

**ELTE • Department of English Linguistics • *Foundations of Linguistics* (BBN-FLN11-101/eng)**

<i>time &amp; location</i>	Wednesdays, 13:30–15:00; Gólyavár, Mária Terézia terem
<i>instructor</i>	Marcel den Dikken (marcel.den.dikken@nytud.hu)
<i>aims</i>	the aim of this course is to present a broad overview of the main issues and hypotheses in each of the subdisciplines of linguistic enquiry, with an eye towards developing a comprehensive introduction to linguistics in preparation for a more in-depth investigation of the individual domains in specialised courses
<i>content</i>	after the general introduction in week 1, the course has four separate but interconnected sections, each taking up three weeks of the teaching semester: one section on morphology (words), one on syntax (phrases and sentences), one on semantics and pragmatics (meaning), and one on phonetics and phonology (sound)
<i>assessment</i>	a final written exam in the examination period
<i>course material</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Fromkin, Victoria, Robert Rodman &amp; Nina Hyams (2011), <i>An Introduction to Language</i> (9<sup>th</sup> edn); Boston, MA: Wadsworth, Cengage Learning</li><li>2. on-line animated slide shows (prepared by the instructor, specifically for the course), downloadable from the instructor's ELTE/SEAS course material website, under 'Foundations of Linguistics'</li><li>3. on-line lecture notes (prepared by the instructor, specifically for the course), downloadable from the instructor's ELTE/SEAS course material website, under 'Foundations of Linguistics'</li></ol>
<i>approach to material</i>	the optimal way to approach the course material is as follows: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. read the Fromkin <i>et al.</i> <b>textbook</b> from cover to cover at as early a point in the semester as possible, and return to individual sections of the textbook in conjunction with the slide shows and the lecture notes</li><li>2. in <i>preparation</i> for each lecture, watch the relevant <b>slide show</b>, which will give you a good sense of what the lecture will be about</li><li>3. <i>subsequent</i> to the lecture, study the <b>lecture notes</b> for the relevant section of the course, which will give you a good opportunity to register what you have heard in the lecture and in the slide show</li></ol>
<i>course programme</i>	autumn 2023:
<b>lecture 1</b> (13 Sep)	General Introduction
<b>lecture 2</b> (20 Sep)	Morphology (I): the word and its complexity; the morpheme; lexical vs functional/grammatical morphemes; recursion in morphology
<b>lecture 3</b> (27 Sep)	Morphology (II): the morpheme and allomorphy; homophony; selectional restrictions and specificity; the hierarchical complexity of complex words
<b>lecture 4</b> (4 Oct)	Morphology (III): rule ordering and blocking; the lexicon and lexical listing; the interaction of morphology and phonology

- lecture 5** (11 Oct)      Syntax (I): the sentence (subject, predicate, and tense/modality); phrases and categories; phrase structure and binary branching; recursion in syntax
- lecture 6** (18 Oct)      Syntax (II): syntactic ambiguity; the passive transformation; the structural subject (agreement, inversion); question formation and constituency
- lecture 7** (25 Oct)      Syntax (III): abstraction from the surface; ‘gaps’ (infinitival relatives, the *tough*-movement construction); Universal Grammar, impossible grammars
- AUTUMN BREAK
- lecture 8** (8 Nov)      Semantics & Pragmatics (I): the subject–predicate distinction and idioms; compositionality and ‘expletives’; type theory; quantifiers and Q-raising
- lecture 9** (15 Nov)      Semantics & Pragmatics (II): entailment and polarity items; implicatures; information structure; referential dependencies (pronouns and anaphors)
- lecture 10** (22 Nov)      Semantics & Pragmatics (III): the Cooperative Principle and the Gricean maxims; meaning *ex nihilo* (silent operators); irony and sarcasm
- lecture 11** (29 Nov)      Phonetics & Phonology (I): spelling and pronunciation; the International Phonetic Alphabet; the vocal tract and places of articulation; assimilation
- lecture 12** (6 Dec)      Phonetics & Phonology (II): distinctive features; the phoneme and minimal oppositions; allophony and complementary distribution
- lecture 13** (13 Dec)      Phonetics & Phonology (III): the syllable; syllable weight and the mora; compensatory lengthening; rule ordering in phonology