



School of Humanities and Languages

**ARTS1690 *The Structure of Language*  
S1, 2014**

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## 1. Course Staff and Contact Details

Course Convenor and Lecturer			
Name	Dr Mengistu Amberber	Room	MB241
Phone	9385 2299	Email	m.amberber@unsw.edu.au
Consultation Time	Wednesday 2-3, or by appointment.		
Tutors			
Name	Mrs Carmella Hollo	Room	MB225
Phone	9385 2813	Email	c.hollo@unsw.edu.au
Consultation Time	Monday 2-3, Thursday 2-4, or by appointment		
Name	Dr Efrosini Deligianni	Room	MB270
Phone	9385 2188	Email	e.deligianni@unsw.edu.au
Consultation Time	Wednesday 11-2, or by appointment		

## 2. Course Details

Units of Credit (UoC)	6		
Course Description	ARTS1690 focuses on the traditional core areas of language structure including: the sound system (phonetics and phonology), grammar (morphology and syntax) and meaning (semantics and pragmatics).		
Course Aims		The overall intention of the course is to provide students with basic skills in describing the most salient aspects of language structure.	
Student Learning Outcomes	1.	At the end of the course students should be able to: apply the techniques of phonetics/phonology to transcription and data analysis	
	2.	recognize the morphemic structure of words	
	3.	understand the structure of sentences and clauses	
	4.	explain semantic concepts and distinctions.	
	5.	appreciate how the study of language illuminates the study of the human mind and culture	
Graduate Attributes		Students will be encouraged to develop the following Graduate Attributes by undertaking the selected activities and engaging with the knowledge content:	
	1.	scholarly inquiry	
	2.	disciplinary knowledge in an interdisciplinary context	
	3.	analytical and critical thinking for creative problem solving	
	4.	appreciation of linguistic diversity	

### 3. Learning and Teaching Rationale

ARTS1690 is one of the two gateway courses in the Linguistics Program. It provides an introduction to general linguistics, and the foundation on which students can select Level 2 and 3 courses relevant to their interests.

### 4. Teaching Strategies

The weekly lectures are divided into two parts. In the first part, basic concepts and theoretical issues are presented within the traditional domains of language structure including phonology, grammar, and semantics. In the second part, various problems and data sets are presented and discussed in an interactive manner and students are encouraged to contribute to the discussion.

The tutorials provide the opportunity for an in-depth examination of linguistic data (drawn from a wide range of languages), with particular focus on creative problem-solving skills in a collaborative environment.

### 5. Course Assessment

Assessment Task	Length	Weight	Learning Outcomes Assessed	Graduate Attributes Assessed	Due Date
Three tutorial quizzes	20 minutes each	20%	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	1, 2, 3, 4	Weeks 4, 6, and 8
Class test I	1 hour	15%	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	1, 2, 3, 4	On: 7 May (Week 9)
Class test II	1 hour	20%	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	1, 2, 3, 4	On: 21 May (Week 11)
Take-home Problem Set**	2 hours	45%	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	1, 2, 3, 4	Due on: 11 June
<p><i>*Please note that assessment tasks and schedule are subject to revision.</i></p> <p><i>**The take-home problem set is handed out <b>one week</b> prior to its due date.</i></p>					

**Please Note:** In addition to fulfilling the above assessment requirements, students are expected to attend at least 80% of their lectures and tutorials in order to pass the course.

### Grades

All results are reviewed at the end of each semester and may be adjusted to ensure equitable marking across the School.

The proportion of marks lying in each grading range is determined not by any formula or quota system, but by the way that students respond to assessment tasks and how well they meet the objectives of the course. Nevertheless, since higher grades imply performance that is well above average, the number of distinctions and high distinctions awarded in a typical course is relatively small. At the other extreme, on average 6.1% of students do not meet minimum standards and a little more (8.6%) in first year courses. For more information on the grading categories see

<https://my.unsw.edu.au/student/academiclife/assessment/GuideToUNSWGrades.html>

### Submission of Assessment Tasks

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Assignments which are submitted to the School Assignment Box must have a properly completed School Assessment Coversheet, with the declaration signed and dated by hand. The Coversheet can be downloaded from <https://hal.arts.unsw.edu.au/students/courses/course-outlines/>. It is your responsibility to make a backup copy of the assignment prior to submission and retain it.

