

# Weekly schedule ('Syllabus')

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**Weekly Schedule Spring 2009 (January 20 – May 1)**

**UNIT I: WHAT WE NEED TO KNOW ABOUT MIND AND LANGUAGE**

**Week 1: The Never Ending Debate**

*W (January 21): What Kind of Animal are you? (Lecture 1)*

ML-1 The Innateness Hypothesis (pages )

ML-5 Nature and Nurture at Large (pages )

*TH/F (January 22/22): The Basics of Language and Grammar*

LS-1 Everything You Always Wanted To Know ... (optional)

LS-4 The Generative Enterprise (optional)

**Week 2: Focus on the Mind**

*M (January 26): Philosophers and the Study of the Mind (Lecture 2)*

ML-2 Philosophy of Mind (pages )

*W (January 28): Cognitive Science: A Joint Effort (Lecture 3)*

ML-3 Cognitive Science (pages )

ML-4 Modularity (pages )

*TH/F (January 29/30): Introduction to grammar - Phonology*

**Hand in HW 1**

LS-5 Parts of the Grammar (pages )

**Week 3: The Organization of the Grammar; Phonology**

*M (February 2): Grammar Basics: Sound and Meaning (Lecture 4)*

LS-6 The Organization of Grammar (pages )

LS-7 The Grammar as a Checking Device (pages )

LS-9 Hierarchical Structure Everywhere (pages )

*W (February 4): More Phonology (Lecture 5)*

LS-10 Phonological Structures (pages )

TH/F (February 5/6): *Introduction to Morphology*

**Hand in HW 2**

LS-11 Categorical ('Morphological') Structures (pages )

#### **Week 4: Morphology**

M (February 9): *Morphology: Making Words (Lecture 6)*

LS-11 Categorical ('Morphological') Structures (pages )

W (February 11): *Words, Lexicon and a bit of Syntax (Lecture 7)*

LS-11 Categorical ('Morphological') Structures (pages )

LS-14 The Lexicon (pages )

TH/F (February 12/13): *Introduction to Syntax*

**Hand in HW 3**

LS-12 Categorical ('Syntactic') Structures (pages )

#### **Week 5: Syntax**

M (February 16 'Presidents' Day): *How to Form a Sentence (Lecture 8)*

LS-12 Categorical ('Syntactic') Structures (pages )

W (February 18): *How to Transform a Sentence (Lecture 9)*

LS-12 Categorical ('Syntactic') Structures (pages )

H/F (February 19/20): *Practice Exam*

**Hand in HW 4**

#### **Week 6: FIRST EXAM**

M (February 23): *REVIEW FOR FIRST EXAM (Lecture 10)*

ML-6 The Organization of the Mental Grammar (pages )

W (February 25): *FIRST EXAM*

TH/F (February (26/28): *Discussing Exam Questions*

**UNIT II: THE INNATENESS HYPOTHESIS: LINGUISTIC ARGUMENTS**

**Week 7: The arguments from Universals and Language Change**

*M (March 2): Types of Linguistic Universals: Are there any? (Lecture 11)*

ML-7 Universals and Innateness (pages \_\_\_\_\_)

*W (March 4): Linguistic Universals and Diversity (Lecture 12)*

ML-7 Universals and Innateness (pages \_\_\_\_\_)

*TH/F (March 5/6): Introduction to Language Acquisition*

**Hand in HW 5**

ML-8 Models of Language Acquisition (pages \_\_\_\_\_)

ML-11 The Stages of Language Acquisition (pages \_\_\_\_\_)

SPRING RECESS: March 8 - March 14

**Week 8: The argument(s) from Language Acquisition**

*M (March 16): The Poverty of the Stimulus Argument (Lecture 13)*

ML-9 The Poverty of the Stimulus Argument (pages \_\_\_\_\_)

ML-10 Properties of the Input (pages \_\_\_\_\_)

*W (March 17): The Critical Period Argument (Lecture 14)*

ML-12 Critical Period Effects (pages \_\_\_\_\_)

ML-13 Second Language Learning (pages \_\_\_\_\_)

*TH/F (March 18/19): Introduction to Sign Language*

**Hand in HW 6**

ML-15 Sign Languages (pages \_\_\_\_\_)

**Week 9: The argument from “Spontaneous Emergence”**

*M (March 22): The Creolization Argument (Lecture 15)*

ML-14 How Children Create New Languages

*W (March 24): The Argument from Spontaneous Signing (Lecture 16)*

ML-16 Delayed Acquisition of Sign Language (pages \_\_\_\_\_)

ML-17 The Birth of New Sign Languages (pages \_\_\_\_\_)

*TH/F (March 25/26): Practice Exam*

**Hand in HW7**

**Week 10: SECOND EXAM WEEK**

M (March 30): *REVIEW FOR SECOND EXAM (Lecture 17)*

W (April 1): *SECOND EXAM*

*TH/F (April 2/3): Discussing Exam Questions*

**UNIT III: THE INNATENESS HYPOTHESIS: *BIOLOGICAL ARGUMENTS***

**Week 11: Genes, Brains, and Language**

M (April 6): *Arguments from Genetics: Language Genes? (Lecture 18)*

ML-18 The Evidence from Genetics (pages \_\_\_\_\_)

W (April 8): *Arguments from Neuroscience: A Language Module? (Lecture 19)*

ML-19 Brain Studies: Localization and Disorders (pages \_\_\_\_\_)

*TH/F (April 9/10): The “Bee Dance” and “what Starlings can Do”* **Hand in HW 8**

ML-20 Communication in the Rest of the Animal Kingdom (pages \_\_\_\_\_)

ML-21 The Animal Mind and Human Language (pages \_\_\_\_\_)

**Week 12: Animal Communication**

M (April 13): *Can we Do what they Do? (Lecture 20)*

ML-20 Communication in the Rest of the Animal Kingdom (pages \_\_\_\_\_)

W (April 15): *Can they Do what we Do? (Lecture 21)*

ML-21 The Animal Mind and Human Language (pages \_\_\_\_\_)

*TH/F (April 16/17): Bickerton’s Proto-Language Hypothesis* **Hand in HW 9**

**Week 13: Mind, Language, and Evolution**

M (April 20): *The Evolution of the Human Mind and Meaning (Lecture 22)*

ML-22 The Evolution of the Human Mind (pages )

W (April 22): *The Evolution of Language: Meaning to Form (Lecture 23)*

ML-23 The Origin of Language (pages )

*TH/F (April 23/24): Practice Exam (Unit III)*

**Hand in HW 10**

**Week 14: Winding Up**

M (April 27): *The Innateness Hypothesis: True or False? (Lecture 24)*

ML-24 Evaluating the Arguments (pages )

W (April 29): **REVIEW FOR FINAL AND BONUS EXAM (Lecture 25)**

ML-24 Evaluating the Arguments (pages )

*TH/F (April 30/March 1): Practice Exam (All Three Units)*

**Hand in Bonus HW**

**Final Exam:**

11 o'clock class (sections 13-24): Friday May 8, 1-3

12 o'clock class (sections 1-12): Friday May 8, 3.30-5.30