

LIN411H5S – Introduction to Analysis and Argumentation UTM, Winter 2020

Instructor: Arsalan Kahnemuyipour **Lecture:** T 10-12, IB 240
Office Hours: TU 2-3, WE 2-3 or by appointment at other times
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Teaching Assistant: Jean-François Juneau
Prerequisite: LIN229H5, LIN232H5, LIN231H5/LIN237H5 (or
LIN247H5)/LIN256H5/LIN288H5 (or LIN288H5), plus 0.5 credit in a
300-level LIN course
Exclusion: LIN481H1, LIN481H5

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%	Mar 3
Final Paper – Oral (Group)	10%	Final 2 weeks
Final Paper – Written (Individual)	25%	April 3

Course Description: This course examines several topics which have created controversy in linguistics, topics about which various scholars have expressed opposing views through published articles. By reading and discussing these debates, students will learn how to critically analyze linguistics articles. The aim of this course is for students to develop skills in identifying the authors' assumptions, assessing their evidence and argumentation and recognizing how linguists build arguments for opposing views on a certain issue. The topics may range from big picture questions like the validity of Universal Grammar to more specific questions about a linguistic phenomenon. The topics chosen for this year are: Universal Grammar, the Pirahã language, the Persian Ezafe construction and Single- vs. Dual-system theories of lexical retrieval. By the end of the course, students will have developed more acute reading skills, thereby also improving their ability to write academically, and more particularly 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 facilitate 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 Quercus on an ongoing basis. Typically, we have one article per week, but occasionally we may have more when the articles are short.

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 (or one the papers) 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 third 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 teaching assistant. Each group has to meet with the teaching assistant 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 by March 3.

Prior to that, groups can meet with the instructor or teaching assistant 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 - two copies, one for the instructor and one for the teaching assistant. 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 3 before 5 pm**. You submit the paper 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.

Course Policies

Academic Guidelines

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have met all prerequisites listed in the *UTM Academic Calendar 2019-2020* for this course. If you lack prerequisites, you may be removed from the course up until the last day to add a course. Further information about academic regulations, course withdrawal dates, and credits can be found in the *University of Toronto Mississauga Academic Calendar* at: < <https://student.utm.utoronto.ca/calendar/calendar.pl> >. Please ensure that you comply with and understand all of the academic and non-academic policies, rules and regulations of the University as set out in the Calendar.

If you need information or support about studying, preparing for exams, note-taking or time management, free workshops and individual advice are available throughout the year from the Robert Gillespie Academic Skills Centre (MN 3251 [New North]) at 905-828-5406 — < <https://www.utm.utoronto.ca/asc/undergraduate-students> >.

Quercus

Quercus is an essential component of the course. To access the course website, go to the UofT dashboard page at < <https://q.utoronto.ca> > and log in using your UTORid and password. If you do not have a working UTORid, go to < <http://www.utorid.utoronto.ca> > to activate it. If you need help activating your UTORid, contact < help.desk@utoronto.ca >. If you need help accessing Quercus, check < <https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/46670> >.

Penalties for Lateness

All course work must be submitted on time. A **penalty of 10% per calendar day** (i.e. including week-ends and holidays, during which students are not be able to submit term work) up to and including the last day of classes, will be applied by the Instructor. After the last day of classes, the penalty of **10% per calendar day** will be applied by the Undergraduate Coordinator on behalf of the Department. Exceptions will be granted only when conflicts of a serious nature arise and appropriate documentation is provided. Requests for special consideration should be made. No penalty will be assigned if request for special consideration, as described below, is successful.

Special Consideration

For graded work worth more than 10%

If you have to miss a midterm, quiz or an assignment deadline for reasons beyond your control, you may submit a request for special consideration. To submit your request you must

- 1) complete the *Special Consideration Form* online on the Department of Language Studies website (< <https://www.utm.utoronto.ca/language-studies/student-forms/special-consideration-request> >);
- 2) declare your absence on ACORN;
- 3) provide valid supporting documentation.

If the reason for your request is health related, an original *U of T Verification of Student Illness or Injury form* (< <http://www.illnessverification.utoronto.ca/index.php> >) is required and it must indicate a serious degree of incapacitation on your academic functioning and show that a doctor was consulted at least within one day of the missed test/assignment. For other non-health related reasons, a *Verification of Extenuating Circumstances Form* is acceptable (< <https://www.utm.utoronto.ca/registrar/sites/files/registrar/public/shared/pdfs/forms/Verification%20of%20Extenuating%20Circumstance%28s%29.pdf> >). Supporting documentation must be submitted within **three days** of the missed deadline, test/quiz date in the Drop Box that is located in the lobby of the Department of Language Studies in Maanjiwe Nendamowinan Building (4th Floor). Late submissions will NOT be considered without a letter of explanation specifying and documenting the reasons for the lateness/missing the test or quiz.

Medical certificates or physician's notes must include the statement "***This Student [name] was unable to write the test on [date(s)] for medical reasons***". This documentation must show that the physician was consulted **within one the day of the missed term test or deadline**. A statement merely acknowledging a report of illness made by the student to the physician is NOT acceptable.

For graded work worth less than 10%

Individual Course Instructors have discretion about the way they grant special consideration. In this course, you will have to contact the instructor by e-mail or in person within 24 hours of the missed deadline and provide your reasoning and documentation. The instructor will decide on appropriate extension or exemption.

