

LIN 2011: Introduction to Linguistics

Course Information

Semester/Year:	Fall 2025
Meeting Times:	T, Period 5-6 (11:45-1:40) R, Period 5 (11:45-12:35) (Class #25671) R, Period 6 (12:50-1:40) (Class #26933)
Location:	Tuesdays: Keene-Flint Hall 050 Thursdays: Little Hall 0217 (Class #25671), Turlington Hall 2349 (Class #26933)
General Education Designation:	Humanities (H) (area objectives available here)

Instructor Information

Instructor Name:	Jamie Garner, PhD (she/her)
Instructor E-mail:	jr.garner@ufl.edu
Instructor Phone Number:	(352) 294-7460
Instructor Office:	Turlington 4121
Instructor Office Hours:	T, 9:35-10:25; R, 9:35-11:30, and by appointment

Teaching Assistant Information

Name:	Allen Shamsi
E-mail:	allenshamsiev@ufl.edu
Office:	Turlington 4122
Office Hours:	R, Period 7–8 (1:55 PM–3:50 PM), and by appointment.

Course Description

In this course, we will explore the following two questions:

“What is the nature of human language?”

“How can we as linguists understand the nature of human language?”

In doing so, the goal of the course is to provide a broad overview of the different fields of linguistics, including phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, pragmatics, sociolinguistics, and historical linguistics (which will include discussing texts from the Western canon). This will allow us to explore the myriad ways in which linguists analyze human language phenomena (H).

Course Objectives

By the end of the course, you will be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the core areas of linguistics (Content SLOs for Gen Ed H [available here](#)). **This outcome will be assessed through the homework assignments, quizzes, Midterm Exam, and Final Exam.**
- Analyze a range of language structures at different levels of complexity (Critical Thinking SLOs for Gen Ed H [available here](#)). **This outcome will be assessed through the homework assignments, quizzes, Midterm Exam, and Final Exam.**
- Use basic linguistic terminology to describe the features of human languages (Communication SLOs for Gen Ed H [available here](#)). **This outcome will be assessed through the homework assignments, quizzes, Midterm Exam, and Final Exam.**

Course Assignments

To accomplish the objectives of this course, we will complete the following tasks:

Homefun Practice (8 x 2%; 16% of Final Grade)

In order to give you practice with the concepts and analysis techniques covered in the course, you will complete a homefun practice worksheet following each module and then upload it to Canvas. These practice worksheets will be graded as **complete/incomplete**. You will be allowed to miss one worksheet without penalty. If you complete all nine worksheets, you will receive 2 bonus points towards your final grade.

Quizzes (8 x 3%; 24% of Final Grade)

In order to assess your ability to put the knowledge gained in the course into practice, you will take a quiz following each module. These quizzes will be based on information covered in the lectures and be similar in form to worksheets completed in class and the homefun worksheets. Your lowest quiz grade will be dropped.

Midterm and Final Exams (60% of Final Grade)

There will be two exams: a midterm (25% of Final Grade) and a final exam (35% of Final Grade). They will both consist of problems similar in content and format to those on the in-class practices, homefun practice worksheets, and quizzes. The midterm exam will cover the contents of the first half of the semester. The final exam will be cumulative and cover the contents of everything covered in the course.

Grading

Course Learning Tasks and Grading	
Assignment	% of Grade
Homework Practice	16%
Quizzes	24%
Midterm Exam	25%
Final Exam	35%
Total Grade	100%

Grading Scale			
100—93	A	76—73	C
92—90	A-	72—70	C-
89—87	B+	69—67	D+
86—83	B	66—63	D
82—80	B-	62—60	D-
79—77	C+	59—0	E

More information regarding current UF grading policies can be found here:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

A minimum grade of C is required for general education credit.

Course Textbook and Additional Readings

For this course, we will be primarily reading chapters from the following textbook:

Department of Linguistics, The Ohio State University. (2022). *Language Files: Materials for an Introduction to Language and Linguistics*. (13th ed.). Columbus, Ohio: Ohio State University Press.

