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): M. Hirayama

Enr: 205		Resp: 45						Retake: 62%
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	2	0	11	25	25	18	18	5.0
Explains	2	6	8	20	24	22	15	4.9
Communicates	2	15	13	24	28	6	8	4.2
Teaching	0	2	22	20	20	17	17	4.8
Workload	0	10	17	62	10	0	0	3.7
Difficulty	0	7	14	50	23	4	0	4.0
Learn Exp	0	2	16	27	16	30	5	4.7

The majority of students found this course to be very informative, however it was felt that the assignments expected students to know more than the course level.

The students felt that the instructor provided excellent slides, however didn't provide any additional examples during class. Her lectures were said to be very informative and very well organized, however she could have been more enthusiastic.

Many students remarked how useful the tutorials were.

Instructor(s): M. Hirayama

Enr: 197		Resp: 68						Retake: 59%
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	0	3	10	18	39	19	9	4.9
Explains	1	6	13	29	29	13	6	4.4
Communicates	1	6	25	34	20	10	1	4.0
Teaching	3	4	12	25	31	15	7	4.5
Workload	0	1	4	64	26	3	0	4.2
Difficulty	0	0	7	53	21	15	1	4.5
Learn Exp	1	7	11	50	16	11	1	4.1

Students complained that Hirayama often did not speak clearly enough or explain material in depth, and they often found this confusing. She often read from her powerpoint slides, and students thought she could have been a little more enthusiastic. However, a few students felt she was well organized.

In the course, the tutorials were said to be ore useful than lectures, although it was suggested the tutorials could have been longer. A few students were very vocal about their interest in this course's content.

Instructor(s): D. Massam

Enr: 150		Resp: 69						Retake: 59%
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	2	7	11	36	19	17	4	4.3
Explains	2	2	5	25	35	19	8	4.8
Communicates	1	1	5	18	20	33	18	5.3
Teaching	1	2	2	23	29	31	7	5.0
Workload	0	3	4	68	15	7	1	4.2
Difficulty	0	0	5	49	23	13	7	4.7
Learn Exp	2	2	10	48	18	12	6	4.4

The instructor was praised for her enthusiasm and interest in the course. However, many student felt she should have used powerpoint slides or offered in-depth lecture notes, as the lighting in the classroom was not ideal for blackboard writing. Some students said that lectures could have been more concise; however, other students praised Massam's usage of examples and her in-depth lectures. All in all, while some expressed their reluctance to continue in Linguistics due to this course, most students noted the instructor's willingness to clarify and her general approachability.

Instructor(s): D. Massam

Enr: 135		Resp: 44						Retake: 62%
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	0	0	13	23	37	20	4	4.8
Explains	0	0	6	13	46	23	9	5.1
Communicates	0	0	4	13	18	39	23	5.6
Teaching	0	0	0	21	33	33	11	5.4
Workload	7	4	11	57	14	4	0	3.8
Difficulty	6	0	6	58	11	13	2	4.2
Learn Exp	0	0	8	38	27	19	5	4.8

Students felt as though the material would have been better conveyed through the use of lecture notes or powerpoint slides, rather than the chalkboard, especially during the unit on Syntax, which included drawing trees. However, the instructor was praised for her enthusiasm and helpfulness as well as her approachable nature. In addition, students reported that the instructor was very knowledgeable in her field; however, they also noted that at times she was hard to understand, which resulted in lack of clarity with some material.

LIN 200H1F Introduction to Language

Instructor(s): E. Gold

Enr: 184		Resp: 103						Retake: 58%
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	0	1	2	6	28	38	23	5.7
Explains	0	1	2	5	30	35	25	5.7
Communicates	0	1	1	9	22	43	22	5.7
Teaching	1	0	3	9	20	44	22	5.7
Workload	1	3	5	42	25	14	8	4.6
Difficulty	1	5	8	52	14	8	9	4.4
Learn Exp	2	1	3	43	27	13	8	4.7

Gold was an enthusiastic instructor who was effective at presenting the material and answering questions. However, some students were disappointed that she gave them inaccurate information about the test format.