Requests for Submission of Term Work Beyond the last day of classes

Students who seek to be granted more time to complete **term work beyond the last day of class** must submit their request directly to the Department. This request covers the period following the last day of classes and ends on the last day of the exam period. To complete an application, see above under Special Consideration.

Grading scheme

Students are assigned a grade in each course as follows:

https://student.utm.utoronto.ca/calendar//calendar_detail2.pl?Topic=Grading%20Scheme&Searchstring=grading

Percentage	Grade	Value	Grade	Definitions
90 - 100	A+	4.0	Excellent	Strong evidence of original thinking; good organization, capacity to analyze and synthesize; superior grasp of subject matter with sound critical evaluations; evidence of extensive knowledge base.
85 - 89	A	4.0		
80 - 84	A-	3.7		
77 - 79	B+	3.3	Good	Evidence of grasp of subject matter, some evidence of critical capacity and analytic ability; reasonable understanding of relevant issues; evidence of familiarity with the literature.
73 - 76	B	3.0		
70 - 72	B-	2.7		
67 - 69	C+	2.3	Adequate	Student who is profiting from their university experience; understanding of the subject matter; ability to develop solutions to simple problems in the material.
63 - 66	C	2.0		
60 - 62	C-	1.7		
57 - 59	D+	1.3	Marginal	Some evidence of familiarity with subject matter and some evidence that critical and analytic skills have been developed.
53 - 56	D	1.0		
50 - 52	D-	0.7		
0 - 49	F	0.0	Inadequate	Little evidence of even superficial understanding of subject matter; weakness in critical and analytical skills, with limited or irrelevant use of literature.

Accommodations

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 Accessibility Resources and Disability Services at < <https://www.utm.utoronto.ca/accessibility/> >.

Students with special needs are encouraged to contact the Accessibility Office (2037 Davis Building), 905-828-3847 at < <https://www.utm.utoronto.ca/accessibility/> >. Each year, the Accessibility Office is looking for peer-note takers. It is a great volunteering opportunity and a nice way to show that you care for your peers who need you in something you are good at. If you are interested in helping your peers, please apply to < access.utm@utoronto.ca >.

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Honesty and fairness are considered fundamental to the University's mission, and, as a result, all those who violate those principles are dealt with as if they were damaging the integrity of the University itself. When students are suspected of cheating or a similar academic offence, they are typically surprised at how formally and seriously the matter is dealt with -- and how severe the consequences can be if it is determined that cheating did occur. The University of Toronto treats cases of cheating and plagiarism very seriously. Please take the time to review the section of Academic Honesty in the *Academic Calendar*: https://student.utm.utoronto.ca/calendar//calendar_detail2.pl?Topic=Academic%20Honesty

Plagiarism is a serious offence, and it can take several different forms. Two of the most common are: 1) handing in work that was done in conjunction with or by another student and passing it off as your own; and 2) using published work in a way that does not give credit to the author.

From the *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters*: “It shall be an offence for a student to knowingly: represent as one's own any idea or expression of an idea or work of another in any academic examination or term test or in connection with any other form of academic work, i.e. to commit plagiarism. Wherever in the Code an offence is described as depending on "knowing", the offence shall likewise be deemed to have been committed if the person ought reasonably to have known.” All students must refer to these websites to obtain information on what constitutes plagiarism:

<https://www.utm.utoronto.ca/academic-integrity/about-us>

<https://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize>

If questions arise after reading the material on the websites, consult your instructor.

Plagiarism will not be tolerated.

Equity Statement

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 marked assignments by following the University Assessment and Grading Practices Policy provision 1.3.
- Refuse to use turnitin.com (you must be offered an alternative form of submission).
- 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.
- Have no assignment worth 100% of your final grade.
- 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 < <https://student.utm.utoronto.ca/examreproduction/> > 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.

Land Statement

For thousands of years the land on which the University of Toronto operates has been occupied by the Huron-Wendat, the Seneca, and most recently, the Mississaugas of the Credit River who are currently the acknowledged caretakers. The territory is subject to the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement between the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, the Anishinaabeg, and allied nations to peaceably share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes. Today, this meeting place is the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island, and I am grateful to have the opportunity to live, work, and teach on this land.

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 7	Introduction	
Jan 14	Universal Grammar I (Ambridge, Pine and Lieven 2014)	Lecture (AK)
Jan 19:	Deadline to add S courses	
Jan 21	Universal Grammar II (Beekhuizen et al. 2014; Pérez-Leroux and Kahnemuyipour 2014)	Led by students
Jan 28	Universal Grammar III Mendívil-Giró (2018)	Led by students
Feb 4	Pirahã I (Everett 2005)	Led by students; Due: Report on UG
Feb 11	Pirahã II (Nevins, Pesetsky and Rodrigues 2009)	Led by students
Feb 18	No Class – Reading Week	
Feb 25	Persian Ezafe I (Larson and Yamakido 2008)	Led by students; Due: Report on Pirahã
Mar 3	Persian Ezafe II (Kahnemuyipour 2014)	Led by students; Due: Paper Topic
Mar 10	Single- vs. Dual-system I (Ullman et al. 2005)	Led by students; Due: Report on Ezafe
Mar 17	Single- vs. Dual-system II (Embick and Marantz 2005; MacWhinney 2005; Ullman et al. response)	Led by students
Mar 24	Final Paper – Oral Presentations	Due: Report on Single vs. Dual
Mar 31	Final Paper – Oral Presentations	

Final Papers Due: Friday April 3, 5 pm

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