

Course Handbook



LASC08023 Linguistics and English Language 1B

January – May 2022

Course Organiser

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1. Welcome to LEL1B

Welcome to Linguistics and English Language 1B! This course picks up where Linguistics and English Language 1A left off, and both develops some of the material that you learnt there and also introduces some areas of the study of Linguistics and English Language that you won't have encountered before. (You should not take LEL1B, therefore, if you did not either take LEL1A or have a suitable background from study elsewhere.) You will learn more about the ways in which linguistic methodologies and theories allow us to understand language in general, and you will learn more about the structure and history of English. You will also learn about how we can make sense of the ways in which language varies in use, and you will learn what Sign Language is and how it compares to Spoken Language.

The course lasts for one semester and is worth 20 credits. All courses at the university have 'Intended Learning Outcomes', which explain what the course should enable you to do. These are written in the official course documentation (so you will find them also there). For this course, if you complete it successfully, we expect that you will be able to understand:

1. the principles for the systematic study of word and sentence meaning (examples may come from different languages but illustration is primarily through the medium of English)
2. aspects of how context affects meaning (examples may come from different languages but illustration is primarily through the medium of English)
3. the principles for the description of grammatical structure and the structure of words, phrases and sentences, and how they can be applied to describe English and other languages
4. the principles for the description of the sounds and sound systems used in languages around the world, and how they can be applied to describe English
5. how languages vary and change over time, and that you will be able to discuss in these terms the history of English, with insight into how English varies around the English-speaking world

There is other important information in the course **LEARN** site (see section 7 of this handbook), and the official documentation for the course can be found in its DRPS entry, available at: <http://www.drps.ed.ac.uk/21-22/dpt/cxlas08023.htm>

2. Contacts

You will have four main types of contacts for the course. You should feel free to ask us if you have any questions about the course, but do check the information in this handbook

and on the course LEARN site (see section 7 of this handbook) first, to see if the answer to your question can be found there. Also, do try to direct your question to the right person (but don't worry too much about this—we do want to hear from you, and we will redirect your question to the right person if we need to). The people you will meet running the course are:

- the Course Organiser, **Dan Lassiter** (dan.lassiter@ed.ac.uk), who is responsible for the overall organisation of the course from an academic perspective, and for moderating the marking on the course.
- the Course Secretary, **Susan Hermiston** (linfo@ed.ac.uk), who is responsible for administrative issues, such as receiving assessment (through LEARN), setting up tutor groups and room bookings.
- your **Tutor**, who will run the weekly tutorials that you will need to attend to discuss the material covered on the course, who will also mark your assignments and exams; you should make sure that you take down the contact details of your tutor at the first tutorial, but their contact details are also available on the course **LEARN** site (under 'Tutorial Information')
- you will also meet seven **Course Lecturers** (one of whom is also the Course Organiser), who are responsible for the content that you will cover on the course—they prepare and give the lectures, set reading and write the assessment for the course, and they are also involved in the moderation of the marking of the assignment and exam; there are seven blocks of teaching on the course, each taken by a Course Lecturer:

1. **Pragmatics**. This block introduces the study of meaning in language, focusing on the meaning of utterances in context.

Course Lecturers:

Catherine Lai (**CL**), c.lai@ed.ac.uk;

Hannah Rohde (**HR**), hannah.rohde@ed.ac.uk

2. **Semantics**. This block continues the study of meaning, focusing on word meanings and logical implications.

Course Lecturer: Dan Lassiter (**DL**), dan.lassiter@ed.ac.uk

3. **Syntax**. This block picks up from the Syntax and Morphology blocks on LEL1A and takes you further in your understanding of them.

Course Lecturer: Craig Sailor (**CS**), csailor@exseed.ed.ac.uk

4. **Phonology**. This block picks up from the study of Phonetics in LEL1A and moves on to show how linguists study the way in which sounds pattern in languages.

Course Lecturers: Patrick Honeybone (PH), patrick.honeybone@ed.ac.uk

5. **Sign Language and the Sociolinguistics of the Deaf Community**. This block introduces the study of Sign Languages, and relates it to the study of social variation in language.

