

**Phiadelphia University**  
**English Language and Literature Department**  
**Syllabus for English 0120710: Theory of Linguistics**  
**MA Programme**  
**Fall semester, 2018/2019**  
**Professor Mohammad Awwad**  
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**Office:** President's advisor's office  
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**Classroom:** Meeting room(2)  
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**Textbooks:** Robins, R. H(1967) *A Short History of Linguistics*, Bloomington and London, Indiana University Press.

Sampson, Geoffrey. (1980) *Schools of Linguistics: Competition and evolution*, London, Hutchinson.

## **I. Course description:**

This three-credit-hour course provides a critical survey of the philosophy and development of language study and analysis across time and space starting with ancient Greece and Rome, and moving on to medieval Europe, the Renaissance and the present century. It will focus on the different school of linguistics comprising descriptive and structural linguistics, Functional Linguistics, Chomskian generative linguistics, and the London school of linguistics. It will also focus on the contributions of Saussure, Sapir, Whorf., Hjelmslev, Lamb, and Halliday.

It requires students' active participation in reading, understanding, presenting and discussing relevant course material and assignments. Students are also required to submit a fifteen to twenty-page research paper on a relevant topic from among the following:

- The Arab schools of linguistics and their contributions to linguistic science (in syntax, phonetics or phonology, etc)
- Synchronic analysis of colloquial Arabic
- Direction of syntactic change with evidence from Arabic and other languages.
- Any other topic closely related to an important historical or synchronic aspect of linguistics presented in the course.

## **II. Learning outcomes \***

### **Knowledge and understanding:**

To be successful in your study of this course, you are expected to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of :

1. Approaches to the philosophy of language with emphasis on schools of linguistics;
2. a wide range of terminology for describing language use and linguistic analysis;
3. How your learning in different parts of the course may be integrated according to the course's central components.

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\* adapted from **E300: Assignment Book and Project Guide (SUP 801834)**, The open university, pp.21- 22,2005.

### **cognitive skills:**

To be successful in your study of this course you are expected to:

1. demonstrate awareness of the process involved in linguistic research;
2. relate theoretical concepts to concrete experience;
3. design and carry out a small-scale research project requiring the collection of linguistic data.
4. demonstrate autonomy in selecting appropriate topics / data for investigation, and in carrying out project work; synthesise different points of view, and personal research data in order to reach your own conclusions;
5. evaluate and adapt project work in the light of feedback and practical experience;

### **Communication skills**

To be successful in your study of this course you are expected to:

1. select and synthesise the main points of information, or of an argument, from the course's variety of sources;
2. exercise critical judgement about sources of evidence;
3. develop research skills, including the ability to gather, sift and organize material independently and critically, and to evaluate its relevance and significance;
4. develop good practice in the acknowledgement of source material and in the presentation of bibliographies;
5. construct a continuous logical line of argument which specifically answers the question set;
6. present written work to a high standard using the appropriate register and style.

### **Practical / professional skills**

To be successful in your study of this course you are expected to develop abilities in:

1. abstracting and synthesizing information from a variety of sources;
2. making independent and analytical judgements;
3. using and evaluating a variety of means to analyse linguistic and ethnographic data;
4. evaluating philosophical, social, political and ethical issues related to language use;
5. communicating effectively in writing, selecting appropriate genre, style and register;
6. working independently, demonstrating initiative, self-organisation and time management;
7. planning and undertaking research.

### III. Study Calendar

Study week	Course material
1 and 2	Robins: chapters (1) and (2): Introduction; Greece. (pp.1-44) Robins: chapter (3): Rome. (pp.45-65)
3	Sampson: chapter 1: Prelude: the nineteenth century. (pp 13-34)
4	Robins: chapter (4): The Middle Ages. (pp.66-93)
5	Robins: chapter (5): The Renaissance and after (pp 94-132)
6	Robins: chapter (6): The eve of modern times (pp 133-163)
7	Sampson: chapters 2 and 3: Saussure: language as a social fact . (pp 34-57) and the Descriptivists (pp 57-81)
8	Mid-term examination
9	Sampson: chapter 4: The Sapir-Whorf hypothesis. (pp 81-103)
10	Sampson: chapter 5: Functional Linguistics: the Prague school. (pp 103-130)
11	Sampson: chapter 6: Naom Chomsky and generative Grammar. (pp 130-166)
12	Sampson: chapter 7: Relatioal Grammar: Hjelmslev, Lamb, and Reich. (pp 166-187)
13	Sampson: chapter 8: Generative phonology. (pp 187-212)
14	a. Sampson: chapter 9: The London school. (pp 212-236) b. The schools of Kufa and Basra
15	Sampson: chapter 10: Conclusion. (pp 236-243) Robins: chapters (8): Linguistics in the present century (pp 180-240)
16	Final examination.

