

Linguistics 280: Language and Formal Reasoning

Scott Martin

Summer Quarter 2010

Meeting Times MTRF 11:30 AM–1:18 PM

Classroom 164 Jennings Hall

Instructor Scott Martin

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Office Hours TR 1:30–2:30 or by appointment

TA Coordinator Dr. Hope Dawson dawson.165@osu.edu

Course Website <http://ling.ohio-state.edu/~scott/teaching/2010/summer/280/>

Readings There is no textbook for this course. All material will be covered in class and summarized in handouts.

Course Description

We will use scientific methods to investigate how natural languages convey meaning. To do so, we will construct an artificial language that is unambiguous, well understood and well behaved, and use this language to systematically determine the conditions for validity of natural language sentences.

Since we're in the compacted second half of the summer quarter, the pace will be quick and the assignments will be frequent. Regular attendance and participation is thus crucial for success; missing even a couple of days will leave you far behind in terms of comprehending the lectures and assignments.

This course satisfies the following GECs:

GEC 2.B 2-Quantitative and Logical Skills; B-Mathematical and Logical Analysis

Revised GEC 1.B.2 1-Skills; B-Quantitative and Logical Skills; 2-Mathematical and Logical Analysis

Goals: Courses in Quantitative and Logical Skills develop students' quantitative literacy and logical reasoning, including the ability to identify valid arguments, use mathematical models, and draw conclusions and critically evaluate results based on data.

2. Mathematical and Logical Analysis–Expected learning outcomes: Students comprehend mathematical concepts and methods adequate to construct valid arguments, understand inductive and deductive reasoning, and increase their general problem solving skills.

Evaluation

Progress in the course will be evaluated based on periodic assignments. You are encouraged to collaborate with other students on these, but all submitted work must be done independently using your own words. All assignments are due at the beginning of class unless otherwise specified. **Late assignments will not be accepted.**

Grade Components

Problem Sets (60%) will be assigned weekly on Fridays and you will have a week to complete them. There will be four total problem sets.

Homeworks (30%) will be assigned daily and will generally be graded on completeness and effort, not correctness.

Attendance (10%) is rewarded as part of your grade since we'll be covering so much material in such a short time.

Grading Scale

I use the OSU standard grading scale:

A	93–100	B+	87–89	C+	77–79	D+	67–69	E	0–59
A–	90–92	B	83–86	C	73–76	D	60–66		
		B–	80–82	C–	70–72				

Academic Misconduct

If I suspect that a student has committed academic misconduct in this course, I am obligated by university rules to report my suspicions to the Committee on Academic Misconduct (COAM). COAM's sanctions for any violations of the university's code of student conduct could include a failing grade in this course and suspension or dismissal from the university.

Students with Disabilities

If you feel that you may need an accommodation based on the impact of your disability, you should contact me privately to discuss your specific needs. We'll work with the Ohio State Office for Disability Services (614-292-3307, 150 Pomerene Hall) to coordinate reasonable accommodations for you.