Assignments must be submitted before 4:00pm on the due date. Assignments received after this time will be marked as having been received late.

### Late Submission of Assignments

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Late assignments will attract a penalty. Of the total mark, 3% will be deducted each day for the first week, with Saturday and Sunday counting as two days, and 10% each week thereafter.

The penalty may not apply where students are able to provide documentary evidence of illness or serious misadventure. Time pressure resulting from undertaking assignments for other courses does not constitute an acceptable excuse for lateness.

## 6. Attendance/Class Clash

### Attendance

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Students are expected to be regular and punctual in attendance at all classes in the courses in which they are enrolled. Explanations of absences from classes or requests for permission to be absent from classes should be discussed with the teacher and where applicable accompanied by a medical certificate. If students attend less than 80% of their possible classes they may be refused final assessment.

**Students who falsify their attendance or falsify attendance on behalf of another student will be dealt with under the student misconduct policy.**

### Class Clash

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A student who is approved a permissible clash must fulfil the following requirements:

- a. The student must provide the Course Convenor with copies of lecture notes from those lectures missed on a regular basis as agreed by the Course Convenor and the student.
- b. If a student does attend a lecture for which they had secured a permitted clash they will still submit lecture notes as evidence of attendance.
- c. **Failure to meet these requirements is regarded as unsatisfactory performance in the course and a failure to meet the Faculty's course attendance requirement. Accordingly, Course Convenors will fail students who do not meet this performance/attendance requirement.**
- d. Students must attend the clashed lecture on a specific date if that lecture contains an assessment task for the course such as a quiz or test. Inability to meet this requirement would be grounds for a Course Convenor refusing the application. If the student misses the said lecture there is no obligation on the Course Convenor to schedule a make-up quiz or test and the student can receive zero for the assessment task. It should be noted

that in many courses a failure to complete an assessment task can be grounds for course failure.

## 7. Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Plagiarism is presenting someone else's thoughts or work as your own. It can take many forms, from not having appropriate academic referencing to deliberate cheating.

In many cases plagiarism is the result of inexperience about academic conventions. The University has resources and information to assist you to avoid plagiarism.

The Learning Centre assists students with understanding academic integrity and how to not plagiarise. Information is available on their website: <http://www.lc.unsw.edu.au/plagiarism/>. They also hold workshops and can help students one-on-one.

If plagiarism is found in your work when you are in first year, your lecturer will offer you assistance to improve your academic skills. They may ask you to look at some online resources, attend the Learning Centre, or sometimes resubmit your work with the problem fixed. However, more serious instances in first year, such as stealing another student's work or paying someone to do your work, may be investigated under the Student Misconduct Procedures.

Repeated plagiarism (even in first year), plagiarism after first year, or serious instances, may also be investigated under the Student Misconduct Procedures. The penalties under the procedures can include a reduction in marks, failing a course or for the most serious matters (like plagiarism in an Honours thesis) or even suspension from the university. The Student Misconduct Procedures are available here:

<http://www.gs.unsw.edu.au/policy/documents/studentmisconductprocedures.pdf>

## 8. Course Schedule

To view course timetable, please visit: <http://www.timetable.unsw.edu.au/>

Week	Topic	Lecture Content	Readings
Week 1 (05 March)	Introduction	Introducing the course; linguistic knowledge; language universals; animal 'languages'	Textbook, Ch.1
Week 2 (12 March)	Morphology I	Basic morphological concepts; rules of word formation	Textbook, Ch.3
Week 3 (19 March)	Morphology II	Morphological analysis	Textbook, Ch.3
Week 4 (26 March)	Syntax I	Sentence structure; constituency and grammatical categories	Textbook, Ch.4
Week 5 (2 April)	Syntax II	Transformational rules; UG principles	Textbook, Ch.4
Week 6 (9 April)	Semantics/ Pragmatics	Lexical semantics: lexical relations and semantic features	Textbook, Ch.5
Week 7 (16 April)	Phonetics	Sound segments; articulatory phonetics	Textbook, Ch. 6
<b>***Mid-semester break: 18<sup>th</sup> April – 27<sup>th</sup> April***</b>			

