INTRODUCTION TO LINGUISTICS

Semester No 3	Code HU-227	Credit Hours 3-0

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. To familiarize students with the basic goals and assumptions of Generative Grammar,
2. To train students in the rudiments of linguistic analysis and linguistic theorizing and argumentation, and
3. to familiarize students with the major linguistic structures of English and their relevance to linguistic theory

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES:

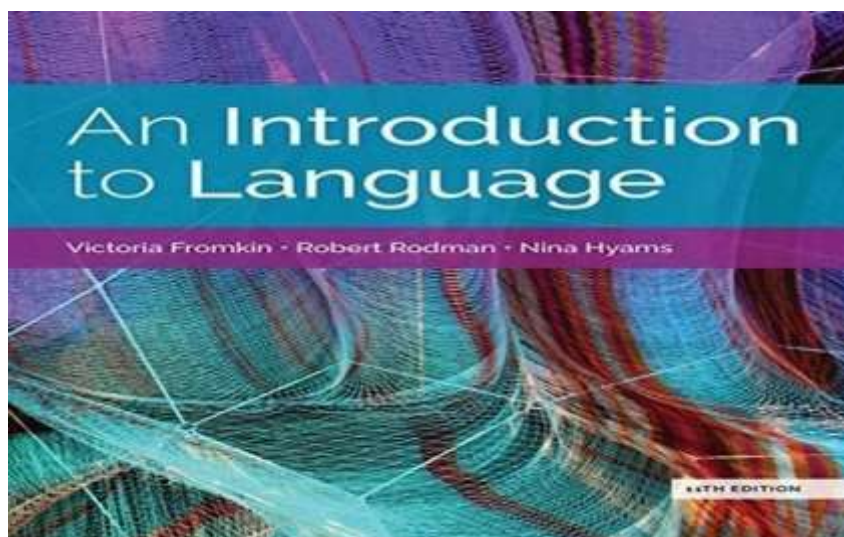Upon successful completion of the course, students should be able to

1. Reason about language; identify how incorrect or irrational assumptions and prejudices distort understanding of language
2. Demonstrate knowledge about language in the world including a sophisticated understanding of linguistic and cultural variation
3. Evaluate popular views on the nature of human languages and their speakers.
4. Gain technical mastery over the tools of linguistic analysis
5. Gain understanding of linguistic theory as it applies in these areas
6. Learn how to investigate linguistic data and analyze it
7. Develop strong problem-solving skills in linguistics

PREREQUISITE:

NIL

PRESCRIBED TEXTS:

Fromkin, V., Rodman, R., and Hyams, N. (2013). An introduction to language. Cengage Learning.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

To be human is to have language. But what is language? How did we learn to speak? What does it mean to say that we know our language? How are we able to learn languages different from our own? Is language static or in continuous flux? Why should we care if a language dies? What does it take to come up with a new language?

Does Alexa know English? In this course we discuss all these questions and more. Students will learn about sounds and sound patterns, words and word patterns, and meaning, as well as about language in the brain but also in machines, in society, and over time, thus getting a taste of most of the major areas of linguistic inquiry.

Weekly breakdown of course contents is as follows:

WEEK	TOPICS	QUIZZES	ASSIGNMENTS
1-2	**What is language?** Readings: [1, Ch. 1], [2, Ch. 1]		
3	**Morphology:** • The words of language • Readings: [2, Ch. 2]	01	01

	• Problem set		
4	**🔱 Syntax:** • The sentence patterns of language • Readings: [2, Ch. 3] • Problem set	01	01
5	**🔱 Semantics and pragmatics:** • The meaning of language • Readings: [2, Ch. 4] • Problem set		01
6	**🔱 Language acquisition** • Readings: [2, Ch. 9] • Language documentation		01
7-8	**🔱 Phonetics:** • The sounds of language • Readings: [2, Ch. 5] • Problem set		
9	**MID-TERM**		

		01	
10-12	⊕ **Phonology** • The sound patterns of language • Readings: [2, Ch. 6] • Problem set		
13	⊕ **Language variation** • Language change • Readings: [2, Chs. 7-8] • Problem set	01	01
14-16	⊕ **Computational linguistics** • Constructed languages • Readings: [2, Ch. 11]		
17	**Revision**		
	END SEMESTER EXAMINATION		