

## Associated Canadian Theological Schools LIN 560: Syntax & Semantics

Dr. Emma Pavey  
Fall 2008  
3 credit hours

E-mail: emma.pavey@twu.ca  
Phone: local 3961

**Prerequisites:** LING 360 or its equivalent (with a grade of C+ or above)

**Classroom:** CanIL Harvest Centre 209      **Class Hours:** TBA

<b>Staff</b>	<b>Email</b>	<b>Office</b>	<b>Local phone</b>
Dr Emma Pavey	emma.pavey@twu.ca	325	3961

**Emma's office hours:** TBA  
(or by appointment)

### ❖ **Course Description:**

This course introduces the rich variety of syntactic and semantic structures found in human language. Students will examine features such as grammatical categories, simple clauses and constituent order typology, grammatical relations, and multi-clause constructions. Discussion of these and other topics will be applied to the analysis of a text in a non-Indo-European language, for which each student will also write a short grammatical description (grammar sketch). The emphasis of the course is on understanding how language is used, and seeking to explain how language forms are themselves shaped by their use.

### ❖ **Course Objectives:**

By the end of the course, successful students will be able to:

1. Analyze the basic constituent orders of a language's grammatical constructions and determine possible alternative orderings with the goal of identifying motivations for these changes in form.
2. Establish which morphemic constructions and semantic roles are appropriate for the analysis of a specific language.
3. Organize a larger corpus of data for a thorough linguistic analysis.
4. Present arguments in a clear and logical format to support the identification of specific syntactic structures and processes, using appropriate criteria and data in their presentation.
5. Write a short grammatical description (grammar sketch) of the syntax of a non-Indo-European language.

### ❖ **Main text:**

TBA.

Other texts will be referred to or required for reading to supplement the main text. These will be made available through the library.

❖ **Assignments and grading:**

The graduate level grading scale and required assignments will be as follows:

Assignment		Final Grade	Percentage
Data analysis assignments (x4)	16%	A+	97.0 - 100
Language Data Project drafts (x3)	6%	A	93.0 – 96.9
Final Language Data Project	24%	A-	90.0 – 92.9
Reading report	10%	B+	87.0 – 89.9
Mid-term project	12%	B	83.0 – 86.9
Final Exam	24%	B-	80.0 – 82.9
Participation	8%	C+	77.0 – 79.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	C	73.0 – 76.9
		C-	70.0 – 72.9
		Failing	below 70.0

❖ **General Expectations:**

Reading: Students are responsible to complete all reading assignments. Not all areas covered by the reading will be discussed explicitly in class but may be referenced in assignments. Please feel free to come and see me with questions if parts of the reading not discussed in class are not clear.

Late assignments: Assignments will be collected at the beginning of class on the given dates. If you have a valid reason to ask for a deadline extension, you must see me *before* the actual deadline to make your request. Otherwise one grade will be subtracted from your total for each day late (A to A-, A- to B+, etc.).

Missed classes: Students missing class sessions are responsible for determining what content and/or assignment(s) they may have missed.

Participation: Each student’s participation grade will be based on their attention and involvement in class discussions and activities. The group assignment and presentation will incorporate an element of peer evaluation which will be included in the grade for that assignment.

❖ **Academic Dishonesty:**

The University policy outlined in the *Academic Calendar* will be followed in cases of academic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty includes such thing as cheating on tests or exams, or plagiarism. **It is the student's responsibility to know and understand what constitutes plagiarism.**

In cases of academic dishonesty, if the instructor is convinced that the incident was deliberate, a grade of zero will normally be given for that assignment. In the event of a second deliberate offence, a grade of F will normally be given for the course. Any penalties less severe than these will be at the discretion of the instructor. Following TWU academic policy, all incidents of academic dishonesty will be reported to the dean by the instructor via the *Record of Academic Dishonesty* form, copies of which will be sent to the student as well as to the appropriate university and CanIL authorities. This record will be kept confidential, and will remain on file indefinitely in the Academic Vice President's Office.

❖ **Campus Closure Policy:**

In the event of deteriorating weather conditions overnight or other emergency situations, every effort will be made to communicate information regarding the cancellation of classes to the radio stations CKNW (980 AM), CKWX (1130 AM), CKSR (104.9 FM), MAX (850 AM), PRAISE (106.5 FM) and KARI (550 AM) by 6:30 a.m., and an announcement will be placed on the University's switchboard (604-888-7511) and website (<http://www.twu.ca/conditions/>).

The first announcement regarding a closure will cover the period up to 1:00 p.m. only. If classes are to be cancelled beyond 1:00 p.m., this decision will be announced by the same means before 11:00 a.m. that day. Students and faculty should assume all night classes will continue to operate. If the emergency continues into the evening, students and faculty may check for a closure notice on the University's switchboard and website after 3:00 p.m. that day.

❖ **Special Accommodations:**

Please inform your instructor if you require special accommodations for this class.