

## HISTORY OF LINGUISTICS

Semester II, 2022-23

Prof J E Joseph (Office 2.08 DSB, john.joseph@ed.ac.uk)

UG: LASC10096, Tuesday 10am-11:50, DSB 1.20; Friday 1:10-2, DSB 3.10/11

PG: LASC11129, Tuesday 10am-11:50, DSB 1.20 (PG students are welcome but not required to attend the Friday sessions)

### *Course description*

Accounts of language – its structure, origin, functions and use – have been produced since ancient times, across a broad range of cultures. This course surveys those traditions, along with the methodological issues that they raise. The aim is to understand the background of linguistics as currently practised, along with how it has come to be situated with respect to related fields.

### *Course aims*

- Understanding the background of modern linguistic research
- Deeper perspective on relevant epistemological issues
- Ability to situate theoretical approaches in their historical context
- Appreciation of current models of history of science
- Contrasting and reconciling a wide range of approaches to language
- Understanding current linguistic approaches via how they evolved
- Critical sense of how to deploy historical evidence and argument

### *Course philosophy*

We shall not cease from exploration  
And the end of all our exploring  
Will be to arrive where we started  
And know the place for the first time.

(T S Eliot, *Little Gidding*)

### *Assessment for UG course*

Class exam (50%): This will be a take-home exam of 2000 words maximum on a topic chosen from a set of topics which will be issued in Week 5. **DUE 12 noon Thurs. 2 Mar (TBC).**

Final examination (50%): This two-hour exam will cover the entire course, though emphasising the second half. It will include a short answer section and a longer essay section, with, for each section, students offered a selection of questions/topics from which to choose. Exam time and location are set by the University and will be announced during the semester.

### *Feedback*

Part of a session will be devoted to issues arising from the results of the class exam, highlighting particular strengths exhibited, along with misunderstandings or argumentative shortcomings, with an explanation of how to avoid them and attain the best possible results on the final exam.

### *Bibliography*

On the LEARN page for the course I have posted the text of my Oxford Bibliographies entry for the History of Linguistics for students' use.

**SYLLABUS** – Readings not available as ebook on Library website are posted on the course LEARN site. The Tuesday lectures assume that the readings will be completed BEFORE the lectures. So too for the Friday meetings, which will take the form of an interactive reading of short key texts.

### ***PART ONE: National traditions and trans-national exchanges I (to end of 19<sup>th</sup> century)***

**WEEK 1: Tue. 17 Jan.** Introduction and Origins

- No assigned readings.

**Fri. 20 Jan.** Excerpt from beginning of Plato, *Cratylus* [trans. on LEARN; original Greek text on <http://classics.mit.edu/Plato/cratylus.html>, pp. 6-35]; Grammar of Dionysios Thrax [trans.

on [The grammar of Dionysios Thrax - Wikisource, the free online library](#); original on [Dionysius Thrax-Ars grammatica \(poesialatina.it\)](#)

**WEEK 2: Tue. 24 Jan.** Ancient and mediaeval periods.

- Anneli Luhtala, 'Pedagogical Grammars before the 18<sup>th</sup> Century', in *Oxford Handbook of the History of Linguistics*, ed. Keith Allan (Oxford: OUP, 2013), pp. 341-358;
- James Turner, 'From Greek Antiquity to circa 1400', Chap. 1 of *Philology* (Princeton: Princeton UP, 2014), pp. 3-32.

**Fri. 27 Jan.** Franz Bopp (<https://archive.org/details/acomparativegra01eastgoog>), pp. v-xv (Preface); pp. 121-123, §110 & §111; p. 155-156, §143.

**WEEK 3: Tue. 31 Jan.** Renaissance to 19<sup>th</sup> century.

- John E. Joseph, 'The Heritage of Linguistics and Semiology', Chap. 3 of *Saussure* (Oxford: OUP, 2012);
- Vivien Law, 'The Renaissance: Discovery of the Outer World', Chap. 10 of *The History of Linguistics in Europe* (Cambridge: CUP, 2003), pp. 210-257;
- James Turner, 'From Philology to Linguistics, 1800-1850', Chap. 5 (125-146) of *Philology*.

**Fri. 3 Feb.** Saussure, *Course in General Linguistics*, pp. 65-78

(<https://archive.org/details/courseingenerall00saus>).