Course Lecturer: Michael Ramsammy (MR), m.ramsammy@ed.ac.uk

6. **Historical Linguistics**. This block picks up from the study of language change in LEL1A and takes you further in your understanding of past stages of languages.

Course Lecturer: MR

You are encouraged to ask questions during lectures. Outside of lectures, your tutor is a good first point of contact if you have questions about the course material. You can also post your questions on the Piazza discussion forum (you can post your questions anonymously). Asking questions on Piazza is preferred over messaging lecturers or tutors directly via emails or Teams because the questions/answers will be public and available to everyone on Piazza. There is also an online catch-up session each week, where you can also ask questions about the course content (see Sect. 3.3 below). If you have questions not specifically about lecture content, you should speak to the Course Secretary, and if you don't know who to ask about a question, you can always try the Course Organiser.

If you have an **illness** or problem that prevents you from attending classes for more than three days you should inform your Personal Tutor as soon as you can. Alternatively, if you are a student registered in the school of PPLS, you may contact one of the school's Student Support Officers—you can find their details here:

<https://www.ed.ac.uk/ppls/linguistics-and-english-language/current/undergraduate/student-support/student-support-office>. If illness seriously affects your written work or class attendance, or makes you unable to attend the exam, then you must supply the course secretary with written medical evidence as soon as possible. You should also notify your Personal Tutor and submit a Special Circumstances application through them.

3. The weekly structure and course schedule

3.1 Overview and the course schedule

The course delivery will be partly online and partly in-person. Each week, there will be

- **Three online lectures;**
 - Monday 15:10 – 16:00
 - Tuesday 10:00 – 10:50

- Thursday 10:00 – 10:50
- **one tutorial (in-person, live)**
 - Wednesday, Thursday or Friday, depending on your tutorial group

In addition, you will have to complete

- **Reading assignments;**
- **One set of LEARN exercises** each week; and
- **One LEARN test** at the end of each block

All of these components are **obligatory**, and it is important that you attend/complete them **all**. If you cannot attend the online lectures, you have to watch the video recording.

Online lectures within a week are normally divided into three topics. Many of the lectures will build directly on material from previous lectures, as will tutorials. The tutorials will give you an opportunity to discuss material discussed in lectures and to ask any questions that you might have about it.

The basic lecture plan for the course is as follows:

| Week beginning | Lectures | LEARN Exercises [by Monday 2 weeks later] | LEARN Test [by Monday 2 weeks later] | Tutorial Wed/Thu/Fri |
|-----------------------|--|--|---|--|
| Week 1 (17/01/22) | Pragmatics 1 HR | Pragmatics 1 [by 31/01] | [no test] | [no tutorial] |
| Week 2 (24/01/22) | Pragmatics 2 CL/HR | Pragmatics 2 [by 07/02] | Pragmatics [by 07/02] | (tutorial 1) Pragmatics 1 |
| Week 3 (31/01/22) | Semantics 1 DL | Semantics 1 [by 14/02] | [no test] | (tutorial 2) Pragmatics 2 |
| Week 4 (07/02/22) | Semantics 2 DL | Semantics 2 [by 21/02] | Semantics [by 21/02] | (tutorial 3) Semantics 1 |
| Week 5 (14/02/22) | Syntax 1 CS | Syntax 1 [by 28/02] | [no test] | (tutorial 4) Semantics 2 |
| (21/02/22) | Flexible Learning Week [no classes] | | | |
| Week 6 (28/02/22) | Syntax 2 CS | Syntax 2 [by 14/03] | Syntax [by 14/03] | (tutorial 5) Syntax 1 |
| Week 7 (07/03/22) | Phonology 1 PH | Phonology 1 [by 21/03] | [no test] | (tutorial 6) Syntax 2 |
| Week 8 (14/03/22) | Phonology 2 PH | Phonology 2 [by 28/03] | Phonology [by 28/03] | (tutorial 7) Phonology 1 |
| Week 9 (21/03/22) | Sociolinguistics MR | Sociolinguistics [by 04/04] | [no test] | (tutorial 8) Phonology 2 |
| Week 10 (28/03/22) | Sign language and the deaf community MR | Sign language and the deaf community [by 11/04] | Sociolinguistics + sign language and the deaf community [by 11/04] | (tutorial 9) Sociolinguistics |
| Week 11 (04/04/22) | Historical Linguistics MR | Historical Linguistics [by 18/04] | Historical Linguistics [by 18/04] | (tutorial 10) Sociolinguistics + sign language and the deaf community |

