

# H2205: Introduction to Linguistics

ESP HSSP Spring 2009

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**Webpage:** [https://esp.mit.edu/learn/HSSP/2009\\_Spring/Classes/H2205/index.html](https://esp.mit.edu/learn/HSSP/2009_Spring/Classes/H2205/index.html)

**Lectures:** Saturday from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. in room 5-217

**Description:** “Introduction to Linguistics” is a science subject disguised as a humanities subject that explores the basics of modern linguistics. The course touches upon morphology, phonetics, phonology, syntax, and semantics. We will examine each of these subjects through lectures and assignments (problem sets).

**Homework:** Homework assignments in this course are called problem sets. Problem sets will allow you to apply the knowledge and skills you have learned in lecture. They are only personal gauges on how well you have learned and applied the material, i.e., they are *optional*. There are 6 problem sets in total. A new problem set will be posted on the course website and handed out in class every Saturday. Each completed problem set, except for the last two, is to be handed in before the start of class on the following Saturday. Solutions will be posted on Saturday afternoons.

## **Schedule of Classes:**

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|---|----------|---|
| 1 | March 14 | Language:<br>Specialization for language, creative system, generality, parity, universality, mutability, and inaccessibility  |
| 2 | March 21 | Morphology:<br>Words and word structure, derivation, compounds, and inflections<br><u>Problem Set 1</u>   |
| 3 | April 4  | Phonetics:<br>Phonetic transcription, sound producing system, sound classes, consonant articulation, manners of articulation, vowels, suprasegmentals<br><u>Problem Set 2</u> |
| 4 | April 11 | Phonology:<br>Segments in contrast, phonemes and allophones, phonetic and phonemic transcription, syllables<br><u>Problem Set 3</u>   |
| 5 | April 18 | Syntax:<br>Categories and structure, complement options<br><u>Problem Set 4</u>   |

- 6 April 25 Syntax:  
Move  
Problem Set 5
- 7 May 2 Semantics:  
Syntax and sentence interpretation  
Problem Set 6
- 8 May 9 Historical Linguistics:  
The nature of language change, sound change, morphological  
change, syntactic change