Linguistics 106: Introduction to Formal Linguistics  
Summer 2002  
Williams Hall 301, Thursdays 5:30–8:40

Basic course information

Instructor  Alexander Williams  
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Course homepage  www.ling.upenn.edu/~alexand3/cgs106.html

Office hours  T 1:30–2:30, 3401 Walnut, Suite 400A; or by appt.

Requirements  1. Class attendance and participation  
2. Homeworks: 50% of final grade  
(There will be roughly 8 assignments.)  
**Late homework will not be accepted!**  
3. Midterm exam: 20% of final grade  
4. Final exam: 20% of final grade  
5. Pop quizzes: 10% of final grade

Goal of course  To develop general, mathematically explicit procedures for recognizing and interpreting the expressions of some human language.

Syllabus of topics  1. Introduction to linguistic theory  
2. Basic logic and set theory  
3. Decipherment of codes and languages  
4. Distributional analysis  
5. Finite State Automata and Regular Grammars  
6. Context Free Grammars  
7. Compositional semantics

Some non-topics  Phonetics, phonology, psychology, word meaning, language perception, language learning, neuroscience, dialectology, language history, sociology, language policy, stylistics, literature.

Readings  Extensive notes to the lectures will be distributed in class, and on the webpage. Other readings are collected in a bulkpack, comprising selections from:
Bach, E. *Syntactic Theory*. (Chapter 1)
Singh, S. *The Code Book*. ('The decipherment of Linear B.')
Harris, Z. *Structural Linguistics*. (Ch. 12)
Langacker, R. *Fundamentals of Linguistic Analysis*. (Ch. 2, sec. 2)
Chomsky, N. *Syntactic Structures*. (Ch. 3)
Pinker, S. *The Language Instinct* (from Ch. 4)
Sipser, M. *Introduction to the Theory of Computation*. (from Chs. 0–2)
Radford, A. *Transformational Grammar*. (Ch. 2)