

University of Ghana

Department of Linguistics

Sample Spring Courses

LING 332 Syntax (Prerequisite LING 222)

In this course, we will be discussing some of the more recent developments in syntactic analysis. Students will be expected to know the different lexical and grammatical categories and their morphological and syntactic behaviours. They will be expected to demonstrate knowledge of phrase structure rules and the different types of clauses and clause combinations and be able to apply this knowledge to the analysis of simple problems in various languages.

LING 334 Morphology and Syntax of a Ghanaian Language (Prerequisite LING 222 and 223)

This is a set of courses each dealing with a Ghanaian language (eg. Akan, Dagaari, Ga and Dangme, Ewe, Gurune) Some of the topics to be treated are: word classes, word formation, nominal phrase, verbal phrase, postpositional phrases, basic clause structure, and sentence structures – simple, coordinate, and embedded constructions.

LING 336 Morphology and Syntax of English (Prerequisite LING 222 and 223)

This course aims at introducing students to English word structure (morphology) and basic structures beyond the word (syntax). word classes and their morphological and distributional properties, word formation processes, inflection, derivation, phrase structure and basic clause patterns.

LING 342 Conversational Studies

The course is designed to equip students with knowledge about the structure, content and method of analysis of conversation in human language. It will involve both theory and practice. Students may be involved in short project work on conversational analysis. Topics include: turn-taking, pre-sequence, adjacency pairs, and repair.

LING 344 Discourse Analysis

This course is designed to provide students with the opportunity to learn the tools for text analysis and evaluation. By the end of the course, students should be confident in analysing and evaluating a wide variety of written texts. Topics include: nature and scope of discourse analysis; thematic structure; information structure; cohesion; coherence; critical discourse analysis.

LING 346 Second Language Acquisition and Learning

The course examines theories of second language acquisition and learning and current issues in the field. Socio-cultural, cognitive and personality variables affecting second language learning will be examined. Topics include: creative construction, interlanguage hypothesis, cognitive dimension of second language acquisition, personality variables in second language acquisition and contexts of learning.

LING 348 Ethnography of Speaking

This course discusses social and cultural norms governing SPEAKING and communication in general, dwelling on Dell Hymes' advocacy for the study of language beyond grammar. Topics discussed include: linguistic relativity, linguistic determinism, cultural attitudes to speaking, the power of the spoken word, secret languages, norms of speaking in various forums and verbal taboos.

LING 422 Semantics (Prerequisite LING 222 and 223)

This course will introduce students to some of the basic concepts in the study of meaning in language and the ways in which meaning is conveyed. Issues in connection with word and sentence meaning as well as the relationship between sentence structure and meaning/interpretation will be explored. Some of the topics to be discussed are: semantic relations (such as synonymy, antonymy, polysemy and homophony); semantic relations involving sentences (such as paraphrase, entailment, and contradiction); structural ambiguity and thematic roles.

LING 432 Semantics of a Ghanaian Language (Prerequisite LING 334)

Each of this set of courses concentrates on the semantics of aspect and aspectual constructions, including the relations between the semantics of the root and the semantics of the affix. Verb valency and semantic argument roles, the semantics of derived verbs, topicalization, focus and related phenomena may be considered.

LING 434 Semantics of English (Prerequisite LING 221 or 333)

In this course, the basic semantic unit, the proposition, is analysed into a central predicate plus various participants roles and circumstances, which may be negated. Propositions may be linked in parallel, in sequence, or with embedding. Other topics include information units, topic, focus, presupposed information, expression of a sender's attitude, second-language varieties of standard English.

LING 436 Language and Politics

The course deals with the interface between language and the negotiation and maintenance of power relations in traditional and contemporary society. Topics include the grammar/linguistics and stylistics of power negotiation, language and colonial dominations, linguistic determinism, free speech, language and political persuasion, language and governance, as well as language and the resistance of dominant ideology.

LING 438 Language Planning and Development

The course looks at the orientations and processes of language planning and its relation to the socio-economic development of a nation. Ghana's language situation and the type of language policy options available and their consequences will be discussed. The topics include: the language planning process, orientations, underlying ideologies, language planning and socio-economic development, and Ghana's language situation.

LING 442 Pragmatics

The course is designed to study the gap between word/sentence meaning and utterance meaning. It considers the variation, style, and interpretation of language use and strategies of communication. Topics to be studied include: truth versus non-truth conditional meaning, role of context in utterance production and interpretation, implicit and explicit language use, presupposition, speech acts, politeness, and relevance.

LING 444 Language and Gender

The course will provide a historical overview of language and gender research and examine female and male communication and genres in various cultures. The linguistic means by which women and men are portrayed will be critically analysed in order to understand the process of gender (re)construction in society. Topics include: gender construction and identity, notion of femininity and masculinity, female and male genres in society, female and male communication strategies and gender in naming and representation.

LING 446 Language and Literacy

The course is designed to introduce students to issues of literacy and their relevance for national development. Literacy will be studied from both theoretical and practical perspectives. Topics to be covered include types of literacy, approaches and techniques of literacy practices, language of instruction, literacy and development, adult literacy in Ghana.