

LIN 2004 Languages of the World

Fall 2025

100% Online Asynchronous

Textbook: Pereltsvaig, Asya. Languages of the World, 4th. ed.

Travel the world of language by exploring the languages of the world! We will survey the 7100+ human languages. Discover the difference between a language and dialect, know prominent similarities and differences among language families, and learn how culture, cognition, and politics affects how we speak and think.

After the course, students should (ideally):

- ... appreciate the diversity of human language
- ... identify the major language families
- ... understand basic linguistic terminology and concepts
- ... entertain family and friends with facts about languages

International Scholars Program: This course fulfills one of the curriculum requirements of the International Scholars Program. Learn more about obtaining a graduation medallion and diploma [here](#).

Minimum technology requirements: The University of Florida expects students entering an online program to acquire computer hardware and software appropriate to their degree program. Most computers are capable of meeting the general requirements: broadband connection to Internet and related equipment (Cable/DSL modem), Microsoft Office Suite (provided by the university), mic, webcam.

All content is posted or linked to the LIN 2004 Canvas site. We use two apps that can be accessed through Canvas: [Perusall](#) and [Piazza](#). All graded discussion-based and student video assignments are done in Perusall. You can purchase, read, and comment on the e-textbook through Perusall. Students should use Piazza, rather than email, to post questions and get to know each other. It is highly recommended to set daily digest emails from Canvas, Perusall, and Piazza.

Grade breakdown

Participation	15%
Quizzes	15%
Language Reports	40%
Final Project	15%
Final Exam	15%



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Office hours: M 9:30-11:30am
[Book office hours](#)

The fine print

This course complies with all UF academic policies. For information on those policies and for student resources, please see this link: <https://syllabus.ufl.edu/syllabus-policy/uf-syllabus-policy-links/>. This includes attendance and make-up, disability resources, grading, GatorEvals, in-class recording, and wellness resources.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY. On all work submitted for credit 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 Honor Code (<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies behaviors that are in violation of this code. Furthermore, students are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult me.

CLASSROOM CONDUCT. Students and faculty both have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. This applies to online environments as well as onsite. Those who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. I pledge to treat each of you with dignity, respect, and professional courtesy. I expect you to do the same for me and for each other.

RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES A student should inform me if the religious observances of their faith will conflict with class attendance, tests or examinations, or other class activities, prior to the class or occurrence of that test or activity. I am obligated (and happy) to accommodate that particular student’s religious observances.

CRITICAL THINKING ENVIRONMENT. Students are encouraged to employ critical thinking and to rely on data and verifiable sources to interrogate all assigned readings and subject matter in this course as a way of determining whether they agree with their classmates and/or their instructor. No lesson is intended to espouse, promote, advance, inculcate, or compel a particular feeling, perception, viewpoint or belief. Students are encouraged to share their viewpoints, data, and sources in class and to speak with me or classmates, in class or privately, about any perceived violation of this policy.

GRADING SCHEME. This course follows the default UF grading policy:
<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

		B+ 87-89%	C+ 77-79%	D+ 67-69%	
A 94-100%	B 83-86%	C 73-76%	D 63-66%	F 0-59%	
A- 90-93%	B- 80-82%	C- 70-72%	D- 60-62%		

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Fall 2025 Schedule

Subject to change

WEEK	TOPICS	DUE
1: 8/21	What is linguistics? How many languages?	
2: 8/25	Languages Families European Languages Language Universals	Quiz 1, Lang. Report 1
3: 9/2	Central and South Asia	Lang. Report 2
4: 9/8	Northern Eurasia Word Building (morphology)	Quiz 2, Lang. Report 3
5: 9/15	Caucasus Mountains Ergativity	Quiz 3, Lang. Report 4
6: 9/22	Sub-Saharan Africa Tone	Quiz 4, Lang. Report 5
7: 9/29	Noun Classes Middle East	Quiz 5, Lang. Report 6
8: 10/6	East Asia	Quiz 6, Lang. Report 7
9: 10/13	Language Nationalism Discovering New Languages	Quiz 7, Lang. Report 8
10: 10/20	The Pacific Sound Systems (phonology)	Quiz 8, Lang. Report 9
11: 10/27	Meso- & South America Language, Culture, & Cognition	Quiz 9, Lang. Report 10
12: 11/3	North America What is a word?	Quiz 10, Lang. Report 11
13: 11/10	Constructed Languages Writing and Writing Systems	Lang. Report 12
14: 11/17	Pidgins & Creoles Sign Languages	Quiz 11, Lang. Report 13
15: 12/1	Review	Quiz 12
16: 12/8	FINALS	Test, Final project