

Introduction to Linguistics – AN21002BA/AN28012BA
offered for 2nd-year students in the B.A. program in English Studies
Fall 2026

Course Description

This course serves as an introduction to important areas of the study of language, namely morphology, syntax, and semantics/pragmatics. More specifically, it is aimed at providing students with some basic tools that they will need to analyze various grammatical phenomena in language, which we will look at as a rule-governed system. The topics that we cover throughout the course include creativity, language change, inflection, derivation, constituent structure, recursivity in syntax, grammatical relations, simple versus complex clauses, semantic relations at the level of words and sentences, compositionality, thematic roles and conversational maxims. The course also provides a first introduction to argumentation in linguistics.

Textbooks

Genetti, C. (Ed.). (2014). *How Languages Work: An Introduction to Language and Linguistics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
O’Grady, W., Archibald, J., Aronoff, M. & Rees-Miller, J. (Eds.). (2005). *Contemporary Linguistics: An Introduction*. 5th edition. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin’s.

Practice

Handouts for most classes will be posted in e-Learning. The students will be informed of the availability of new class material via e-mail.

Grading

The final grade will be based on a mid-term test (40%) and an end-term test (60%).

Attendance

No more than three absences are allowed, illness included.

Weekly Syllabus

	Class content	Reading assignments
Week 1 Sept. 10	Introduction to the course	
Week 2 Sept. 17	Introduction 2 <i>language versus dialect</i> <i>language change</i> <i>language endangerment</i> <i>language documentation</i> <i>the fields of linguistics</i>	Genetti (2014).: pp. 3-23

Week 3 Sept. 24	Morphology <i>free vs. bound morphemes, roots vs. affixes, derivation, compounding, inflection</i>	Genetti (2014): pp. 71-99
Week 4 Oct. 1	Word Classes 1 <i>open vs closed classes, number, case, person, lexical classes</i>	Genetti (2014): pp. 100-117
Week 5 Oct. 8	Word Classes 2 <i>grammatical classes</i>	
Week 6 Oct. 15	Syntax I <i>constituent structure</i>	Genetti (2014): pp. 118-128
Week 7	Fall break – No class meeting	
Week 8 Oct. 29	Midterm Test (60 mins) Syntax II <i>recursive structures, arguments and transitivity, grammatical relations</i>	Genetti (2014): pp. 129-140
Week 9 Nov. 5	Syntax III <i>coordination vs subordination, adverbial clauses, complement clauses</i>	Genetti (2014): pp. 140-149
Week 10 Nov. 12	Review	
Week 11 Nov. 19	Semantics I <i>semantic relations, denotation vs. connotation, extension vs. intension, semantic decomposition</i>	O'Grady et al.: pp. 201-217

Week 12 Nov. 26	Semantics II <i>the Principle of Compositionality, thematic roles, the interpretation of pronouns</i>	O'Grady <i>et al.</i> : pp. 217-228
Week 13 Dec. 3	Pragmatics <i>conversational maxims, the Cooperative Principle, implicatures</i>	O'Grady <i>et al.</i> : pp. 228-244
Week 14 Dec. 10	Endterm Test (60 mins)	

Place and Time

Room 119, Thursday 10:00 a.m. – 11:40 a.m.

Room XIV, Thursday 2:00 p.m. – 3:40 p.m.

Contact

Éva Kardos

[Department of English Linguistics](#), ([DEL Facebook](#), [DEL Instagram](#))

E-mail: kardoseva@unideb.hu

Phone: 512-900/ext. 22148

Office hours: Wednesday 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Thursday 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.