3.2 Tutorials

Everyone taking the course will be allocated to a tutorial group at the start of semester. Tutorial groups meet on **Wednesday, Thursday or Friday** and last for 50 minutes. **You will be automatically allocated to a tutorial group that will fit with your timetable.** Should you need to change your allocated group, please request this via Timetabling (check with the Course Secretary if you don't know how to do this).

The lecturer listed against each tutorial in the lecture plan will be responsible for providing tutorial activities and course tutors will discuss them with you in your tutorial. Tutorial activities should be given out by the Monday of each week's tutorial and you will need to prepare them **before** the tutorial – you should **write out** answers to the activities and bring them with you to the tutorial. Tutorials are designed to reinforce what you have covered in the lectures, to give you practice in analysing linguistic data and to give you an idea of the kinds of questions you will be given in the assessment for the course.

Attendance at tutorials is **compulsory**. You must notify your tutor and the Course Secretary if you are unable to attend your tutorial **in advance of your tutorial session** if possible (ideally by email – see section 2 of this handbook for how to find your tutor's contact details). When emailing, please ensure that you put the name of the course you are on plus the tutorial session you were due to attend.

3.3 Online catch-up sessions

There will be an online catch-up session each week, run by one of the tutors for the course. In this session, you can ask questions about tutorial exercises. This is an opportunity for you to catch up with the course, especially if you are not comfortable asking questions during live lectures and in-person tutorials. If you have any question that you'd like to be answered during a catch-up session, you have to pre-register the question on Piazza. Attendance to online catch-up sessions is optional.

3.4 LEARN exercises and test

As part of your learning, you also have to complete **weekly Learn exercises and tests**. The LEARN exercises and test will **each count toward 10% of the final assessment** (see section 5 for more on assessment). The exercises and tests have different schedules, deadlines as well as policies with respect to multiple attempts. These are summarised below:

- **LEARN exercises**
 - Weekly
 - Can be taken multiple times
 - Deadline: 2 weeks after release

- 10% of the assessment (the highest score will be used for multiple attempts of a set)
- **LEARN tests**
 - Once per each block
 - Each test can be taken only once
 - Deadline: 2 weeks after release
 - 10% of the assessment

4. Readings

Some of the lecturers on the course blocks will give more detailed reading nearer the time that they teach on the course, but here is some background reading:

1. Pragmatics

- Austin, J. L. (1962). *How to do things with words*, Harvard University Press, Lecture II, pp. 12-24.
- Griffiths, P. & Cummins, C. (in prep) *An Introduction to English Semantics and Pragmatics* (3rd ed.). Edinburgh University Press. Chapter 8 "Pragmatics". [preprint PDF to be provided]

2. Semantics

- Kearns, Kate. 2011. *Semantics*, 2nd edition, Palgrave. Ch. 1
- Zimmermann, Ede and Wolfgang Sternefeld. 2013. *Introduction to Semantics*. de Gruyter. Ch. 2
- Harley, Heidi. 2003. *English Words*. Wiley. Sect. 7.5-7.10.
(Online access to all items available through DiscoverEd)

3. Syntax

- You may find it useful to read through the chapter on Syntax in O'Grady, Archibald, Aronoff & Rees-Miller (2017) *Contemporary Linguistics: An Introduction* (any edition of this book should be fine), but you will find that there is some terminology there that we will not be using, so bear this in mind to avoid confusion when reading.
- If you don't feel entirely confident about syntactic categories / word classes / 'parts of speech', a good way to get (back) up to speed is to look at the first section of UCL's *Internet Grammar of English* (the section headed 'Word Classes'). This online resource includes some interaction exercises and is available here:
<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/internet-grammar/intro/intro.htm>

4. Phonology

Essential background reading:

- Carr, Philip. 2013. *English Phonetics and Phonology: an Introduction*. Second edition. Malden & Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell.
 - chapters 5 and 7
- Hayes, Bruce. 2009. *Introductory phonology*. Malden & Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell.
 - chapter 14 – focus on the early sections (about up to the middle of section 14.3)
- Both of these books are available electronically and in hard copies through the library.