Week 8 (30 April)	Phonology I	Phonemes; distinctive features	Textbook, Ch. 7
Week 9 (7 May)	Class Test (I)		
Week 10 (14 May)	Phonology II	Rules of phonology; phonological analysis	Textbook, Ch.7
Week 11 (21 May)	Class Test (II)		
Week 12 (28 May)	Summary & Conclusion		
* Course topics and schedule are subject to revision.			

## 9. Course Resources

### Textbook Details

Fromkin, V. *et al*, 2012. *An Introduction to Language*, 7<sup>th</sup> Australian Edition, Cengage.

### Additional Readings

Finegan, E. *et al*, 1997. *Language: Its Structure and Use*, Second Australian Edition, Harcourt Brace.

Pinker, S. 2007. *The stuff of thought: Language as a window into human nature*. Viking.

Aarons, D. 2011. *Jokes and the Linguistic Mind*. Routledge.

### Websites

#### Ethnologue

<http://www.ethnologue.com>

UCLA phonetics lab:

<http://phonetics.ucla.edu>

## 10. Course Evaluation and Development

Courses are periodically reviewed and students' feedback is used to improve them. Feedback is gathered using various means including UNSW's Course and Teaching Evaluation and Improvement (CATEI) process.

## 11. Student Support

The Learning Centre is available for individual consultation and workshops on academic skills. Find out more by visiting the Centre's website at:

<http://www.lc.unsw.edu.au>

## 12. Grievances

All students should be treated fairly in the course of their studies at UNSW. Students who feel they have not been dealt with fairly should, in the first instance, attempt to resolve any issues with their tutor or the course convenors.

If such an approach fails to resolve the matter, the School of Humanities and Languages has an academic member of staff who acts as a Grievance Officer for the School. This staff member is identified on the notice board in the School of Humanities and languages. Further information about UNSW grievance procedures is available at:

<https://my.unsw.edu.au/student/atoz/Complaints.html>

## 13. Other Information

### myUNSW

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myUNSW is the online access point for UNSW services and information, integrating online services for applicants, commencing and current students and UNSW staff. To visit myUNSW please visit either of the below links:

<https://my.unsw.edu.au>

<https://my.unsw.edu.au/student/atoz/ABC.html>

### OHS

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UNSW's Occupational Health and Safety Policy requires each person to work safely and responsibly, in order to avoid personal injury and to protect the safety of others. For all matters relating to Occupational Health, Safety and environment, see

<http://www.ohs.unsw.edu.au/>

### Special Consideration

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In cases where illness or other circumstances produce repeated or sustained absence, students should apply for Special Consideration as soon as possible.

The application must be made via Online Services in myUNSW. Log into myUNSW and go to My Student Profile tab > My Student Services channel > Online Services > Special Consideration.

Applications on the grounds of illness must be filled in by a medical practitioner. Further information is available at:

<https://my.unsw.edu.au/student/atoz/SpecialConsideration.html>

### Student Equity and Disabilities Unit

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Students who have a disability that requires some adjustment in their learning and teaching environment are encouraged to discuss their study needs with the course convener prior to or at the commencement of the course, or with the Student Equity Officers (Disability) in the Student Equity and Disabilities Unit (9385 4734). Information for students with disabilities is available at: <http://www.studentequity.unsw.edu.au>

Issues that can be discussed may include access to materials, signers or note-takers, the provision of services and additional examination and assessment arrangements. Early notification is essential to enable any necessary adjustments to be made.