

LIN 481 – Introduction to Analysis and Argumentation

UTM, Winter 2018

Instructor: Arsalan Kahnemuyipour **Lecture:** T 3-5, IB 220
Office Hours: TU 11-12, WE 3-4 or by appointment at other times
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Prerequisite: LIN 229, LIN 232, LIN 231/247/256/258, plus one 300-level LIN course

Evaluation:

Participation (Individual/Group)	10%	Weekly
One-page For/Against Argument x 9 (Individual)	15%	Weekly
Three-page Unit Report x 4 (Group)	20%	One per Unit
Leading Class Discussion (Group)	15%	One class per group
One-page Paper Topic Proposal (Group)	5%	Feb 27
Final Paper – Oral (Group)	10%	Final 2 weeks
Final Paper – Written (Individual)	25%	April 5

Course Description: This course explores several topics which have created controversy in linguistics, by which I mean various scholars have expressed opposing views on that topic through published articles. We will be reading those articles and in the process we will learn how to analyze linguistics articles, identify the authors' assumptions, as well as assess their evidence and argumentation. The topics chosen for this year are: Universal Grammar, the Pirahã language, the Persian Ezafe construction and Double Object constructions. By the end of the course, you will have developed much better specialized reading skills, thereby also improving your ability to write in linguistics.

Here is how every class proceeds:

In the first half of the class, a paper is presented either by the instructor or by a student group (see schedule below). In the second half, we will have a discussion of the paper, identifying and assessing the assumptions, the evidence and the argumentation used in the paper. Half of the groups will be arguing for and half will be arguing against the paper. The instructor will lead the discussion. Groups will alternate weekly on whether they argue for or against the paper of the week. That means, if a group is arguing for the assigned paper in a given week, they will be arguing against the assigned paper in the following week.

Important Notes

Readings: Required readings will be posted on Blackboard on an ongoing basis. One or occasionally two articles are assigned per week.

Participation: The participation mark (worth 10%) reflects the student's active participation during the lecture, including his/her presence, preparedness, and constructive contribution to the discussions. The class will be divided into groups who will be engaged in class activities in various ways during delivery of material by other groups. These activities, detailed below, will make up much of the participation mark.

One-page For/Against Argument: Every week, each student will have to submit a one-page double spaced written piece providing one argument in favor or against the paper of that week. This could be a general point about the paper or about one of the assumptions or one of the arguments or pieces of evidence provided in the paper. The students in the group leading the discussion of a paper are exempt from submitting this assignment that week. Whether a student submits an argument for or against the paper depends on whether they belong to one of the “For” or “Against” groups that week. The argument provided must be about the substance of the paper and not its form. For example, it cannot discuss how the paper does not explain a particular issue very well, or the organization of the paper could be improved, etc.

Three-page Unit Report: At the end of each unit, every group has to submit a three-page double-spaced written report on that unit. This is how the three pages should be divided roughly. The first page should be dedicated to one position typically represented by one or two articles. The group can either summarize the main points put forth by the article(s) representing that position or it can focus on one or two of the arguments of choice. The second page should be dedicated to the opposing position, again represented by one or two articles. In the third page, the group should provide an assessment of which position they favor and why. The due date for each report is in the schedule below.

Leading Class Discussion: Each group is responsible for leading the class discussion once throughout the semester starting in the fourth week of classes. While all students are responsible for reading the assigned article(s) for the week, the group presenting the discussion will have to study the articles more thoroughly, consult other sources if needed and come up with a plan for delivering the material in consultation with the course instructor. Each group has to meet with the instructor at least once in preparation for the day they lead the discussion. This is a significant undertaking and is worth 15% of your final grade. The schedule is decided in the first class.

Final Paper: Each student is required to write a final paper for this course. The paper should discuss two published journal articles or book chapters which take different positions on some question in linguistic theory. In the paper, you should provide a critical summary of each published work and then provide your own assessment at the end. The final paper involves an oral and a written component. The oral component (worth 10%) is completed in a group. Each group should submit a one-page topic proposal on February 27. Prior to that, groups can meet with the instructor to discuss their topic and the papers they have picked. In the topic proposal, each group should identify the papers that they have selected and the basic questions the papers address. On the day of the oral delivery of the project, each group has to prepare a presentation, accompanied by a handout and/or slides (Power Point, Prezi, etc.). If slide presentation is used, a printout of the slides should be submitted to the instructor. Each individual student can then use the feedback received from the instructor and the other students to write her/his final paper. The final paper (worth 25%) is due on **April 5 before 2 pm**. You can either submit the paper in person at my office or via e-mail as a pdf document. This paper has to be double-spaced using Times New Roman font 12 and should be roughly 15 pages.

Acknowledgement: This syllabus has benefited from syllabi prepared for similar courses taught by Bronwyn Bjorkman, Elizabeth Cowper and Daniel Currie Hall.

Lateness Penalty: All course work must be submitted on time. Late submissions will be penalized with a lateness penalty of 10% per calendar day. Exceptions will be granted only when conflicts of a serious nature arise and appropriate documentation is provided. Requests for special consideration should be made within a week of the due date.

