

LIN 2004 Languages of the World

Fall 2022

100% Online Asynchronous

Textbook: Pereltsvaig, Asya. Languages of the World, 3rd. ed.

Course description

Join us through a journey around the world of language and the languages of the world! Humans speak more than 7000 languages and each one is unique. This course explores the diversity of human languages and of language as a phenomenon. We discover language families and language areas, seeing the effects of language contact, culture, and politics on language and ourselves. Along the way, we learn fascinating facts and gain a better understanding about what makes human language work.

After the course, students should (ideally):

- ... appreciate the diversity of human language
- ... identify most language families, language areas, and linguistic features that characterize them
- ... understand basic linguistic terminology and concepts
- ... know more fascinating facts about languages than their (non-linguist) friends, families, or acquaintances

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.

Grade breakdown

Online Participation	7%
Homework 1	7%
Homework 2	10%
Quizzes	13%
Midterm	15%
Final	15%
Language reports	33%
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Total	100%



Instructor: Sarah Moeller
Email: smoeller@ufl.org

Office hours:
Tues 11:45-12:35pm by Zoom
Thurs 10:40-11:30 in Turlington 4017

Course Structure

Be aware of due dates! This course is semi-self-paced. You can work ahead but no late submissions are accepted. Changes will be made on the Canvas assignments or Wikipedia Dashboard. Significant changes are posted as a Canvas announcement, but ultimately, you are responsible to keep track of any changes to the schedule or assignments.

Most course content is presented in “**participation quizzes**” which guide you through required readings, lecture videos, and learning exercises. Unlike regular quizzes and exams, participation quizzes can be re-taken unlimited times. The participation grade is determined by the highest score submitted *before the submission deadline*.

Expect to spend 6-9 hours a week on this course. The participation quizzes are divided into three weekly modules. If you are regularly spending more than 2.5 hours to complete one module, come talk to me. Each module contains the workload roughly equivalent to reading for and attending one lecture if we were in-person, accounting for time spent taking quizzes and tests. Budget an additional 1-1.5 hours a week for homeworks and language reports.

Weekly Language Reports

In addition to the languages described in videos and readings, you will explore in detail 11 languages of your choosing. Each week you will choose a language, do independent research on required information, and write a brief report about it.

Homeworks

The first homework asks you to expand a language report of your choosing and present it. The assignments, deadlines, and submissions must be done in the Wikipedia Dashboard only. You are responsible for tracking your own progress there. You should enroll in the Dashboard by the second week. The second homework asks you to apply the concepts you learned during the course by inventing a new language. Its description, deadline, and submissions are on Canvas.

Communication

Always check the Canvas Discussion Forums before emailing me. If you email me a non-private question, I may post it in a Forum and answer it there instead of emailing. Another student probably has the same question and this makes sure the answer is the same for everyone. I usually respond within 2 business days. Feel free to stop by my office or the Zoom link on Canvas during my office hours.

The fine print

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY. 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 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, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with me.

CLASSROOM CONDUCT. Students and faculty 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.

ACCOMMODATION POLICIES. If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit your accommodation letter from the Disability Resource Center (<https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/>) to me in a timely manner so that your needs can be addressed. .

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 to accommodate that particular student’s religious observances.

COURSE EVALUATIONS. Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens.

RECORDING LECTURE CONTENT. Students are allowed to record class lectures. However, the only allowable purposes of these recordings are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. A recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil action and/or discipline the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

GRADING SCHEME.

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

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Fall 2022 Schedule
Subject to change

WEEK	TOPICS	ASSIGNMENTS
1	How many Languages?	
2	Languages Change Europe Language Universals	Quiz 1, Lang. Report 1
3	Central and South Asia Language Nationalism	Quiz 2, Lang. Report 2
4	Northern Eurasia Vowel Harmony Word Building	Quiz 3, Lang. Report 3
5	Caucasus Mountains Ergativity	Quiz 4, Lang. Report 4
6	Sub-Saharan Africa Tone	Quiz 5, Lang. Report 5
7	Middle East Noun Classes	Quiz 6, Lang. Report 6
8	Language Puzzles MIDTERM	Quiz 7, Wikipedia Peer Reviews (HW1)
9	East Asia	Lang. Report 7
10	Languages of the Pacific Sound Systems	Quiz 8, Lang. Report 8
11	Meso- & South America Thinking with Language	HW1 "Wikipedia Article", Quiz 9, Lang. Report 9
12	North America What is a word?	Quiz 10, Lang. Report 10
13	Pidgins & Creoles Sign Languages	Quiz 11, Lang. Report 11
14	Linguistic Fieldwork	Quiz 12
15	Constructed Languages Writing and Writing Systems Evidentiality	
16	Review	Quiz 13, HW2 "Invent-a-Language"
17	FINAL	