



Course Specification

(Bachelor)

Course Title: Introduction to Theoretical Linguistics

Course Code: ENG2341-3

Program: Bachelor of Arts in English + Bachelor of Arts in Translation

Department: Department of English and Department of Translation

College: College of Languages and Translation

Institution: King Khalid University

Version: 2

Last Revision Date: February 11, 2026

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A. General information about the course:

1. Course Identification

1. Credit hours: (3)

2. Course type

- A. ☐ University ☐ College ☒ Department ☒ Track ☐ Others
- B. ☒ Required ☐ Elective

3. Level/year at which this course is offered: (Semester 4 - Year 2)

4. Course General Description:

Introduction to Theoretical Linguistics (ENG2341-3) introduces students to the scientific study of language by examining its core structural components and theoretical foundations. The course provides systematic coverage of phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics, enabling students to understand how human language is structured, organized, and interpreted. Students analyze authentic linguistic data and develop foundational analytical skills required for advanced linguistics and applied linguistics courses.

5. Pre-requirements for this course (if any):

N/A

6. Co-requisites for this course (if any):

N/A

7. Course Main Objective(s):

Introduction to Theoretical Linguistics (ENG 2341-3) aims to:

- Provide students with foundational knowledge of linguistic theory and core subfields of linguistics.
- Develop the ability to identify and explain fundamental linguistic concepts and terminology.
- Enable students to analyze linguistic data using basic theoretical frameworks.
- Foster awareness of linguistic diversity and the systematic nature of human language.
- Prepare students for advanced linguistics courses within the program.

2. Teaching mode (mark all that apply)

No	Mode of Instruction	Contact Hours	Percentage
1	Traditional classroom	45	100%
2	E-learning	-	-
3	Hybrid • Traditional classroom • E-learning	-	-





No	Mode of Instruction	Contact Hours	Percentage
4	Distance learning	-	-

3. Contact Hours (based on the academic semester)

No	Activity	Contact Hours
1.	Lectures	45
2.	Laboratory/Studio	-
3.	Field	-
4.	Tutorial	-
5.	Others (specify)	-
Total		45

B. Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs), Teaching Strategies and Assessment Methods

Code	Course Learning Outcomes	Code of PLOs aligned with the program	Teaching Strategies	Assessment Methods
1.0	Knowledge and understanding			
1.1	Identify the defining properties of human language and distinguish them from animal communication systems.	K1, K4	Interactive lectures; guided discussion; visual diagrams	Quiz; Midterm Exam
1.2	Explain core concepts and terminology related to phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics.	K1	Concept-focused lectures; guided reading; terminology review	Quizzes; Midterm Exam
1.3	Describe basic theoretical principles governing linguistic structure and meaning.	K2	Model-based explanation; worked examples	Assignment; Final Exam
2.0	Skills			
2.1	Analyze linguistic data to identify sound, word, sentence, and meaning patterns.	S1	Guided data analysis; problem-solving exercises	Assignment; Midterm Exam
2.2	Apply descriptive grammatical principles to analyze	S1	Sentence parsing; collaborative analysis	Assignment; Midterm Exam





Code	Course Learning Outcomes	Code of PLOs aligned with the program	Teaching Strategies	Assessment Methods
	morphological and syntactic structures.			
2.3	Interpret phonological contrasts and semantic relationships using basic theoretical frameworks.	S1	Analysis tasks; guided discussion	Quiz; Final Exam
2.4	Use appropriate linguistic terminology to explain analyses of basic linguistic structures.	S3	Terminology practice; explanation tasks	Quiz; Final Exam
3.0	Values, autonomy, and responsibility			
3.1	Demonstrate respect for linguistic diversity and different theoretical perspectives.	V1	Guided discussion; reflective questioning	Observation
3.2	Engage responsibly and collaboratively in linguistic analysis tasks.	V2	Group work; collaborative problem-solving	Observation
3.3	Demonstrate independent learning through preparation and timely task completion.	V3	Independent practice; self-study activities	Observation

C. Course Content

No	List of Topics	Contact Hours
1.	ANIMALS AND HUMAN LANGUAGE COMMUNICATION; THE PROPERTIES OF LANGUAGE	4.5
2.	THE SOUNDS OF LANGUAGE (PHONETICS) VOICED AND VOICELESS SOUNDS; DESCRIPTION AND CLASSIFICATION OF CONSONANTS; VOWELS; DIPHTHONGS	6
3.	THE SOUND PATTERNS OF LANGUAGE (PHONOLOGY) PHONEMES; PHONES AND ALLOPHONES; MINIMAL PAIRS AND SETS; PHONOTACTICS; SYLLABLES: CONSONANT CLUSTERS; CO-ARTICULATION EFFECTS: ASSIMILATION, ELISION	9
4.	MORPHOLOGY	9