Students also felt that there were too many assignments worth too little. Overall, an interesting course.

LIN 203H1F   English Words

Instructor(s): M. Irimia

Enr: 208   Resp: 12   Retake: 44%

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	0	0	8	25	33	25	8	5.0
Explains	0	0	8	8	41	33	8	5.2
Communicates	0	0	8	33	33	25	0	4.8
Teaching	0	0	0	25	16	50	8	5.4
Workload	0	0	0	83	0	16	0	4.3
Difficulty	0	0	16	75	0	8	0	4.0
Learn Exp	0	0	0	37	50	12	0	4.8

Overall the students viewed this as an average course, however it became more interesting as it progressed.

The instructor was said to be friendly and helpful, however she could be more efficient while lecturing.

LIN 228H1F   Phonetics

Instructor(s): A. Kochetov

Enr: 105   Resp: 72   Retake: 70%

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	2	0	1	13	22	45	13	5.5
Explains	2	0	4	12	32	40	7	5.2
Communicates	2	4	4	11	28	32	15	5.2
Teaching	2	0	2	10	24	44	14	5.5
Workload	0	1	4	47	21	17	7	4.7
Difficulty	1	0	4	28	40	15	8	4.9
Learn Exp	0	0	3	33	22	28	11	5.1

Kochetov was described by many students as enthusiastic, friendly and approachable. The majority opinion was that he as a good lecturer.

Many students enjoyed the course overall, praising the high usefulness of the homework and tutorial as learning experiences. However, there were a few comments describing the homework grading as inconsistent or confusing in marking scheme,

LIN 229H1S   Sound Patterns in Language

Instructor(s): A. Morin

Enr: 80   Resp: 56   Retake: 22%

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	12	19	30	30	7	0	0	3.0
Explains	11	14	29	29	14	0	0	3.2
Communicates	3	8	12	12	23	23	16	4.8
Teaching	7	20	25	27	14	5	0	3.4
Workload	0	1	3	51	25	16	1	4.6
Difficulty	0	0	3	16	39	21	19	5.4
Learn Exp	10	14	21	36	12	4	0	3.4

While the instructor was praised for her clear interest in the material, the responses from the students in regards to her teaching style were generally quite negative. Morin's lectures were unstructured, lacking in content and ineffective. She merely went through problems that were already explained in the textbook. Students did not feel that they learned much from this course. Lectures and the text were full of examples but no explanations of concepts, which was what everyone wanted. She also could have talked louder.

However, students did think Morin was approachable, patient and kind.

LIN 241H1S   Introduction to Semantics

Instructor(s): M. Ippolito

Enr: 96   Resp: 53   Retake: 46%

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	1	7	5	11	24	37	11	5.1
Explains	3	7	15	7	13	39	13	4.9
Communicates	0	3	0	3	30	39	22	5.7
Teaching	0	3	7	24	13	39	11	5.1
Workload	1	0	9	66	15	7	0	4.2
Difficulty	0	0	3	32	37	18	7	4.9

Learn Exp	0	6	11	44	25	6	4	4.3

Students found the instructor to be an enthusiastic and knowledgeable lecturer. However, they found that she was not very clear when answering students' questions.

Students found the course material to be interesting, however, they complained that the homework assignments were given before the relevant material was presented, and too much weight was put on simple questions (e.g. True/False questions.) Students found the textbook irrelevant to presented material, and felt that they wasted money in buying it.

LIN 305H1S   Quantitative Methods in Linguistics

Instructor(s): D. Heller

Enr: 28   Resp: 19   Retake: 52%

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	0	0	5	21	31	31	10	5.2
Explains	0	5	10	26	26	26	5	4.7
Communicates	0	0	0	21	15	42	21	5.6
Teaching	0	0	11	16	16	38	16	5.3
Workload	0	0	0	68	10	21	0	4.5
Difficulty	0	0	5	31	36	15	10	4.9
Learn Exp	0	6	6	37	31	12	6	4.6

Students found the instructor to be enthusiastic and engaging, making a dry subject as entertaining as possible.

