

Courses by Christina Hodeib

Fall 2024

Introduction to Linguistics

The aim of this course is to introduce students to core areas in the study of language, familiarize them with basic linguistic argumentation, and provide them with the tools to perform linguistic analyses themselves. The course will cover various topics related to morphology, syntax, semantics, pragmatics, and sociolinguistics.

Targeting the Noun Phrase

This course aims to introduce students to English descriptive grammar by focusing on the noun phrase and related topics. The course will cover the following topics: countable and uncountable nouns, articles, determiners, quantifiers, subject-verb agreement, pronouns, relative clauses, adjectives, and adverbs.

Semantics and Pragmatics

This course aims to familiarize students with the study of meaning, focusing on contextual, pragmatic meaning. The course covers basic topics in pragmatics including deixis, implicatures, reference, presupposition, speech acts, and (im)politeness theories.

Other courses

Experimental Linguistics (Intercultural Pragmatics)

This course introduces students to the field of pragmatics, defined broadly as the study of meaning in context. The course will cover some of the basic topics in pragmatics such as reference, presuppositions, implicatures, speech act theory, and linguistic politeness. By the end of the course, the students will be able to see how various pragmatic phenomena can be understood not only with reference to the (narrow) linguistic context but also by drawing on the role of the broader context(s), including social, cultural, and interpersonal aspects.

Grammar in Context

This course aims to help students deepen their understanding of a variety of English grammatical constructions. The topics to be discussed include multi-word verbs, passive constructions, indirect objects, modal auxiliaries, articles, and the grammar of relative clauses. With each topic, students will be given ample opportunity to examine grammatical constructions as used by native speakers in natural contexts. The course materials and exercises are taken from authentic sources including videos (TEDx, TV series, YouTube videos), corpus-based texts/exercises, newspaper articles (The Economist, The New York Times, etc.), and novel excerpts.

Modern British Society and Language (MA course)

The aim of this course is to introduce students to the fundamentals of sociolinguistics; the study of the relationship between language and society. The course covers various ways in which social

factors influence language both on the level of the individual and on the level of speech communities. The topics include the influence of social class, gender, age, and ethnicity on language use. We also investigate attitudes to language, codes, and diglossia in multilingual communities.

Skills Development: Writing and Composition

In this course, students are introduced to the skills and formats of academic writing in English, leading to the kinds of writing expected of college students. Students will be introduced to the basics of paragraph writing including topic sentences and the coherence and unity of the paragraph. The students are then introduced to essay writing and will practice a variety of writing formats including process, summary, and argumentative essays. Throughout the course, students practice techniques of organization and development of ideas in short essays, grammar, spelling, and mechanics in writing.

Targeting the Verb Phrase

This course aims to improve students' knowledge of English grammar. It explores various topics related to the verb phrase from a descriptive perspective. The topics which will be discussed throughout the semester include: verb forms and types, tense and aspect, modal auxiliaries, the passive voice, conditional sentences, and verbal complementation.

Topics in Language Research (Pragmatics and its Interfaces)

The course discusses some advanced topics in pragmatics; it examines the different approaches that build on Grice, such as Horn's and Levinson's principles as well as relevance theory and the projection problem in presupposition. The course also explores phenomena at the interface between pragmatics and semantics, on the one hand, and pragmatics and syntax, on the other hand.

Topics in Language Research

This course introduces students to the field of pragmatics, defined broadly as the study of meaning in context. The course will cover some of the basic topics in pragmatics such as reference, presuppositions, implicatures, speech act theory, and linguistic politeness. By the end of the course, the students will be able to see how various pragmatic phenomena can be understood not only with reference to the (narrow) linguistic context but also by drawing on the role of the broader context(s), including social, cultural, and interpersonal aspects.

Pragmatics (MA course)

This course introduces students to the field of pragmatics, defined broadly as the study of meaning in context. The course will cover some of the basic topics in pragmatics such as reference, presuppositions, implicatures, speech act theory, and linguistic politeness. By the end of the course, the students will be able to see how various pragmatic phenomena can be understood not only with reference to the (narrow) linguistic context but also by drawing on the role of the broader context(s), including social, cultural, and interpersonal aspects.

Challenging Grammar

This course builds on previous linguistics courses and aims to present various phenomena in English grammar from a linguistics perspective. We are going to examine a range of grammatical patterns and constructions which display the interaction between structure and meaning. The course also explores the way in which linguistic and extra-linguistic factors may constrain the use of some grammatical structures. Overall, the course enables students to have a deeper understanding of the grammar of English and of basic concepts at the core of linguistic research.