

## LIN 2004 Languages of the World

Fall 2023

Matherly 16 MWF

01:55-2:45 PM

Course website: [elearning.ufl.edu](http://elearning.ufl.edu)

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

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](#).

### Grade breakdown

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Participation	10%
Homework 1	7%
Homework 2	10%
Quizzes	10%
Midterm	15%
Final	15%
Language reports	33%
Extra credit	2%

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Total	102%
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Office hours: Wed 3:00-3:50 PM  
email for additional availability:  
either in office or on Zoom

### *Course Structure*

**Be aware of due dates!** Changes will be made on the Canvas assignments. Significant changes are posted as a Canvas announcement, but ultimately, you are responsible to keep track of any changes to the schedule or assignments.

### *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.

### *Weekly Language Reports*

In addition to the languages described in the readings and lectures, 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 second homework asks you to apply the concepts you learned during the course by inventing a new language. Its description, deadline, and submissions will be available on Canvas.

### *Extra Credit*

Students who wish to increase their total grade points up to 2% may do so by completing one of the two following optional assignments:

*Participation in Psycholinguistic Experiments* Enroll as a participant and complete two hours of psycholinguistic experiments. Experiments that you have previously participated in, experiments that count towards credit for other classes, or experiments you were paid to participate in *cannot* count toward this assignment. The deadline for this assignment is [November]. A list of experiments and instructions on how to sign up will be provided in a few weeks. If you choose not to be an experimental participant, or if you are ineligible to participate in the provided studies, equivalent credit can be earned by completing the alternate assignment below.

### *Written Reflection on an example of Pop-Linguistic Communication*

Students may select a news article, or podcast episode or similar media and write a 1-2 page review which critiques the media's presentation of linguistic concepts as communicated. Suggested

### *The fine print*

**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.

**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 (and happy) to accommodate that particular student’s religious observances.

**COURSE EVALUATIONS.** Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback by completing course evaluations. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens.

**INCLUSIVE 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.

**RECORDING LECTURE CONTENT.** Students are allowed to record class lectures. However, the only allowable purposes of these recordings are (1) 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, share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to recorded lectures or their transcripts without the written consent of the instructor, regardless of format or medium. Access includes but is 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 under the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

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

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%		