Students found the course difficult, and expressed a desire for assignments' due dates to be more clearly expressed in the syllabus.

LIN 306H1F   Language Diversity and Language Universals

Instructor(s): A. Johns

Enr: 21   Resp: 17   Retake: 60%

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	0	6	0	25	37	25	6	4.9
Explains	6	6	0	6	50	18	12	4.9
Communicates	0	0	5	5	35	29	23	5.6
Teaching	0	0	6	18	12	43	18	5.5
Workload	0	6	6	62	12	12	0	4.2
Difficulty	0	0	12	43	25	18	0	4.5
Learn Exp	0	7	0	38	46	0	7	4.5

Although she was disorganized at times, students described Johns as a very engaging, knowledgeable, and helpful instructor. Students like the structure of the course and thought the assignments enriched their learning experience.

LIN 322H1S   Phonological Theory

Instructor(s): K. Rice

Enr: 27   Resp: 22   Retake: 100%

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	0	0	0	0	13	50	36	6.2
Explains	0	0	0	0	4	45	50	6.5
Communicates	0	0	0	0	4	13	81	6.8
Teaching	0	0	0	0	0	31	68	6.7
Workload	0	0	4	28	38	28	0	4.9
Difficulty	0	0	0	28	42	23	4	5.0
Learn Exp	0	0	0	22	22	22	33	5.7

Students loved Rice! She was praised for being well-organized, patient, caring and extremely enthusiastic. Rice took her time explaining the material with good examples, ensuring that students understood.

Overall, she was "fantastic" and "one of the best" instructors at U of T.

LIN 323H1F   Acoustic Phonetics

Instructor(s): M. Chasin

Enr: 43   Resp: 31   Retake: 56%

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	0	0	6	6	30	33	23	5.6
Explains	0	0	10	6	27	27	27	5.6

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Communicates	0	0	0	6	10	20	63	6.4
Teaching	0	0	0	16	23	23	26	5.7
Workload	0	0	16	66	10	6	0	4.1
Difficulty	3	0	6	53	20	16	0	4.4
Learn Exp	0	0	12	28	24	36	0	4.8

Overall students really liked the instructor. He was said to be an enthusiastic lecturer with a good sense of humour.

The majority of students said that they really liked the material covered and especially liked the trip to the Canadian Hearing Society. The students didn't like the lack of textbook and unclear notes, which made assignments and tests difficult.

LIN 331H1F Syntactic Theory

Instructor(s): D. Massam

Enr: 27   Resp: 16   Retake: 87%

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	0	0	6	12	25	37	18	5.5
Explains	0	0	6	0	20	53	20	5.8
Communicates	0	0	0	6	0	50	43	6.3
Teaching	0	0	0	6	12	37	43	6.2
Workload	0	0	0	25	37	31	6	5.2
Difficulty	0	0	0	12	37	12	37	5.8
Learn Exp	0	0	0	15	46	38	0	5.2

Students overwhelmingly thought Massam was an excellent instructor. They credited her with making a difficult subject matter for some, interesting. She was also helpful and a fair marker.

LIN 333H1S Morphological Patterns in Language

Instructor(s): E. Gold

Enr: 27   Resp: 23   Retake: 77%

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	0	0	0	4	21	30	43	6.1
Explains	0	0	0	4	30	43	21	5.8
Communicates	0	0	0	4	21	26	47	6.2
Teaching	0	0	0	9	9	45	36	6.1
Workload	0	0	17	52	30	0	0	4.1
Difficulty	0	4	17	43	34	0	0	4.1
Learn Exp	0	0	5	42	36	10	5	4.7

Students found the instructor to be enthusiastic, engaging and interesting. They found the evaluations to be challenging, but fair.

