

Linguistics and Asian/ Middle Eastern Languages 46TH ANNUAL COLLOQUIUM

FRIDAY | 21 APRIL 2023 | 2 - 6 PM | ROOM SH-101

EDI Benefits of Alternative Grading Systems in Undergraduate Linguistics Courses
Maura O'Leary, Ph.D., Swarthmore College

Looking at ChatGPT as a linguist: what do AI writing systems do, and how should we think about them?
Gabriel Doyle, Ph.D.

WeChat Emoji Ratings: How platform usage and familiarity influence the ratings of WeChat emojis
Brianna O'Boyle, MA Student, SDSU

Break on the Plaza

Understanding Netflix Korean Drama Fandom via Online Discourse: A Topic Modeling Analysis of Reddit Posts
Harmit Chima, SDSU Big Data Analytics

Dimensions of morphological complexity in the Tira verb
Nina Hagen Kaldhol, UCSD Linguistics

Refreshments

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College of Arts and Letters
**Linguistics and Asian/
Middle Eastern Languages**

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Included in the in-person colloquium is one Zoom talk that can be attended remotely.



Maura O'Leary, Ph.D.
Swarthmore College

Friday, April 21, 2023
2:00 - 3:00 pm
Room SH 101
Zoom RSVP

EDI BENEFITS OF ALTERNATIVE GRADING SYSTEMS IN UNDERGRADUATE LINGUISTICS COURSES

Our classes aren't the only things going on in our students' lives, and their other obligations are not always perfectly compatible with the structure, the schedule, and the hidden curriculum of higher education. However, the routine of students asking for exceptions and extensions can wear down both student and instructor. A system which removes this stressor would certainly be welcomed by many, but comes with many questions. How can you incentivize students to keep up with the material without enforcing deadlines? How can difficult assignments be made less stressful without sacrificing learning? Is there a way to let students get a second chance at a concept if they couldn't complete their first attempt, especially if their progress has been disrupted by things out of their control? This talk will discuss some emerging alternative grading systems which tackle some of these questions in the context of core Linguistics courses (e.g., semantics, syntax). We will focus primarily on two variations of Skills-Based Grading – a system which centers the course and the final grade around students mastering the “skills” taught in the course. Importantly, students are allowed to demonstrate mastery over those skills any time before the end of the course, and every assignment merely offers an opportunity to demonstrate one or more skills. There is no penalty for missing or underperforming on assignments due to external setbacks, such as illness, grief, global pandemics, or familial obligations, because, until the final exam, there is always another chance to try again. This leniency is particularly beneficial to students facing structural and institutional disadvantages, such as first generation students, transfer students, students with disabilities, and minority groups, who may be more likely to experience external stressors that lead to temporary setbacks.

Annual Colloquium

Our annual colloquium is a series of talks from students, faculty, and invited guest speakers. It provides an opportunity for students to present their original research and to learn about current work in the various subfields of linguistics.

This event is sponsored by the Department of Linguistics and Asian/Middle Eastern Languages and is supported by the College of Arts & Letters Instructionally Related Activities Fund.



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