Academic Conduct/Integrity:

- UTM students are subject to policies regarding academic honesty as set out by the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters. Please read and become familiar with policies regarding academic honesty set out in this code: <http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>.
- Academic integrity is essential to the pursuit of learning and scholarship in a university, and to ensuring that a degree from the University of Toronto is a strong signal of each student's individual academic achievement. As a result, the University treats cases of **cheating and plagiarism** very seriously.

Potential offences include, but are not limited to:

On assignments:

- Copying part or all of another student's assignment
- Allowing another student to copy part or all of your assignment
- Looking for answers to assignment questions online and using these sources partially or fully to answer a question
- Using old assignments you received from friends or answers you may find in an old textbook to answer assignment questions
- Obtaining or providing unauthorized assistance on any assignment

On quizzes, tests and exams:

- Using or possessing unauthorized aids
- Looking at someone else's answers during a quiz, a test or an exam
- Misrepresenting your identity

In academic work:

- Falsifying institutional documents or grades
- Falsifying or altering any documentation required by the University, including (but not limited to) doctor's notes.
- All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be investigated following procedures outlined in the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters. If you have questions or concerns about what constitutes appropriate academic behaviour or appropriate research and citation methods, you are expected to seek out additional information on academic integrity from your instructor or from other institutional resources: <http://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/osai/students/students>

Accommodation:

The University provides academic accommodations for students with disabilities in accordance with the terms of the Ontario Human Rights Code. This occurs through a collaborative process that acknowledges a collective obligation to develop an accessible learning environment that both meets the needs of students and preserves the essential

academic requirements of the University's courses and programs. For more information on services and resources available to instructors and students, please contact the front desk staff of AccessAbility Services by phone at 905-569-4699, via e-mail at access.utm@utoronto.ca or drop by the main office (2037 Davis Building). You can also find a lot more information on their website:

<http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/accessability/future-uoft-students/about-centre>

Equity:

The University of Toronto is committed to equity and respect for diversity. All members of the learning environment in this course should strive to create an atmosphere of mutual respect. As a course instructor, I will neither condone nor tolerate behaviour that undermines the dignity or self-esteem of any individual in this course and wish to be alerted to any attempt to create an intimidating or hostile environment. It is our collective responsibility to create a space that is inclusive and welcomes discussion. Discrimination, harassment and hate speech will not be tolerated. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns you may contact the UTM Equity and Diversity officer at edo.utm@utoronto.ca or the University of Toronto Mississauga Students' Union Vice President Equity at vpequity@utmsu.ca.

Academic Rights:

You, as a student at UTM, have the right to:

- Receive a syllabus by the first day of class.
- Rely upon a syllabus once a course is started. An instructor may only change marks' assignments by following the University Assessment and Grading Practices Policy provision 1.3.
- Have access to your instructor for consultation during a course or follow up with the department chair if the instructor is unavailable.
- Ask the person who marked your term work for a re-evaluation if you feel it was not fairly graded. You have up to one month from the date of return of the item to inquire about the mark. If you are not satisfied with a re-evaluation, you may appeal to the instructor in charge of the course if the instructor did not mark the work. If your work is remarked, you must accept the resulting mark. You may only appeal a mark beyond the instructor if the term work was worth at least 20% of the course mark.
- Receive at least one significant mark (15% for H courses, 25% for Y courses) before the last day you can drop a course for H courses, and the last day of classes in the first week of January for Y courses taught in the Fall/Winter terms.
- Submit handwritten essays so long as they are neatly written.
- Not have a term test worth 25% or more in the last two weeks of class.
- Retain intellectual property rights to your research.
- Receive all your assignments once graded.
- View your final exams. To see a final exam, you must submit an online [Exam - Reproduction Request](#) within 6 months of the exam. There is a small non-refundable fee.
- Privacy of your final grades.
- Arrange for representation from Downtown Legal Services (DLS), a representative from the UTM Students' Union (UTMSU), and/or other forms of support if you are charged with an academic offence.

Course Schedule (approximate):

Note: One-page For/Against Arguments are not marked in the schedule below. You have one due every week for which you have assigned articles.

Jan 9	Introduction	
Jan 16	Universal Grammar I (Ambridge, Pine and Lieven 2014)	Lecture (AK)
Jan 16:	Deadline to add S courses	
Jan 23	Universal Grammar II (Pérez-Leroux and Kahnemuyipour 2014; Shütze et al. 2015)	Lecture (AK)
Jan 30	Pirahã I (Everett 2005)	Led by students; Due: Report on UG
Feb 6	Pirahã II (Nevins, Pesetsky and Rodrigues 2009)	Led by students
Feb 13	Persian Ezafe I (Larson and Yamakido 2008)	Led by students; Due: Report on Pirahã
Feb 20	No Class – Reading Week	
Feb 27	Persian Ezafe II (Kahnemuyipour 2014)	Lecture (AK); Due: Paper Topic
Mar 6	Double Objects I (Barss and Lasnik 1986; Larson 1988)	Led by students; Due: Report on Ezafe
Mar 13	Double Objects II (Jackendoff 1990)	Led by students
Mar 20	Double Objects III (Larson 1990)	Led by students
Mar 27	Final Paper – Oral Presentations	Due: Report on Double Objects
April 3	Final Paper – Oral Presentations	

Final Papers Due: Thursday April 5, 2 pm