Students enjoyed the course very much with Gold as the instructor. But they found the textbook to be too elementary for a 300 - level course.

LIN 341H1F Semantic Theory

Instructor(s): M. Ippolito

Enr: 12   Resp: 10   Retake: 90%

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	0	0	0	10	0	40	50	6.3
Explains	0	0	10	0	0	40	50	6.2
Communicates	0	0	0	0	10	40	50	6.4
Teaching	0	0	0	11	0	44	44	6.2
Workload	0	0	0	40	20	20	20	5.2
Difficulty	0	0	10	10	20	20	40	5.7
Learn Exp	0	0	0	10	10	50	30	6.0

Students thought Ippolito was a fantastic instructor who made the subject accessible and was always available to help.

The textbook was considered fairly dense and difficult but students said the lectures filled in the gaps.

LIN 362H1F Historical Linguistics

Instructor(s): A. Kochetov

Enr: 28   Resp: 23   Retake: 72%

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	0	0	0	0	26	26	27	5.9

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Explains	0	0	0	0	31	45	22	5.9
Communicates	0	0	0	8	21	47	21	5.8
Teaching	0	0	0	4	18	54	22	6.0
Workload	0	0	0	56	26	17	0	4.6
Difficulty	0	0	4	50	31	13	0	4.5
Learn Exp	0	0	0	38	33	19	9	5.0

Kochetov was described as passionate about his material and good at organizing his information in lectures.

Many students liked the format of the course and its content, although it was noted that the class project was worth a small amount of the total grading relative to how much work was needed. Nearly all students who commented felt that it was a worthwhile experience.

LIN 423H1S Phonetic Analysis

Instructor(s): A. Kochetov

Enr: 15   Resp: 15   Retake: 85%

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	0	0	0	13	13	46	26	5.9
Explains	0	0	0	13	26	40	20	5.7
Communicates	0	0	0	6	6	53	33	6.1
Teaching	0	0	0	7	14	35	42	6.1
Workload	0	0	0	66	26	6	0	4.4
Difficulty	0	0	0	53	33	6	6	4.7
Learn Exp	0	0	0	21	35	7	35	5.6

Kochetov communicated the material well and with enthusiasm, and was very helpful. However, the test was very difficult and there was not enough time to finish analyzing the data and students had trouble completing it on a computer. Students also thought that group projects were too difficult to organize and too numerous.

LIN 456H1F Language Variation and Change: Theory and Analysis

Instructor(s): S. Tagliamonte

Enr: 8   Resp: 7   Retake: 83%

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	0	0	0	14	14	57	14	5.7
Explains	0	0	0	0	40	20	40	6.0
Communicates	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	7.0
Teaching	0	0	0	0	14	57	28	6.1
Workload	0	0	0	20	40	20	20	5.9
Difficulty	0	0	0	20	20	60	0	5.4
Learn Exp	0	0	0	16	16	16	50	6.0

Tagliamonte was described as a very enthusiastic, helpful, knowledgeable and understanding of her students. Students appreciated the hands-on teaching style of the course; however some felt that the computer programs used were challenging to master.

LIN 458H1F Revitalizing Languages

Instructor(s): A. Johns

Enr: 18   Resp: 15   Retake: 58%

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	0	21	14	35	14	14	0	3.9
Explains	0	14	0	28	28	21	7	4.6
Communicates	0	0	14	14	21	28	21	5.3
Teaching	0	0	15	30	23	30	0	4.7
Workload	0	0	13	73	6	6	0	4.1
Difficulty	7	14	28	35	14	0	0	3.4
Learn Exp	0	0	37	25	12	0	25	4.5

Students described Johns as an easy-going and interesting, albeit disorganized, instructor.

Many students said that although it was not a fantastic learning experience, they did enjoy getting actively involved in the subject.