#### **IV. Referring to the course material and other sources \***

Your assignment is meant to provide evidence that you have read and understood the course materials. You may refer briefly to other sources of evidence if you wish, but your assignments will be assessed primarily on your understanding and use of the course materials. Whatever the source of your evidence, remember that it is not sufficient simply to reproduce it – you need to use it to advance your argument.

##### **Citing material from the course**

When you are reporting a piece of research or an argument, you should make it clear where this comes from. The course chapters provide examples of the usual academic conventions for doing this (e.g. 'Quirk (1986) claimed that ...'). Since you and your tutor have access to the same course material, you can, if you wish, use a form of reference such as: 'In Chapter 1 Reading A, Randolph Quirk claimed that ...'; or 'On Audiocassette 1 Band 3, Dick Leith suggested ..' The main thing is to make it clear which piece of work you are drawing on. Wherever possible, give precise page references: this not only makes it easier for your tutor to check the evidence you are drawing on; it also helps you trace your sources when you come to revise.

You may wish to include brief quotations from the course materials. In this case, they should be clearly set out as quotations, and the source should be given. Otherwise, if you are discussing ideas from the course, try to read and absorb these, then write what you think about them in your own words. It is particularly important, when setting out your own ideas or arguments, that you do not reproduce long extracts from the course (or from other sources) with little or no change, as this gives the impression that you are trying to pass off someone else's ideas as your own. This could constitute plagiarism, which is treated as a very serious offence by the University. Below is an extract from a chapter on plagiarism, which you may find helpful.

##### **What is plagiarism?**

Plagiarism is the theft of other people's words and ideas. Plagiarism happens when you claim (or appear to claim) that an idea, or the expression of it, is your own when in fact it is someone else's. Deliberate plagiarism usually takes the form of either getting someone else to write your essay for you and then saying it's yours, or copying chunks of text out of a book with the deliberate intent of deceiving the reader into thinking they are in your own words. Accidental plagiarism, which most institutions are obliged to penalize equally heavily, is achieved by oversight and/or lack of skill in manipulating information. Here are some examples of how it can happen:

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- You make notes from a book, copying out lots of relevant passages and then, when you come to write the essay, you copy your notes into it, forgetting that they were copied in the first place.
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- You use a book which covers exactly the area you are dealing with; you are aware that you mustn't copy it out, so you deftly rephrase little bits, by replacing 'small' with 'little', 'major differences' by 'main differences' and by swapping over the order of two halves of a sentence. You think that this is now legitimate, but your assessors do not.
- You use entirely your own words, but you don't acknowledge the source of your information.
- You draw from notes you made or were given for some previous course of study, without realizing that these were copied or adapted from some other source.

**A reader will assume that any idea not referenced is your own, and that any passage not in quote marks is in your own words. This is a contract of trust which you must respect.**

### **How to avoid accidental plagiarism: some strategies**

Expect to acknowledge everything you've got from a source other than your own head. The things that don't need referencing are your own ideas and common or uncontroversial knowledge (English is a Germanic Language, for example). If in doubt, err on the side of over—referencing, until you get the knack. Having too many references in a text breaks up the flow of your writing, but that is the lesser of two evils. To avoid too much repetition, you may be able to say at the beginning of a section or paragraph: The following is a summary of information given in Smith (1994). Note, however, that it is not sufficient to give one vague reference to your source somewhere, and then draw directly from it for page after page.

Rather than just summarizing what you are reading for the sake of it, make notes relevant to the task in hand and identify the major points that relate to your purpose. Make the notes under headings; you can then write out your own version based on those points. When making notes, use your own words wherever possible. Never copy anything out without putting it in inverted commas and putting a page reference next to it. Always keep the full reference details for any source you draw on, as you will need them later. These details should be integral to your notes, so that you can easily see where an idea or quote has come from. Where your source text gives examples of a phenomenon under discussion, try to think of some examples of your own (or look them up in a dictionary or another book). This is in any case a good way of ensuring that you understand what you are writing about. However, if you are in doubt about whether your example is valid (e.g. where the examples have been drawn from a particular source that you cannot access), quote the ones you have been given and acknowledge them appropriately. If there is any terminology you don't understand, look it up [or ask your tutor for advice], don't just copy it out.  
(Wray et al, 1998)

### **Listing your sources in a bibliography**

At the end of your assignment, you should list the sources to which you have referred. The course books illustrate the conventional layout for different types of reference (see examples in

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\* This material is taken from U 210 **Assignment Book 2002** by Diana Honeybore, PP. 4- 11, The open University.

the box below). When referring to course materials, you do not need to give such full sources (you could simply list materials as 'Describing Language, Chapter 1' or 'Audiocassette 2 Band 2 Indian English', etc.). The important thing is that your tutor should be clear about material you have drawn on.

