SOCIETY OF LINGUISTICS UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

Introduction

The Society of Linguistics Undergraduate Students (SLUGS) is a small but active group in the Department of Linguistics. We represent students taking courses offered by the Department of Linguistics. SLUGS is known for its interesting and informative academic seminars and talks, as well as some pretty fantastic social events and parties. We also aim to make the views of undergraduates count in departmental policy and regulations.

Our website, **http://www.chass.utoronto.ca/~slugs/**, is full of helpful information for Linguistics students, including news and events, career information, links to useful sites, a message board, and some Linguistics humour to boot. We encourage all students to stop by our website and find out what's happening.

All students taking a course in Linguistics are automatically members of SLUGS, and we welcome all members to participate in SLUGS's regular meetings and yearly elections. Please visit our website, or contact us at slugs@chass.utoronto.ca for more information or if you have any concerns about undergraduate Linguistics at U of T.

SLUGS Executive

LIN 100Y1Y Introduction to General Linguistics

Instructor(s): H. Avelino

Enr: 199　　　　Resp: 76　　　　Retake: 61%

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	0	0	6	16	34	28	13	5.3
Explains	0	2	10	16	22	36	12	5.1
Communicates	0	0	2	9	21	27	39	5.9
Teaching	0	1	5	14	24	36	18	5.4
Workload	0	1	5	58	27	4	2	4.4
Difficulty	0	0	6	44	36	9	2	4.6
Learn Exp	0	0	7	42	25	17	6	4.7

Avelino was praised for his sense of humour. Most students agreed that his joking nature made the classroom environment more relaxed. He was very enthusiastic. Some students found Avelino a bit difficult to understand at times.

A number of students found assignments difficult and complained about the grading. Tutorials were found to be helpful.

The main complaint about this course was the timing of homework. Concepts were not covered until after the homework was due in tutorials.

Instructor(s): H. Avelino

Enr: 190　　　　Resp: 89　　　　Retake: 77%

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	0	0	6	26	18	31	16	5.2
Explains	0	0	8	23	27	31	9	5.1
Communicates	0	0	0	10	24	35	29	5.9
Teaching	0	0	1	18	35	32	11	5.4
Workload	1	3	5	45	32	10	1	4.4
Difficulty	1	2	8	41	27	18	1	4.5
Learn Exp	0	0	5	41	27	19	7	4.8

Most students felt that Avelino was very enthusiastic and knowledgeable about the material but the course itself was very difficult. LIN 100 covered a lot of material and a lot data which some students found challenging. Students seemed to either really enjoy the course or really dislike it.

Instructor(s): E. Gold

Enr: 147　　　　Resp: 73　　　　Retake: 61%

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	1	0	0	4	26	50	17	5.8
Explains	1	0	0	7	29	48	13	5.6
Communicates	1	0	1	7	36	39	13	5.5
Teaching	0	0	0	5	30	46	17	5.8
Workload	0	2	8	59	11	16	0	4.3
Difficulty	0	4	4	50	19	14	7	4.6
Learn Exp	1	1	5	44	24	14	7	4.6

Several students commented that the course was challenging because of the amount and varied types of material that was covered. Gold received favourable comments on her teaching style, but some students did not like the format of the tests and homework because they were sometimes vague, confusing or required creative thinking. Most students found the small tutorial sections helpful.

Instructor(s): E. Gold

Enr: 145　　　　Resp: 59　　　　Retake: 70%

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	0	0	0	5	22	39	32	6.0
Explains	0	0	0	8	25	37	27	5.8
Communicates	0	0	0	10	27	41	20	5.7
Teaching	0	0	0	6	31	34	27	5.8
Workload	1	1	5	63	20	3	3	4.2
Difficulty	0	1	8	53	20	12	3	4.4
Learn Exp	0	2	4	48	28	10	6	4.6

Most students felt that the homework assignments should have been worth a larger percentage of the final grade for the amount of time spent completing them. Most students found the instructor knowledgeable and well-organized. The term tests were challenging and some students found that the tests didn't fully reflect the material learned in lectures.