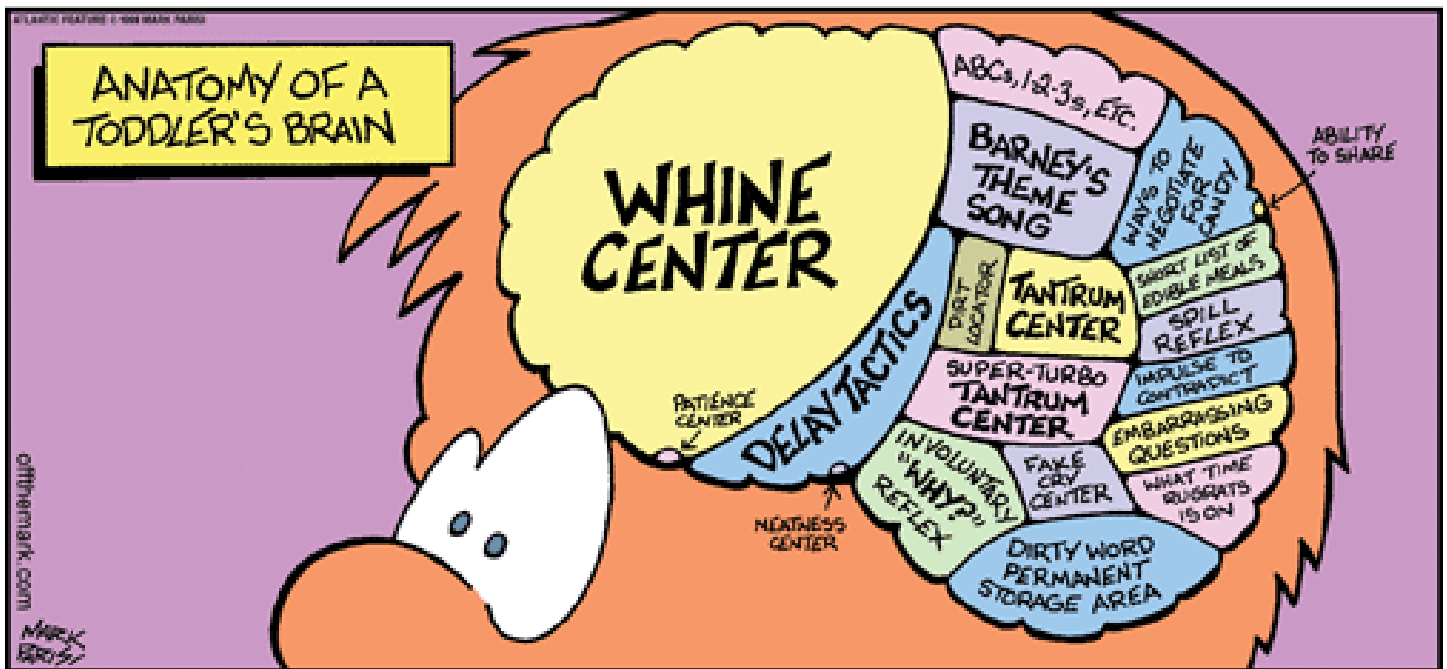### LIN 451H1S Urban Dialectology

Instructor(s): J. Chambers

Enr: 20   Resp: 18   Retake: 81%

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Mean
Presents	0	0	0	5	16	27	50	6.2
Explains	0	0	0	0	11	27	61	6.5
Communicates	0	0	0	0	0	22	77	6.8
Teaching	0	0	0	0	5	33	61	6.6
Workload	0	0	5	50	27	16	0	4.6
Difficulty	0	0	0	61	27	11	0	4.5
Learn Exp	0	0	0	12	25	31	31	5.8

Students felt they had an excellent learning experience with Chambers as their instructor. They found him enthusiastic, engaging and extremely knowledgeable and organized.

Students found the course work challenging and felt that the research paper was weighted too heavily for an undergraduate course. They found the instructor's "20 minute tests" to be stressful and unhelpful.