### **Reference list styles**

*Note: it is usual to italicize book titles; however, if you are not able to do this, you should underline them instead.*

#### *Book*

TRUDGILL, P. and HANNAH, J. (1994, 3rd edn) *International English*, London, Edward Arnold.

#### *Chapter/extract from an edited collection*

HARRIS, J. (1993) 'The grammar of Irish English' in MILROY, J. and MILROY, L. (eds) *Real English: the grammar of English dialects in the British Isles*, London, Longman.

#### *Paper in a journal or magazine*

WALES, L. (1994) 'Royalese: the rise and fall of "the Queen's English" ', *English Today*, vol. 10, no. 3, pp. 3-10.

### **Some frequently asked questions**

Here we offer some guidance on some of the dilemmas that occur regularly when preparing to answer a TMA.

#### **What should I do if the question is not clear or seems ambiguous?**

As mentioned above, we try to ensure this will not be a problem. However, if you feel a question is unclear, you should contact your tutor in the first instance: he or she should be able to help you sort out any confusion. Failing that, you should state in your introduction how you are interpreting the question (together with whatever justification you think is necessary) and then proceed to answer it on those terms.

#### **What should I do if I disagree with the arguments being put in the course material?**

You are not expected to agree with everything that is said in the course book or audiovisual material. Indeed, we hope that you will engage in a critical dialogue with the analysis and arguments you encounter.

However, any criticism you offer should be based on sound knowledge and understanding of the ideas and information presented in that part of the course, and your reservations should be supported by relevant argument and information either from the course material or another source that is fully acknowledged and referenced.

### **Should I include personal experience and material from other sources?**

You are often asked, as part of your study, to relate ideas in the course to your own experiences of English. It is also suggested that you collect your own examples of material to put in a 'cuttings file'. Examples might be newspaper articles dealing with any aspect of English, advertisements, letters, business cards, and so on. You may also like to jot down examples of English that you hear around you or which your children use. Some TMAs may refer directly to the cuttings file, with suggestions on how this may be used. Where TMAs do not do this, you may still feel that you have examples which are relevant. In this case, ensure that any examples you include can be related to the question; try to use them to illustrate or address points from the course; and select a small number of examples so that you have enough space to deal with ideas and evidence discussed in the course materials. Please remember to acknowledge your source. Extensive analyses should be accompanied by a photocopy of the original wherever possible.

### **V. Marking criteria \***

The following criteria will be used in evaluating and grading your assignment, tests, and final examination paper.

- **The relevance of your answer to the question set**

Your tutor will look for evidence that you have clearly understood the question and directed your answer accordingly.

- **Your knowledge and understanding of the course material**

Your tutor will look for evidence that you have understood and can draw effectively on research evidence, ideas, concepts and arguments that are central to the course.

- **Your ability to discuss and evaluate alternative explanations and arguments**

Researchers and other commentators may provide different (and sometimes competing) explanations for linguistic events and processes. Your tutor will look to see whether you are able to discuss these, and evaluate any arguments put forward in support of a particular viewpoint.

- **The ability to present and pursue an argument**

Your tutor will examine the structure of your answer to assess how well you can put together the material you use to sustain and support an argument.

- **The ability to express yourself clearly using academic conventions as appropriate**

Your tutor will look for clarity in your work, in the way you make points, present research findings and make critical comments. You are not expected to make extensive use of technical vocabulary, but you should be able to refer to key terms and concepts from the course materials. You should also acknowledge clearly any sources you have drawn on.

For assignments that include practical work with language data, your tutor will take into account:

- **Your ability to make a clear analysis and interpretation of language data as specified in the assignment**

Your tutor will look to see whether your analysis is appropriate, whether it draws on relevant ideas and concepts from the course, and whether any interpretation you give is justified by reference to relevant aspects of the data.

The comments from your tutor should explain why you received the marks given. They will cover the content of your assignment (e.g. your understanding of key issues, the argument you have constructed). Comments may also include teaching points about aspects of your work which could have been strengthened or extended. In addition, they may suggest ways of improving your performance in future assignments.

The allocation of marks for the course will be as follows:

***Research project, and on-going assessment***      ***30 marks:***

- Mid- term examination      30 marks

***Final examination***      ***40 marks***

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\* Slightly amended from U 210 Assignment Book 2002 by Honeybone, PP. 11-12.



## VI. REFERENCES

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