LIN 200H1S Introduction to Language

Instructor(s): C. Macdonald

Enr: 160　　　　Resp: 23　　　　Retake: 45%

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	0	4	8	13	26	39	8	5.1
Explains	0	4	0	30	21	30	13	5.1
Communicates	0	0	17	13	34	26	8	5.3
Teaching	0	4	9	22	9	45	9	5.1
Workload	0	0	9	22	22	27	18	5.2
Difficulty	4	4	0	39	21	17	13	4.7
Learn Exp	0	6	6	40	26	20	0	4.5

The students often commented that the amount of material covered in the course was quite heavy. Some felt that it should be extended to a full year course. Lecture notes could have been posted before class. Macdonald was knowledgeable, but didn't stop her lectures to make sure that there weren't any questions and ensure that her knowledge was being communicated most effectively.

LIN 201H1F Canadian English

Instructor(s): E. Gold

Enr: 29		Resp: 16				Retake: 92%		
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	0	6	0	0	6	50	37	6.1
Explains	0	6	0	0	12	56	25	5.9
Communicates	0	6	0	6	6	37	43	6.0
Teaching	0	6	0	0	12	43	37	6.0
Workload	0	0	37	37	12	12	0	4.0
Difficulty	0	0	31	43	18	6	0	4.0
Learn Exp	0	0	0	38	30	23	7	5.0

Most students had favourable comments about Gold's understanding and enthusiasm for the material. Some students felt that the research project was a little vague and the test was a little too picky. Overall, most students enjoyed the course.

LIN 228H1F Phonetics

Instructor(s): A. Kochetov

Enr: 101		Resp: 51				Retake: 76%		
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	0	0	0	7	19	31	41	6.1
Explains	2	0	2	8	28	42	18	5.6
Communicates	0	0	0	16	12	44	28	5.8
Teaching	0	1	0	0	23	47	27	6.0
Workload	0	0	8	64	18	10	0	4.3
Difficulty	0	2	4	42	32	16	2	4.6
Learn Exp	0	0	2	32	26	26	12	5.1

Many students liked the instructor and thought he was enthusiastic and communicated the material well. Students also liked that lecture slides were posted before class. Some thought that homework should have been handed back before the quizzes on the same material. More examples and exercises would have been helpful. Some non-native English speakers felt that transcription was too hard for them. Many felt tutorials were not helpful and that there needed to be better communication between the instructor and TAs.

LIN 229H1S Sound Patterns in Language

Instructor(s): H. Avelino

Enr: 74		Resp: 47				Retake: 50%		
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	0	6	10	31	25	17	8	4.6
Explains	0	4	17	14	34	17	12	4.8
Communicates	0	2	0	2	13	28	54	6.3
Teaching	0	4	14	8	27	27	17	5.1
Workload	0	4	15	58	15	6	0	4.0
Difficulty	0	6	12	53	14	10	2	4.2
Learn Exp	0	2	7	40	30	12	7	4.7

Most students found that Avelino was fun, enthusiastic and knowledgeable. He was, however, a little disorganized. Students often commented that the slides and homework were not posted soon enough. He was able to effectively answer students' questions, however, this put them behind schedule and thus they didn't cover all the intended material.

Also, there seemed to have been issues with ordering the textbook at the bookstore and many students found that frustrating.

LIN 241H1F Introduction to Semantic

Instructor(s): M. Ippolito

Enr: 56		Resp: 28				Retake: 68%		
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	0	0	7	11	22	37	22	5.6
Explains	0	0	11	14	33	29	11	5.1
Communicates	0	3	0	7	37	18	33	5.7
Teaching	0	0	7	7	40	22	22	5.4
Workload	0	0	0	69	19	7	3	4.5
Difficulty	0	0	3	42	23	19	11	4.9

Learn Exp	0	0	5	52	23	17	0	4.5

Several students felt that a newer, more appropriate textbook would have been helpful. Weekly homework was challenging but useful. Ippolito was available for consultation during her office hours which some students found helpful because the material was fairly challenging.