Course Policies

Attendance Policy

Class attendance is not only mandatory, but also incredibly essential for your success in this course. You are expected to come and ready to engage in class activities. This includes arriving on time, bringing all required materials, remaining engaged (e.g. not sleeping, not on social media), and staying for the entirety of the class (packing up early is the same as leaving class early). Attendance will be recorded at the beginning of class in the form of a sign-in sheet that will be passed around the class. If you arrive after the sheet has been passed around, you are responsible for notifying the instructor and signing the attendance sheet (you will be marked “late”). You are allowed to take 2 unexcused absences without penalty. Each unexcused absence beyond that may lower your final course grade by one level (e.g. from A to A-). To have an absence excused, you must provide documentation within 2 weeks that verifies that your absence falls within “Acceptable reasons” listed under the UF Attendance Policies (<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>).

Late Submission and Makeup Policy

Every assignment in this course has a deadline that you will need to meet. Any assignment submitted late is subject to a penalty of 25% of the total possible grade for each day it is late. Assignments submitted two days after the due date will not be accepted. Late work without penalty and make-up Midterm and Final Exams are only allowed in circumstances covered by the UF policy regarding attendance and make-up assignments (<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>) and after documentation is

submitted. Any documentation must be submitted within two weeks after the assignment is due. Extensions are granted on all assignments according to this same policy.

Academic Honesty

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 by students 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 Conduct Code specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Click here to read the Conduct Code. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

GatorEvals

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online. Students can complete evaluations in three ways:

1. The email they receive from GatorEvals
2. Their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals
3. The central portal at <https://my-ufl.bluer.com>

Guidance on how to provide constructive feedback is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

Disability Accommodations

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center. [Click here to get started with the Disability Resource Center](#). It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

In-class Recording

The in-class recording policy for this course follows the general UF policy found here: <https://syllabus.ufl.edu/syllabus-policy/uf-syllabus-policy-links/>

Academic and Campus Health and Wellness Resources

A full list of academic and health and wellness resources on campus can be found here: <https://syllabus.ufl.edu/syllabus-policy/uf-syllabus-policy-links/>

Tentative Course Schedule

The course syllabus provides a general plan for the course; deviations may be necessary. If deviations are made, I will upload an updated schedule to Canvas.

Week	Topic	Readings	Assignments Due
1 8/21	Introduction to Course	Syllabus	
2 8/25-29	Basics of Linguistics Phonetics	LF, Chapter 1.1-1.4 LF, Chapter 2.0-2.3	
3 9/2-5	Phonetics	LF, Chapter 2.4-2.5	Homefun & Quiz: The Basics DUE: 9/2
4 9/8-12	Phonology	LF, Chapter 3.0-3.2	Homefun & Quiz: Phonetics DUE: 9/9
5 9/15-19	Phonology	LF, Chapter 3.3-3.5	
6 9/22-26	Morphology	LF, Chapter 4.0-4.5	Homefun & Quiz: Phonology DUE: 9/23
7 9/29-10/3	Midterm Exam Review Midterm Exam (10/2)		Homefun & Quiz: Morphology DUE: 9/30
8 10/6-10	Syntax	LF, Chapter 5.0-5.2	
9 10/13-16	Syntax	LF, Chapter 5.3-5.4	
10 10/20-24	Semantics	LF, Chapter 6.0-6.5	Homefun & Quiz: Syntax DUE: 10/21
11 10/27-31	Pragmatics	LF, Chapter 7.0-7.6	Homefun & Quiz: Semantics DUE: 10/28
12 11/3-7	Language Variation	LF, Chapter 10	Homefun & Quiz: Pragmatics DUE: 11/4
13 11/10-14	Language Change	LF, Chapter 11	HF & Quiz: Variation DUE: 11/12
14 11/17-21	Language Change Careers in Linguistics	LF, Chapter 17	
15 12/1-3	Final Exam Review Wrap-Up		HF & Quiz: Change DUE: 12/2
Exam	Final Exam		