

Fall 2021

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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 field of linguistics and the ways in which linguists analyze human language phenomena.

Course Objectives

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

- Demonstrate an understanding of the core areas of linguistics
- Analyze a range of language structures at different levels of complexity
- Use basic linguistic terminology to describe the features of human languages

Course Learning Tasks

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.

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 Discussions	24% (8 x 3%)
Quizzes	16% (8 x 2%)
Midterm Exam	25%
Final Exam	35%

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>

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

Time management is one of the most essential skills you need to develop during college. This includes planning your work-life balance so that you can meet all your deadlines. Every assignment in this course has a deadline that you will need to meet. However, I understand that "life happens". Because of this, late work (excluding exams) will be accepted with a small penalty of 10% of the grade for each day it is late. Extensions (without penalty) are possible in the event of circumstances out of your control (e.g. sickness) that you can provide documentation for (e.g. doctor's note). If you miss an exam, you will need to contact me to set-up a make-up time and provide documentation. Missed exams without a documented excuse cannot be made up.

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

I expect you to do your own work and follow all rules concerning testing and assignment submission. As a student of the University of Florida, you are bound by The Honor Code (<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>). The Honor Code specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the me.

Provide Feedback

I always welcome professional and respectful feedback on all parts of my instruction and the course. I take this feedback seriously and use it to improve my teaching and how I set up my courses. You will have multiple attempts to give me anonymous feedback throughout the semester as well as at the end of the semester via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

Take Care of Yourself & Request Accommodation If Needed

College can be a challenging time. In addition to studying for multiple courses, students face a host of social, mental, and physical challenges. It is important that you take care of yourself, both physically and mentally, so that you can not only survive, but thrive.

If you have a disability that requires accommodations, you should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure 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.

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 (8/23-27)	Introduction to Course	Welcome Quiz Welcome Post
2 (8/30-9/3)	Introduction to Linguistics	Homefun 1 Quiz 1
3 (9/6-10)	Phonetics Labor Day (9/6)	
4 (9/13-17)	Phonetics	Homefun 2 Quiz 2
5 (9/20-24)	Phonology	
6 (9/27-10/1)	Phonology	Homefun 3 Quiz 3
7 (10/4-8)	Morphology Homecoming (10/8)	
8 (10/11-15)	Morphology	Homefun 4 Quiz 4
9 (10/18-22)	Midterm Exam (10/20)	Midterm Exam
10 (10/25-29)	Syntax	
11 (11/1-5)	Syntax	Homefun 5 Quiz 5
12 (11/8-12)	Semantics Veteran's Day (11/11)	Homefun 6 Quiz 6
13 (11/15-19)	Pragmatics	Homefun 7 Quiz 7
14 (11/22-26)	Language Variation	
15 (11/29-12/3)	Language Variation & Review	Homefun 8 Quiz 8
16 (12/6-8)	Final Exam (12/8)	Final Exam