LIN 256H1S Sociolinguistic Patterns in Language

Instructor(s): R. Roeder

Enr: 73		Resp: 47				Retake: 67%		
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	0	0	0	21	14	44	19	5.6
Explains	0	0	0	21	21	40	17	5.5
Communicates	0	0	0	14	31	36	17	5.6
Teaching	0	0	0	12	23	40	23	5.7
Workload	0	0	2	65	15	13	2	4.5
Difficulty	0	0	4	54	34	4	2	4.5
Learn Exp	0	0	6	26	23	30	13	5.2

Most students found Roeder enthusiastic and approachable. For those who were really interested in the subject, they felt that the course should have been offered in the fall as it is a prerequisite for a subsequent course which is also offered in spring.

LIN 322H1S Phonological Theory

Instructor(s): H. Avelino

Enr: 21		Resp: 18				Retake: 58%		
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	0	0	5	16	44	16	16	5.2
Explains	0	0	0	11	33	44	11	5.6
Communicates	0	0	0	11	16	44	27	5.9
Teaching	0	0	0	11	27	38	22	5.7
Workload	0	0	0	64	35	0	0	4.4
Difficulty	0	0	0	52	29	17	0	4.6
Learn Exp	0	0	13	40	13	33	0	4.7

Students found Avelino approachable and friendly. He was eager to answer students' questions. The course seemed to have some overlap with the 2nd year course in the same subject. Avelino was occasionally a little disorganized, but overall received very favourable comments.

LIN 323H1F Acoustic Phonetics

Instructor(s): M. Chasin

Enr: 44		Resp: 43				Retake: 65%		
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	0	2	7	4	21	42	21	5.6
Explains	2	0	4	7	28	35	21	5.5
Communicates	0	0	2	2	9	23	61	6.4
Teaching	2	0	2	11	14	33	35	5.8
Workload	0	4	17	60	12	4	0	4.0
Difficulty	0	0	7	34	46	12	0	4.6
Learn Exp	3	0	10	20	30	30	6	4.9

Students found Chasin to be very enthusiastic. He was funny and made classes enjoyable. A number of students felt that the tests were more difficult than expected. Some students thought that some information was skipped over too quickly and it was not clear what information was important. Overall, students found the material very technical but the lectures entertaining.

LIN 331H1F Syntactic Theory

Instructor(s): E. Cowper

Enr: 18		Resp: 17				Retake: 92%		
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	0	0	0	0	17	47	35	6.2
Explains	0	0	0	11	0	47	41	6.2
Communicates	0	0	0	0	0	23	76	6.8
Teaching	0	0	0	0	11	23	64	6.5

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Workload	0	0	0	25	37	25	12	5.2
Difficulty	0	0	0	6	31	50	12	5.7
Learn Exp	0	8	0	0	25	33	33	5.8

All of the students' comments were positive. Some said the course was challenging, but all seemed to feel that it was a good learning experience. Cowper was knowledgeable, enthusiastic and responsive to questions. Homework was challenging and time consuming but they made for positive thought provoking exercises.

LIN 341H1S Semantic Theory

Instructor(s): M. Ippolito

Enr: 27   Resp: 24   Retake: 72%

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	0	0	4	26	21	13	34	5.5
Explains	0	0	4	26	17	21	30	5.5
Communicates	0	0	0	13	21	34	30	5.8
Teaching	0	4	4	13	21	26	30	5.5
Workload	0	0	4	52	17	13	13	4.8
Difficulty	0	0	4	17	39	17	21	5.3
Learn Exp	0	0	16	11	27	38	5	5.1

Students found the instructor to be knowledgeable and organized. Most students commented that she was a good teacher. The tests were challenging and the marking scheme was said to be picky and somewhat unrealistic. Assignments were challenging but the overall learning experience was good.