	MORPHEMES: FREE AND BOUND MORPHEMES; LEXICAL AND FUNCTIONAL MORPHEMES; DERIVATIONAL AND INFLECTIONAL MORPHEMES MORPHOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION; MORPHS AND ALLOMORPHS	
5.	GRAMMAR TRADITIONAL GRAMMAR: PARTS OF SPEECH; AGREEMENT; NATURAL GENDER VS. GRAMMATICAL GENDER PRESCRIPTIVE VS. DESCRIPTIVE APPROACH	4.5
6.	SYNTAX DEEP AND SURFACE STRUCTURE; STRUCTURAL AMBIGUITY; RECURSION; TREE DIAGRAMS; SYMBOLS USED IN SYNTACTIC ANALYSIS; PHRASE STRUCTURE RULES; LEXICAL RULES; MOVEMENT RULES	6
7.	SEMANTICS MEANING: CONCEPTUAL VS. ASSOCIATIVE MEANING; SEMANTIC FEATURES; LEXICAL RELATIONS: SYNONYMY; ANTONYMY; HYPONYMY; HOMOPHONES AND HOMONYMS; POLYSEMY; METONYMY	6
Total		45

D. Students Assessment Activities

No	Assessment Activities *	Assessment timing (in week no)	Percentage of Total Assessment Score
1.	Assignments (Linguistic data analysis & interpreting linguistic structure and meaning)	Between Weeks 2 and 12	20%
2.	Quizzes	5	10%
3.	Midterm Exam	7	30%
4.	Final Exam	16	40%

E. Learning Resources and Facilities

1. References and Learning Resources

Required Textbooks	George Yule (2020) The Study of Language, 7th edition, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
Essential References	Axkmajian, A. et al. (2017) Linguistics: An Introduction to Linguistics and Communication, 7th edition, The MIT Press.





	Fiona English, Tim Marr (2015) Why Do Linguistics? Reflective Linguistics and the Study of Language, London: Bloomsbury. Mark Aronoff and Janie Rees-Miller (eds.) (2017) The Handbook of Linguistics, 2nd edition, John Wiley & Sons, Ltd.
Electronic Materials	Online Dictionaries: 1. Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English Online - A useful resource for studying word forms, definitions, and usage examples, which can be particularly valuable for learning morphology. Visit Longman Dictionary 2. Oxford Learners Dictionaries This dictionary offers in-depth word analyses, including morphological structures, and is geared toward English learners.
Other Learning Materials	Free Course: Describing Language - Open University This course provides foundational knowledge in language description, which includes aspects of morphology. The course is suitable for undergraduates and is free of charge. Visit Open University Course

2. Required Facilities and equipment

Items	Resources
Facilities	- Standard classroom accommodating 25–30 students - Adequate lighting and ventilation - Comfortable seating arrangements suitable for group discussion - Whiteboard and notice board
Technology equipment	- Computer and stable internet connection for instructor use - Data projector and screen - Audio speakers for multimedia presentations (Optional) Smart board for interactive teaching
Other equipment	- Whiteboard markers and erasers - Portable microphone (if required) - Display or bulletin board for course announcements
Additional resources	- Access to the Saudi Digital Library (SDL) and online academic databases (Optional) Language laboratory facilities for multimedia learning (Optional) Charging stations or designated tech-use areas for student devices

F. Assessment of Course Quality

Assessment Areas/Issues	Assessor	Assessment Methods
Effectiveness of teaching	Assessed by students, faculty, program leaders, and peer reviewers using direct feedback and evaluations.	Assessed through student evaluations, peer reviews, classroom observations, and teaching feedback surveys.



Effectiveness of students' assessment	Evaluated by students, faculty, and program leaders through exam performance, project outcomes, and feedback.	Evaluated through analysis of exam results, project outcomes, grading consistency, and student feedback.
Quality of learning resources	Reviewed by faculty and program leaders based on student feedback and peer reviews.	Reviewed via surveys, resource usage analytics, student and faculty feedback, and comparison with academic standards.
The extent to which CLOs have been achieved	Measured by faculty, program leaders, and peer reviewers using assessments, exams, and student portfolios.	Measured through direct assessments like exams, projects, portfolios, and indirect methods like student self-assessment and surveys.

G. Specification Approval

COUNCIL /COMMITTEE	ENGLISH DEPARTMENT COUNCIL
REFERENCE NO.	47-15-2
DATE	FEBRUARY 25, 2026

