

LIN 2011: Introduction to Linguistics

Course Information

Semester/Year:	Fall 2025
Meeting Times:	N/A (Asynchronous)
Location:	Online
General Education Designation:	Humanities (H) (area objectives available here)

Instructor Information

Instructor Name:	Dr. Jamie Garner
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Instructor Office Hours:	MWF, 1:55-2:45 via Zoom (https://ufl.zoom.us/j/3756806168)

Course Description

In this course, we will explore the following two questions:

“What is the nature of human language?”

“How can we as linguists understand the nature of human language?”

In doing so, the goal of the course is to provide a broad overview of the different fields of linguistics, including phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, pragmatics, sociolinguistics, and historical linguistics (which will include discussing texts from the Western canon). This will allow us to explore the myriad ways in which linguists analyze human language phenomena (H).

Course Objectives

By the end of the course, you will be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the core areas of linguistics (Content SLOs for Gen Ed H [available here](#)). **This outcome will be assessed through the homework assignments, quizzes, Midterm Exam, and Final Exam.**
- Analyze a range of language structures at different levels of complexity (Critical Thinking SLOs for Gen Ed H [available here](#)). **This outcome will be assessed through the homework assignments, quizzes, Midterm Exam, and Final Exam.**
- Use basic linguistic terminology to describe the features of human languages (Communication SLOs for Gen Ed H [available here](#)). **This outcome will be assessed through the homework assignments, quizzes, Midterm Exam, and Final Exam.**

Course Assignments

To accomplish the objectives of this course, we will complete the following tasks:

Homefun Tasks (8 x 3%; 24% total)

In order to give you practice in the linguistic analysis techniques we cover in each module, you will complete a small homefun task following each module. These tasks will require you to analyze real-world language use and discuss the results of your analysis with your classmates. **These tasks will be graded on effort according to a rubric.**

Quizzes (8 x 2%; 16% total)

In order to assess your ability to put the knowledge gained in each module into practice, you will take a quiz following each module. These quizzes will be based on information covered in the lectures.

Exams (60%)

There will be two exams: a midterm (25%) and a final exam (35%). They will both consist of problems similar in content and format to those on homefun tasks and quizzes. The midterm exam will cover the contents of Modules 1-4. The final exam will be cumulative and cover the contents of Modules 1-8.

Grading

Course Learning Tasks and Grading	
Assignment	% of Grade
Homefun Tasks	24%
Quizzes	16%
Midterm Exam	25%
Final Exam	35%
Total Grade	100%

Grading Scale			
100—93	A	76—73	C
92—90	A-	72—70	C-
89—87	B+	69—67	D+
86—83	B	66—63	D
82—80	B-	62—60	D-
79—77	C+	59—0	E

More information regarding current UF grading policies can be found here:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

A minimum grade of C is required for general education credit.

Course Textbook and Additional Readings

For this course, we will be primarily reading chapters from the following textbook:

Finegan, E. (2015). *Language: Its Structure and Use* (7th Edition). Stamford, Connecticut: Cengage Learning.

Any additional readings will be made available on Canvas.

Course Expectations (How to Succeed in this Course)

Complete the Readings

Each reading in this course introduces new concepts and terms that will be used heavily in lectures and discussions. Having a strong understanding of these concepts and terms will be crucial to your success on the quizzes, homefun discussions, and exams.

Watch the Lectures

Course lectures are designed to expand on the concepts introduced in the readings by explaining them and going into more depth with examples. Thus, it is vital for your success in the course that you watch all the lectures.

Activity Participate in Online Discussions

Group discussions are the place where you can apply the knowledge gained in the readings and lectures with classmates. They also offer you the opportunity to get feedback on your from your classmates. Some of your classmates may understand a concept better than you; sometimes you will understand a concept better than them. In either case, interacting with your classmates will help you gain a deeper and more complete understanding of the material. The value of discussions, though, depends on how much you put in. Simple reading your classmates' posts and saying, "I agree" will not be enough. The more you collaborate with your classmates, the more you will get out of this. Team work makes the dream work. You are expected to follow the Netiquette Guidelines in Canvas when interacting with your classmates on class discussion boards.

Check Canvas Regularly

Canvas will be the main platform for the course and our main way of communication. All class resources will be stored in Canvas. Assignments will be submitted to Canvas and feedback on assignments will also be submitted via Canvas. For these reasons, make sure you know how to upload assignments, view feedback on those uploads, and receive notifications and announcements. In addition, I regularly send out Announcements and reminders about upcoming assignments through Canvas, so make sure to check Canvas regularly and set up your Canvas notifications.

Submit Work on Time

Every assignment in this course has a deadline that you will need to meet. Late work will be accepted up to 2 days after the due date with a 25% penalty for each day it is late. Extensions without penalty are only allowed in circumstances covered by the UF policy regarding attendance and make-up assignments

(<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>) and after documentation is submitted. Any documentation must be submitted within two weeks after the assignment is due. Extensions are granted on all assignments according to this same policy.

Communicate with Me

I cannot stress this enough: if you need to communicate with me, do not hesitate to reach out. I am here to help you succeed and am willing to work with you to make that happen. E-mail me, send me a Canvas message or Google Voice message, visit my office hours, or set up an appointment time to get in touch. If I don't respond within 24 hours (except Saturdays), try again. You are expected to follow the Netiquette Guidelines on Canvas when interacting with me via e-mail or other forms of communication.

Be Honest

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The Conduct Code specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. [See the UF Conduct Code website for more information](#). If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

Provide Feedback

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online. Students can complete evaluations in three ways:

1. The email they receive from GatorEvals
2. Their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals
3. The central portal at <https://my-ufl.blueria.com>

Guidance on how to provide constructive feedback is available at <https://gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

Take Care of Yourself & Request Accommodation If Needed

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center. [Click here to get started with the Disability Resource Center](#). It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

Be Prepared for Technology Issues

Technology, for all its benefits, doesn't always work. So, it's important for you to have a Plan B. Save files on your computer as well as Google Drive or Dropbox. Be prepared to submit assignments earlier than the last minutes in order to avoid possible internet issues when submitting assignments. If you're having issues with UF technology (e.g. Canvas), contact the UF Computing Help Desk (<http://helpdesk.ufl.edu/>). Worst comes to worst, contact me and let me know your situation and we can work something out.

Academic and Campus Health and Wellness Resources

A full list of academic and health and wellness resources on campus can be found here:

<https://syllabus.ufl.edu/syllabus-policy/uf-syllabus-policy-links/>

Tentative Course Schedule

The course syllabus provides a general plan for the course; deviations may be necessary. If deviations are made, I will upload an updated schedule to Canvas.

Week	Module	Assignments
1	Introduction to Course	Welcome Quiz Welcome Post
2	Introduction to Linguistics	Homefun 1 Quiz 1
3	Phonetics	
4	Phonetics	Homefun 2 Quiz 2
5	Phonology	
6	Phonology	Homefun 3 Quiz 3
7	Morphology	
8	Morphology	Homefun 4 Quiz 4
9	Midterm Exam – 10/15	
10	Syntax	
11	Syntax	Homefun 5 Quiz 5
12	Semantics	Homefun 6 Quiz 6
13	Pragmatics	Homefun 7 Quiz 7
14	Language Variation	Homefun 8 Quiz 8
15	Thanksgiving Break (11/25-11/29)	
16	Review	
EW	Final Exam – 12/10	