LIN 356H1F Language Variation and Change

Instructor(s): R. Roeder

Enr: 6   Resp: 7   Retake: 83%

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	0	0	0	0	14	42	42	6.3
Explains	0	0	0	0	14	57	28	6.1
Communicates	0	0	0	0	0	42	57	6.6
Teaching	0	0	0	0	0	57	42	6.4
Workload	0	0	0	20	40	40	0	5.2
Difficulty	0	0	0	40	0	20	40	5.6
Learn Exp	0	0	0	0	20	60	20	6.0

Students thought Roeder was knowledgeable and gave lots of feedback on student work. They especially liked how available she was to answer questions. Students found the material difficult but it was taught well. Classes held in the lab were helpful. Overall, they found it challenging but rewarding.

LIN 423H1S Phonetic Analysis

Instructor(s): A. Kochetov

Enr: 15   Resp: 15   Retake: 93%

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	0	0	0	0	20	43	33	6.1
Explains	0	0	0	0	13	40	46	6.3
Communicates	0	0	0	0	20	13	66	6.5
Teaching	0	0	0	0	6	46	46	6.4
Workload	0	0	13	66	13	6	0	4.1
Difficulty	0	0	13	60	20	6	0	4.2
Learn Exp	0	0	0	21	28	50	0	5.3

Most students commented favourably on the practical nature of this course. It was very "hands-on". Kochetov was amazingly organized and his enthusiasm for the material was undeniable. His handouts were very clear and helpful. A few students didn't like the group assignments.

LIN 432H1S Advanced Morphology: Morphosyntax

Instructor(s): M. Vahedi-Langrudi

Enr: 12   Resp: 11   Retake: 27%

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	0	9	18	45	18	9	0	4.0
Explains	0	18	18	27	18	18	0	4.0
Communicates	0	0	0	0	36	45	18	5.8
Teaching	0	9	27	27	27	9	0	4.0
Workload	0	9	0	36	45	9	0	4.5
Difficulty	0	0	0	40	20	0	40	5.4
Learn Exp	0	10	20	20	30	10	10	4.4

Students were concerned about the lack of feedback and the lack of marks before the drop date. Students suggested that a course pack be assembled for next year. They didn't like having to constantly make copies of articles in the library.

Vahedi-Langrudi seemed to have been somewhat unclear on the course goals and explanations of certain concepts.

LIN 458H1F Revitalizing Language

Instructor(s): C. Frigeni

Enr: 17   Resp: 16   Retake: 100%

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	0	0	0	0	18	43	37	6.2
Explains	0	0	0	0	12	37	50	6.4
Communicates	0	0	0	0	0	25	75	6.8
Teaching	0	0	0	0	0	18	81	6.8
Workload	0	0	6	12	37	12	31	5.5
Difficulty	0	0	12	37	37	12	0	4.5
Learn Exp	0	0	0	0	25	25	50	6.2

Students had nothing but the highest praise for Frigeni! She was described as "outstanding", "lovely", "enthusiastic", and "fantastic". Frigeni was lauded for being passionate and extremely talented. Discussions were thought provoking and constructive.

Many students commented that the amount of readings were quite overwhelming, and that a full year course would have been better. Overall, the course was "awesome".

LIN 481H1S Introduction to Analysis and Argumentation

Instructor(s): H. Avelino

Enr: 7   Resp: 4   Retake: 100%

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	0	0	0	25	25	50	0	5.2
Explains	0	0	0	0	75	25	0	5.2
Communicates	0	0	0	0	75	0	25	5.5
Teaching	0	0	0	0	75	25	0	5.2
Workload	0	0	25	75	0	0	0	3.8
Difficulty	0	0	25	75	0	0	0	3.8
Learn Exp	0	0	0	33	33	0	33	5.3