

LIN 2004 Languages of the World

Fall 2021

100% Online Asynchronous

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

Course description

There are more than 7000 languages spoken in the world, each with unique features and history. This introductory course explores the diversity of human language. We will travel the world through language families and learn how linguists determine their family trees. We will explore the effects of language contact and language death.

After the course, students should (ideally):

- ... use and understand basic linguistic terminology
- ... appreciate the diversity of human language
- ... identify language families, areas, and relations
- ... have improved data analysis and critical thinking skills
- ... know more fascinating facts about linguistics and languages than any of 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 how you can obtain 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 his or her degree program. Most computers are capable of meeting the following general requirements: Broadband connection to Internet and related equipment (Cable/DSL modem), Microsoft Office Suite installed (provided by the university), Microphone (for Zoom office hours), Webcam (optionally, for Zoom office hours)

Grade breakdown

Weekly language report	8%
Online Participation	10%
Quizzes	12%
Midterm	15%
Final	15%
Homeworks	40%
Total	100%



Instructor: Sarah Moeller

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Office: Turlington 4017 or
by Zoom

Office hours: Tues 1-2pm
& Thurs 10:30-11:30am

Office Hours

This course is a remote, online, and asynchronous class. The only structured opportunity you have to interact with me face-to-face is during office hours. If you ever want to discuss topics that you're having trouble with, random linguistic-y things you're interested in, or really anything else, this the time to do it! You can come to my office or join on Zoom (link to Zoom room is on course site). You can find resources and help using Zoom here. Outside of office hours, the best way to contact me is by email. I do my best to respond within 2 business days.

I will try to send announcements about any changes to schedule or assignments by email. They will always be put in written form on the course Canvas site. Ultimately, you are responsible to keep track of any announced changes.

Course Structure and Online Participation

The course is organized into 2-3 online modules for each week. The modules guide you through readings, videos, quizzes, and homework assignments. Each module has several comprehensive questions or mini-exercises. Unlike quizzes and exams, you can revise and re-submit your responses to these questions and exercises as many times as you like as long the module is open for submissions. *Your online participation grade is calculated from your final submission.*

You will have at least 48 hours to complete each module. Modules usually become available on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 12:00AM and submissions close on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday at 11:59PM, respectively. No late submissions are accepted!

If you read and write at a moderate pace, pay good attention, and spend time each week on your own review sessions, then you can plan to spend about 2.5 hours on a module. If you regularly need significantly more than 3 hours to complete each module, come/zoom in and talk to me.

Textbook

The primary readings for this class come from the 3rd edition of Asya Pereltsvaig's *Languages of the World*. Reading assignments assume you have the 3rd edition, which has been greatly improved over previous versions. So if you buy a previous edition, you should have all the information you need to pass the class but you will probably find the reading assignments less engaging or understandable.

Weekly Language Reports

Each week you will choose a language to learn about in more detail so that by the end of the class you will have discovered basic facts about the 16 languages you chose, plus at least 4 other languages that were chosen by other students. Your knowledge will be tested on the exams. Detailed instructions for this assignment are provided on the course site.

Homeworks

The homeworks assignments usually focus on material covered in the previous two weeks. You have 1 week to complete each homework assignment. If you turn in late homework, you will be deducted one letter grade (10%) for each 24-hour period after the deadline. Deadlines are strict!

Quizzes and Exams

There is an online quiz almost every week to test your mastery of the week's materials and prepare you for the exams.

There are two exams. Both are open book and online but they are timed so as to make it difficult to use class materials during the exam. The midterm covers material from the first half of the semester. The final exam focuses on material from the second half of the semester, but assumes mastery of concepts covered in the first half.



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.

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