5. Sign Language Linguistics and sociolinguistics of the deaf community

Required readings:

- Meyerhoff, M. 2011/2015. *Introducing Sociolinguistics*. Routledge: London.
- Fenlon, J. & Wilkinson, E. 2015. Sign languages in the world. In A. C. Schembri & C. Lucas (eds) *Sociolinguistics and Deaf communities*. Cambridge: CUP.
- Quer, J. & Müller de Quadros, R. 2015. Language policy and planning in Deaf communities. In A. C. Schembri & C. Lucas (eds) *Sociolinguistics and Deaf communities*. Cambridge: CUP.

6. Historical Linguistics

Required reading:

- Campbell, Lyle (2013) *Historical Linguistics: an Introduction*. Third Edition. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press.
 - chapters 2 and 5

5. Assessment

There are three pieces of assessment for this course.

1. **LEARN exercises and tests (20%)**. As described above in sect. 3.4, the Learn exercises and tests will each count towards 10% of the assessment. You can take these anytime during the two-week window following release. (see the schedule above).
2. **Mid-term assignment on a topic from the first half of the course (40%)**
 - Topics to choose from: Pragmatics, Semantics, and Syntax.
 - distributed in week 5
 - Up to 1,500 words (no 10% leeway)
 - deadline: **Tuesday 1st March 2022 at noon**
 - submission is electronic only---you will need to log onto the course **Learn site** and submit your assignment through a link there (full instructions on how to do this are on Learn)
3. **Term-end assignment on a topic from the second half of the course (40%)**
 - Topics to choose from: Phonology, Sign Language + Sociolinguistics, Historical Linguistics
 - distributed in week 11
 - Up to 1,500 words (no 10% leeway)
 - deadline: **Thursday 28th April 2022 at noon**
 - submission is electronic only---you will need to log onto the course **LEARN site** and submit your assignment through a link there (full instructions on

how to do this are on Learn)

These pieces of assessment will be marked and moderated in the department and then further moderated by an external examiner. They will be marked in line with the university's common marking scheme, which is set out in the PPLS Undergraduate Student Handbook (available through the course Learn site). We will aim to provide results and feedback within **four working weeks** of the submission date for the mid-semester assignment. The assessment arrangements for visiting undergraduates are the same as for all other students. The department is always ready to co-operate with arrangements made to permit students with Schedules of Adjustment to sit examinations and to submit assessed coursework.

The final mark for LEL1B is calculated on the basis of the three items of assessment. To pass the course, a final **overall** mark of 40% or above is needed. Your final mark will be ratified by an exam board in June 2022 before being published on your MyEd account by Registry. If your final mark for the course is below 40%, you will be required to take a resit exam in the August resit period, covering material from the entire course.

If you have any questions about marked coursework or the written feedback provided, check with the Course Organiser.

6. Online platforms

6.1 LEARN

'LEARN' is the name of the university's virtual learning environment. It is accessible through MyEd, and all students registered on the course should have automatic access to the LEL1B LEARN site. Lecturers will place lecture recordings, lecture notes, tutorial exercises, and sometimes readings and other material on the course Learn site and it will be used to make course announcements. **All important course announcements will be made through LEARN. So please make sure to keep an eye on LEARN course announcements.**

You will complete the LEARN exercises and LEARN tests on LEARN. You will need to submit **the mid-semester and final assignment through LEARN**, and you can check arrangements for tutorials there, too. You should make sure that you check the LEL1B LEARN site regularly. There is a link to the lecture recordings that are made for LEL1B from the LEL1B LEARN site.

6.2 Microsoft Teams

All online live activities---including the tutorials and the QA session---will be held on Microsoft Teams. The link to the appropriate Teams virtual meeting room will be

available on LEARN.

6.3 Piazza discussion board

The Piazza discussion board will be used for the students to pre-register questions for the catch-up sessions. The questions can be posted anonymously. The link to the discussion board is available on LEARN.