



COURSE PRESENTATION FORM – ACADEMIC YEAR 2010/2011

COURSE NAME	Introduction to Linguistics
COURSE CODE	70171 (BSc + MSc 509) / 70172 (BSc old) / 72059 (MSc 270)
LECTURER	Emanuele Pianta
TEACHING ASSISTANTS	Lorenzo Spreafico
TEACHING LANGUAGE	English
CREDIT POINTS	4
LECTURE HOURS	14
EXERCISE HOURS	12
TIME SPAN	27.09.2010 - 21.01.2011
TIME TABLE	See Timetable Page
OFFICE HOURS LECTURER	During the lecture time, by previous appointment via e-mail, Faculty of CS, POS Building, piazza Domenicani 3 , office 2.10
OFFICE HOURS TEACHING ASSISTANT	During the lecture time, by previous appointment via e-mail, Faculty of CS, POS Building, piazza Domenicani 3 , office 2.10
PREREQUISITES	None
OBJECTIVES	<p>The course aims at introducing the basic concepts of linguistics which are essential for a better comprehension of the phenomena which are the object of study of computational linguistics.</p> <p>Students are introduced to the fundamental levels of linguistic analysis such as phonetics and phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, and pragmatics.</p> <p>Lectures will be integrated by exercise sessions, during which linguistic material will be analyzed and commented.</p>
SYLLABUS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Basic concepts about human language: competence and performance, descriptive vs. prescriptive, arbitrariness, productivity, universal grammar, discreteness, learnability, linguistic sign.• Elements of phonetics and phonology: human vocal tract; phones; articulatory phonetics; International Phonetic Alphabet and phonetic transcription; phoneme, allophones ; distinctive features and minimal pairs; natural classes; phonological rules; suprasegmental features (syllable, accent, pitch, intonation, tones);.• Elements of morphology: what is a word; morphemes, morphs, allomorphs. Inflection, derivation, compounding. Types of



languages wrt morphology; non concatenative morphology; two-level morphology.

- Elements of syntax: grammatical vs. interpretable; clause and sentence; phrase; parts of speech; grammatical categories (person, number, gender, definite/indefinite, case, tense, aspect, mood, active and passive voice); grammatical functions (subject, predicate, object); grammatical dependency, agreement; valency; syntactic ambiguity; syntactic trees; surface and deep structure.
- Elements of semantics: word meaning; lexical unit, idiom and restricted collocation; the WordNet conceptual model (hyponymy, meronymy, antonymy, etc.); frame semantics and FrameNet; representing sentence meaning.
- Elements of text linguistics: coherence and cohesion, information structure (topic/comment), rhetorical structure theory.
- Elements of pragmatics: deixis, information packaging, speech act theory, Grice's maxims, relevance theory.

TEACHING FORMAT

Frontal lectures, labs.

ASSESSMENT

Final written exam (100% marks)

READING LIST

Textbook:

- A. Bergmann, K. C. Hall, S. M. Ross (eds), Language Files (Tenth Edition), Department of Linguistics of The Ohio State University, The Ohio State University Press, 2007.

Additional readings:

- Oxford Handbook of Computational Linguistics (ed. Ruslan Mitkov), Oxford University Press, 2003 – Part I, Fundamentals
- M. Aaronoff and J. Rees-Miller (eds.), The Handbook of Linguistics, Blackwell, 2003.

SOFTWARE USED

None

LEARNING OUTCOME

Comprehension of basic linguistics concepts; analysis of a text at various linguistic levels.

COURSE PAGE

<http://tcc.fbk.eu/research/textec/lct-intro-linguistics-2010-11/>