructor follows the practices outlined on the following website:

<https://uwaterloo.ca/coronavirus/academic-information/instructor-information-and-resources>.

For student resources, please see

https://uwaterloo.ca/coronavirus/sites/ca.coronavirus/files/uploads/files/student_protocols_for_covid_mar_09_22.pdf.

If in-person classes are cancelled or the instructor has to self-isolate, the course will be offered remotely via Teams during the scheduled time (see LEARN).

In case of illness, please follow the UW and SJU protocols. A self-isolating student is expected to participate in class discussions virtually. Please email the instructor if you need to miss a class, participate virtually, or request an extension due to illness.

Accommodation for Illness or Unforeseen Circumstances:

The instructor follows the practices of the University of Waterloo in accommodating students who have documented reasons for missing quizzes or exams. See

http://www.registrar.uwaterloo.ca/students/accom_illness.html

Important Information

Academic Integrity: In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo community are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Check www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/ for more information.

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of their university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read the St. Jerome's University Policy on [Student Petitions and Grievances](#). When in doubt, please be certain to contact the St. Jerome's Advising Specialist, Student Affairs Office, who will provide further assistance.

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing an academic offence, and to take responsibility for their actions. Check www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/ for more information. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course instructor, academic advisor, or the Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under the St. Jerome's University Policy on [Student Discipline](#). For information on categories of offences and types of penalties, students should refer to University of Waterloo [Policy 71, Student Discipline](#). For typical penalties, check the [Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties](#).

Appeals: A decision made or penalty imposed under the [St. Jerome's University Policy on Student Petitions and Grievances](#) (other than a petition) or the [St. Jerome's University Policy on Student Discipline](#) may be appealed if there is a ground. A student who believes they have a ground for an appeal should refer to the St. Jerome's University Policy on [Student Appeals](#).

Note for students with disabilities: [AccessAbility Services](#), located in Needles Hall (Room 1401) at the University of Waterloo, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with AccessAbility Services at the beginning of each academic term.

Territorial Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that we are living and working on the traditional territory of the Attawandaron (also known as Neutral), Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee peoples. The University of Waterloo is situated on the Haldimand Tract, the land promised to the Six Nations that includes 10 kilometres on each side of the Grand River.

For more information about the purpose of territorial acknowledgements, please see the [CAUT Guide to Acknowledging Traditional Territory \(PDF\)](#).

Academic freedom at the University of Waterloo

[Policy 33, Ethical Behaviour](#) states, as one of its general principles (Section 1), “The University supports academic freedom for all members of the University community. Academic freedom carries with it the duty to use that freedom in a manner consistent with the scholarly obligation to base teaching and research on an honest and ethical quest for knowledge. In the context of this policy, 'academic freedom' refers to academic activities, including teaching and scholarship, as is articulated in the principles set out in the Memorandum of Agreement between the FAUW and the University of Waterloo, 1998 (Article 6). The academic environment which fosters free debate may from time to time include the presentation or discussion of unpopular opinions or controversial material. Such material shall be dealt with as openly, respectfully and sensitively as

possible.” This definition is repeated in Policies 70 and 71, and in the Memorandum of Agreement, Section 6.

Writing and Communication Centre

The Writing and Communication Centre (WCC) works with students as they develop their ideas, draft, and revise. Writing and Communication specialists offer one-on-one support in planning assignments, synthesizing and citing research, organizing papers and reports, designing presentations and e-portfolios, and revising for clarity and coherence.

Please note that communication specialists guide you to see your work as readers would. They can teach you revising skills and strategies, but will not change or correct your work for you.