

## Syllabus

Faculty **Arts and Sciences**  
Department **English**  
Semester **Fall 2019**  
Academic Year **2019-2010**

Course Name **Modern Linguistic Theory**  
Course Number **010201721**

Each student shall receive a copy of the syllabus to be kept for future reference.

## 1. Instructor Information

1. Instructor: Dr. Abdel-Rahman H. Abu Helal
2. Office: Building A, B319
3. Office Telephone: n/a
4. Email: aabuhelal@meu.edu.jo
5. Office Hours: Sun/Tue 12:30 p.m -2:00 p.m OR  
Mon/Wed 1:00 p.m - 4:00 p.m OR  
Sat: 10:00 a.m -12:00 p.m

## 2. Course Details

1. Meeting Times: 5:00-8:00 p.m. Sundays
2. Location: B109
3. Course Laboratory (if any): N/A

## 3. Sources and References

### 1. Required Readings:

- Newmeyer, J (1989). *Linguistic Theory of America*. Academic Press, Inc.
- Boeckx, C (2006). *Linguistic Minimalism: Origins, Concepts, Methods, and Aims*. Oxford University Press.
- Fromkin, et al. (2000). *Linguistics: an introduction to linguistic theory*. Blackwell Publishing Inc.

### 2. Additional Readings:

to be assigned as the course progresses



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Ref.: Deans' Council Session (03/2018-2019), Decision No.: 14, Date: 15/09/2018

#### **4. Course Description**

This course introduces the modern linguistic theory of generative grammar; a pioneer theory that explains the incredibly rich cognitive processes underlying human language. It lays out the main ideas and results of the generative transformational grammar. It teaches the skill of analytic reasoning used in explaining linguistic facts and phenomena.

#### **5. Aims and objectives:**

By the end of the course, students will be able to

- understand the modern theory of generative grammar and employ the methodological and analytic tools to reason about human language
- analyze relevant syntactic and semantic phenomena based on creating and manipulating generative-grammar models.

#### **6. Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs):**

By completing the course successfully, students are expected to have acquired the knowledge and ability to:

- understand how a generative language theory can explain the facts underlying language.
- recognize and compare different linguistic concepts and issues
- use this knowledge in the analysis of different components of each linguistic component
- be able to carry out thoroughly discussions and presentations.

#### **7. Programme Learning Outcomes (PLOs):**

The program aims to prepare competent graduates who are capable of:

- reading and understanding critically sources and references in the area of specializations
- expressing ideas critically and analytically
- practicing methods of research in practical and professional life
- depending on one's self in developing competences

- employing scientific and cognitive theories in the major areas of specialization
- contributing to the development of general knowledge and expanding it

## 8. Teaching Methods

The methods of instruction include but not limited to Lectures, Discussion and problem solving, Individual and group assignments (research projects), any active learning method such as: small groups.

#	Description	Weight	Description
1.	Midterm Exam	30%	
2.	Final Exam	50%	
3.	Term Paper & Presentation	15 %	
4.	Participation	5%	
<b>Total</b>		<b>100%</b>	

## 9. Course Schedule:

Week	Topics to be covered	Readings (Pages)	CLOs	PLOs
One: 19/10 - 23/10	Introduction to linguistics and modern linguistic theory	F: Prt1 Ch.1		
Two: 26/10 - 30/10	The State of American Linguistics in the Mid 1950s	N: Ch.1		
Three: 2/11 - 7/11	The Chomskyan Revolution	N: Ch.2		
Four: 9/11 - 13/11	From Syntactic Structures to the Aspects 1	N: Ch.3		
Five: 16/11 - 20/11	From Syntactic Structures to the Aspects 2	N: Ch.4		
Six: 23/11 - 27/11	The Minimalist Root 1	B: Ch.1		
Seven: 30/11 - 4/12	The Minimalist Root 2	B: Ch.1		
Eight: 7/12 - 11/12	Midterm Exam			
Nine: 14/12 - 18/12	Transformations and Uniformity	B: Ch.2: 45-53		
Eleven: 21/12 -25/12	Parameters	B: Ch.1: 53-60		
Twelve: 28/1 - 1/1	Government and Binding, Last resort and economy	B: Ch.2: 72-61		
Thirteen: 4/1 - 8/1	Virtual Conceptual Necessity	B: Ch.3: 72-85		
Fourteen : 11/1 - 15/1	Presentations and discussion of papers			
Fifteen: 18/1 - 27/1	Review			

## 10. Course Policies

- Course policies are determined by Undergraduate and Postgraduate Degree Regulations and Student Guide

- Policies should be announced during the first meeting.

- **Class Attendance:**

- a. Students must attend all classes of this course.
- b. Any student with absence of 15% of the classes of any course, will be illegible to sit for the final exam and will be given the university zero (35%) in this course.
- c. In the case (b) above, if a student submits an official sick report authenticated by university clinic or an accepted excuse by the Dean of his/her faculty, the student will be considered as withdrawn from the course, and a "W" will be shown in the transcript for this course.

- **Delay:**

Students are not allowed to come late to classes. Any student coming late will not be allowed to attend the class and he/she will be marked absent.

- **Exams:**

- a. Failure in attending a course exam other than the final exam, will result in zero mark unless the student provides an official acceptable excuse to the instructor who approves a make-up exam.
- b. Failure in attending the final exam will result in zero mark unless the student presents an official acceptable excuse to the Dean of his/her faculty who approves an incomplete exam, normally scheduled to be conducted during the first two weeks of the successive semester.

- **Assignments & Projects:**

Assignments and projects should be submitted to the instructor on the due date. Zero mark will be given for

late submissions unless the student has an acceptable excuse approved by the instructor of the course.

- **Exam Attendance/Punctuality:**

- a. A student who is late more than 10 minutes will not be permitted to sit the exam (first, second or mid exams).
- b. A student who is late more than 30 minutes will not be permitted to sit to final exam, and no student will be permitted to leave the exam center before the elapse of 30 minutes.

- **Cheating:**

Cheating is an attempt to gain marks dishonestly and includes; but not limited to:

- a. Copying from another student's work.
- b. Using materials not authorized by the institute.
- c. Collaborating with another student during a test, without permission.
- d. Knowingly using, buying, selling, or stealing the contents of a test.
- e. Plagiarism which means presenting another person's work or ideas as one's own, without attribution.
- f. Using any media (including mobiles) during the exam.

- **Penalty for Cheating:**

The minimum penalty for cheating is an automatic Zero for the test or assignment leading to a possible "F" for the course. The exam invigilator will produce a report on the case to the examination committee chairman. The report will be kept in the student file. The student may remain seated in the exam center, but in case that causes a disturbance to other students, the student will be expelled out of the exam center if approved by the examination committee chairman. A second offense will result in the immediate suspension of the student for the remainder of the current semester. A copy of the decision will be kept in the student file.

- **Mobiles:**

Mobile phones should be kept turned off or silent while in class. Usage of mobile phones is not allowed in classes in any form (talking and/or texting).



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