Day/Time: Tu 9:30AM - 12:30PM

Room: OAK 338

Professors:
Diane Lillo-Martin – Oak 352 – diane.lillo-martin@uconn.edu
Harry van der Hulst – Oak 362 – harry.van.der.hulst@uconn.edu

Office hours: By appointment

Course description:
The goal of this seminar is to review seminal proposals for the analysis of sign languages, with a specific focus on American Sign Language, but also taking into account comparative and typological work that considers other sign languages. We will examine all levels of grammatical structure (phonology, morphology, syntax and semantics). We will read and discuss articles and book chapters that provide introductory surveys, as well as works that specifically focus on how linguistic structures interface with each other and/or with extra-linguistics systems. Manners in which sign languages resemble, as well as differ from spoken languages will also be discussed. No prior knowledge of sign linguistics or ASL is required.

Expectations:
All participants should read the assigned papers and come to class ready for discussion. To facilitate discussion, we ask that participants post comments about the readings on HuskyCT by 24 hours prior to the start of each class. These comments will help to guide each class discussion. Those who are taking the course for a grade should conduct a course project. We will discuss the expectations for the project on the first day of class. Students will present a summary of their project on Tuesday, Dec. 5, and submit a written report of their project by Tuesday, Dec. 12.
Schedule:

Unit 1: Introduction, week 1
Unit 2: Phonology ~ conceptual structure/iconicity, weeks 2-5
Unit 3: Morpho-syntax ~ formal semantics/depiction, weeks 6-9
Unit 4: Iconicity, week 10
Unit 5: Syntax ~ prosody/discourse, weeks 11-13
Unit 6: Presentations, week 14

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<td>1</td>
<td>August</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>Lillo-Martin &amp; Gajewski (2014)</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>September</td>
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<td>Phonology – overview</td>
<td>van der Hulst &amp; van der Kooij (to appear)</td>
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<td>September</td>
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<td>Phonology and iconicity</td>
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<td>Phonology</td>
<td>van der Kooij &amp; Zwitserlood Channon &amp; van der Hulst</td>
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<td>Phonology</td>
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<td>Morphology – overview</td>
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<td>Morphology – ‘classifiers’ formal</td>
<td>Zwitserlood (2012)</td>
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<td>Davidson (2015)</td>
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<td>Morphology – ‘agreement’</td>
<td>Lillo-Martin &amp; Meier (2011)</td>
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<td>Fenlon et al. (in press)</td>
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<td>Meir et al. (2013)</td>
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<td>Fenlon &amp; Brentari (to appear)</td>
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<td>Syntax &amp; prosody</td>
<td>Cecchetto et al. (2009)</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>December</td>
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<td>Student Presentations</td>
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READINGS

Introduction:

Phonology:
Kooij, Els van der & Inge Zwitserlood: Word formation and simultaneous morphology in NGT.
Channon, Rachel & Hulst, Harry van der: Iconicity (presentation and possibly paper to read)

Optional background readings for phonology:

Morphology

Optional background readings for morphology:
Chapter 3: Inflectional Morphology
Chapter 5: Classifier Constructions
Iconicity

Syntax & Prosody
Lillo-Martin, Diane & Quadros, Ronice Müller de (2010). Interfaces and WH-Questions in Sign Languages. (presentation and possibly part of a paper)

Optional background readings for syntax:
Chapter 22: Topic and Focus
Chapter 23: WH-Questions