### **PART TWO: National traditions and trans-national exchanges II (20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> centuries)**

**WEEK 4: Tue. 7 Feb.** Structuralism.

- John E. Joseph, 'Structural Linguistics', in *Routledge Handbook of Linguistics*, ed. Keith Allan (London & New York: Routledge, 2016), pp. 431-446;
- Giorgio Graffi, 'Structuralist Approaches to Sentence Analysis', Chap. 6 of *200 Years of Syntax* (Amsterdam & Philadelphia: John Benjamins, 2001), pp. 227-261.

**Fri. 10 Feb.** Antoine Meillet, 'The Evolution of Grammatical Forms' (1912) [on LEARN].

**WEEK 5: Tue. 14 Feb.** World linguistics post-WWII.

- Giorgio Graffi, 'European Linguistics since Saussure', in *Oxford Handbook of the History of Linguistics*, ed. Keith Allan, pp. 469-484;
- John E. Joseph, Nigel Love & Talbot J. Taylor, 'Firth on Language and Context', Chap. 5 of *Landmarks in Linguistic Thought II: The Western Tradition in the Twentieth Century* (London & New York: Routledge, 2001), pp. 57-71 [on LEARN].

**Fri. 17 Feb.** Class examination (take-home exam) topics set out and discussed.

- Antoine Arnauld & Claude Lancelot, *The Port-Royal Grammar*, ed. & trans. Jacques Rieux & Bernard E. Rollin (The Hague & Paris: Mouton, 1975), Part 2, Chaps I & XIII, pp. 65-58, 122-128 [Under "Text" in the online version].

**(NO CLASSES 20-24 FEB. – Flexible Learning Week)**



### **PART THREE: Methodological issues and the sociology of the history of linguistics**

**WEEK 6: Tue. 27 Feb.** Corpse puppetry and proxy battlefields.

- Noam Chomsky, *Cartesian Linguistics* (New York: Harper & Row, 1966, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. 2009);
- Vivian Salmon, rev. of *Cartesian Linguistics*, *Journal of Linguistics* 5/1 (1969), 165-187.

**Thu. 2 Mar. 12 noon GMT Class examination due (submission box on LEARN)**

**Fri. 3 Mar.** John Searle, 'Chomsky's Revolution in Linguistics', *The New York Review of Books*, 29 June 1972 (<http://www.nybooks.com/articles/1972/06/29/a-special-supplement-chomskys-revolution-in-lingui/>); George Lakoff, 'Deep Language', *The New York Review of Books*, 8 Feb. 1973 (<http://www.nybooks.com/articles/1973/02/08/deep-language/>); Chomsky, 'Chomsky Replies', *The New York Review of Books*, 19 July 1973 (<http://www.nybooks.com/articles/1973/07/19/chomsky-replies/>).

**WEEK 7: Tue. 7 Mar.** The sociology of science.

- Randy Allan Harris, 'The Beauty of Deep Structure' and 'Generative Semantics 2: The Heresy', Chaps 2 & 4 of *The Linguistics Wars: Chomsky, Lakoff, and the Battle over Deep Structure* (2nd ed., Oxford: OUP, 2021), pp. 15-64, 107-144.

**Fri. 10 Mar.** Sarah Winter, 'Darwin's Saussure', *Representations* 107/1 (2009), 128-161. Class examination general feedback.

***PART FOUR: Disciplinary boundaries and overlaps***

**WEEK 8: Tue. 14 Mar.** Linguists and evolution.

- James Turner, 'Epilogue', *Philology* (381-386);
- John E. Joseph, 'Nineteenth Century', Chap. 7 of *Language, Mind and Body* (Cambridge: CUP, 2018);
- Stephen G. Alter, 'Darwin and Language', Ch. 21 of *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of Darwin and Evolutionary Thought*, ed. Michael Ruse (Cambridge: CUP, 2013), pp. 182-187.

**Fri. 17 Mar.** Émile Benveniste, First to Eight Lectures from *Last Lectures: Collège de France, 1968-1969*, ed. Irène Fenoglio & Jean-Claude Coquet, trans. John E. Joseph (Edinburgh: EUP, 2018), pp. 74-95.

**WEEK 9: Tue. 21 Mar.** Other fields and non-fields.

- Ana Deumert, 'Language, Culture and Society', in *Oxford Handbook of the History of Linguistics*, ed. Keith Allan, pp. 655-673;
- John E. Joseph, 'The (we have never been) Modern Age', Chap. 8 of *Language, Mind and Body* (Cambridge: CUP, 2018).

**Fri. 24 Mar.** Outline of final examination; conclusion of course, of course.