LIN 2004 Languages of the World

Fall 2024

100% Online Asynchronous
Required Textbook: Pereltsvaig, Asya. Languages of the World, 4th. ed.

Travel around the world of language and explore all the languages humans speak! This course surveys the 7000+ world languages. We discover the difference between language and dialects, what makes languages similar or difference, and learn how culture and politics affects how we communicate and what we call ourselves. We will gain a better understanding how human language helps understand human brains.

After the course, students should (ideally):
- . . . appreciate the diversity of human language
- . . . identify major language families and their characteristics
- . . . understand basic linguistic terminology and concepts
- . . . know more fascinating facts about language than their friends or family

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.

Instructor: Sarah Moeller
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Office: TUR 4017
Office hours: MW 10:30-11:30am
Book Zoom office hours:
https://shorturl.at/28Nfq

Grade breakdown

Online Participation	15%
Quizzes	20%
Language Reports	40%
Final Project	10%
Final Exam	15%
Total	100%

Course Structure

Most course content is presented as modules that appear as quizzes on Canvas. These count towards online participation grade. The mod-

ules guide you through required readings, videos, and learning exercises. The learning exercises also count towards the participation grade. Each week has 2-4 weekly modules (or "participation quizzes"), plus one regular quiz. Unlike regular quizzes and exam, a module can be re-submitted unlimited times. Your participation grade is determined by the highest score submitted *before* the deadline.

You should **budget 6-9 hours a week** on average for this course. If you find yourself regularly spending more than 2.5 hours to complete one module, book time a Zoom time or come to my office during office hours. This course is semi self-paced. There are weekly submission deadlines. You can work ahead but **late submissions acquire a 10% grade deduction per each 24-hour period after the Canvas due date**. The first deduction is made 1 second after the deadline!

Any changes to the schedule will be posted as a Canvas announcements. You are responsible to keep track of these announcements.

Textbook

The primary readings are from the 4th edition of Asya Pereltsvaig's *Languages of the World*. Some graded assignments assume you have the 4th edition, not an earlier edition.

Weekly Language Reports and Final Project

Each week you will choose a language to research and prepare a report on. For the final project you may choose to submit a longer report on another language or you construct your own language (humanly plausible!) and describe it in detail for your report. In both cases, you must integrate and show understanding of the concepts learned over the semester. Assignment instructions are on Canvas.

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Quizzes and Exams

Regular quizzes test mastery of the previous week's content and prepares you for the final exam. The final exam is comprehensive. Both are open book but timed to make it difficult to use anything but **concise notes** which I encourage you to prepare each week.

Communication

Another student probably has the same question you do! So **check the discussion forms first!** I post your emails in the discussion forums and answer them there, unless they are private. I usually respond within 2 business days. I do not respond to questions if the answer is in the syllabus. I only discuss grades and grading face-to-face. Feel free to stop by or book a Zoom slot during my office hours.

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/

		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 2024 Schedule
Subject to change

WEEK	TOPICS	DUE
1: 8/22-24	How Many Languages?	
2: 8/26-31	Languages Change European Languages Language Universals	Quiz 1, Lang. Report 1
3: 9/3-7	Central and South Asia Language Nationalism	Lang. Report 2
4: 9/9-14	Northern Eurasia Vowel Harmony Word Building (morphology)	Quiz 2, Lang. Report 3
5: 9/16-21	Caucasus Mountains Ergativity	Quiz 3, Lang. Report 4
6: 9/23-28	Sub-Saharan Africa Tone	Quiz 4, Lang. Report 5
7: 9/30-10/5	Middle East Noun Classes	Quiz 5, Lang. Report 6
8: 10/7-12	Eastern Asia The Pacific	Quiz 6, Lang. Report 7
9: 10/14-17	Sound Systems (phonology)	Quiz 7, Lang. Report 8
10: 10/21-26	Australia New Guinea Discovering New Languages	Quiz 8, Lang. Report 9
11: 10/28-11/2	Meso-America South America Thinking with Language	Quiz 9, Lang. Report 10
12: 11/4-9	North America Words vs. Sentences	Quiz 10, Lang. Report 11
13: 11/12-16	Pidgins & Creoles Sign Languages	Lang. Report 12
14: 11/18-23 (11/30)	Constructed Languages Writing and Writing Systems Language Puzzles	Quiz 11
15: 12/2-4	Review	Quiz 12, Final project
16: 12/7,9-13	Final exam	