

## LIN 3010: Introduction to Linguistics

15756 MWF 12:50 PM – 1:40 PM

15757 MWF 3:00 PM – 3:50 PM

**Instructor:** Robert Ozier Smith  
[r.oziersmith@ufl.edu](mailto:r.oziersmith@ufl.edu)  
Turlington Hall 4122

**Office hours:** MWF 11:45 AM – 12:35 PM or by appointment

**Course materials:** *Language Files*, 12<sup>th</sup> ed., Ohio State University Press (required)

All other materials (e.g. lecture slides, assignments) will be available on Canvas.

***NB:*** If you acquire a previous edition of the required course textbook, it is your responsibility to check that activities/topics covered in your edition correspond to those in the twelfth edition. **Any omitted or incorrectly submitted homework is the responsibility of the student.**

### **Course description:**

**Overview:** This course is an introductory survey of linguistics, focusing on natural language phenomena, and the methods and findings of linguists seeking to understand them. We will address the following subdomains of linguistics during this course:

- Phonetics                      The physical properties of language form (e.g. sounds)
- Phonology                     The psychological representation of language forms
- Morphology                  How language forms combine to form words
- Syntax                         How words combine to form phrases and sentences
- Semantics                     The meaning of words, phrases, and sentences
- Pragmatics                    How sentences are used in context
- Sociolinguistics             How language is affected by social context
- Psycholinguistics            How language is produced and understood

### **Goals:**

This course is necessarily a broad, shallow survey of linguistics. You will be introduced to basic linguistics concepts and get an overview of various subfields of linguistic inquiry that you may pursue in other, more focused classes, whether you are interested in becoming a major, or simply learning more about natural language and how linguists understand it.

The primary goal of the course is to convince you that language is a highly organized system which can be studied using a scientific approach. By the end of the course, you should be able to:

- Describe and give examples of the ways in which human languages are alike and how they differ.
- Use and understand basic linguistic terminology.
- Apply the tools of linguistic analysis to the sounds, words, and sentences of a language.
- Learn to approach language as an object of empirical, scientific study.
- Develop general problem-solving skills.

**Evaluation:**

**Graded components:**

• Exams	50%
• Homework	45%
• Research/ Seminar	5%
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	100%

**Exams:** There will be four exams for this course, with tentative dates on the calendar. Exams are in-class and are non-cumulative. Be aware, however, that similar types of problems and approaches arise across linguistic sub-disciplines. Exams will consist of problem-solving exercises and short-essay questions.

**Homework:** There will be six homework assignments. Homework due dates will be posted on the Canvas calendar. You may discuss homework assignments with other students in your section, but you must write up your homework independently.

Homework is to be typed and submitted through Canvas. If you collaborate with other members of the class indicate this. **Late submissions without prior approval of the instructor will not be accepted.**

**Research/Seminar:**

Requirements for the research/seminar credit will be available on Canvas and discussed in class.

**Bonus Work:** Bonus work will not be offered to individuals in this course. If the instructor feels it necessary, bonus work may be offered to the entire class. If you are concerned about your grade, speak to the instructor ASAP.

**Grading scale:**

The following grading scale will be used:

A	93—100	B-	80—83	D+	67—70
A-	90—93	C+	77—80	D	63—67
B+	87—90	C	73—77	D-	60—63
B	83—87	C-	70—73	E	<60

Additional information about UF's grade policies is available at <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

**Other information:**

**Attendance:** There is no formal attendance policy for this course. You are, however, unlikely to do well in this course if you are not in regular attendance.

**Late work:** Late work will not be accepted without prior approval of the instructor. This extends to exams as well as homework (discussed above).

Having said that, life happens. Acceptable reasons for late submissions/missed exams include illness, family emergencies, special curricular activities (e.g. field trips, professional conferences, etc.), severe weather conditions, and participation in official UF activities. Absences from class for court-imposed legal obligations (e.g. jury duty) are also acceptable.

If an unexpected emergency arises, inform your instructor ASAP. The more warning you give, the easier it is to arrive at a solution.

**Academic honesty:**

Academic misconduct, including but not limited to cheating and plagiarism, will not be tolerated. It may result in disciplinary action and failure in the course.

The University has an Honor Code which reads as follows: “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.” The honor code is accessible online: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>.

The bottom line is: “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.”

Copying or sharing any part of your homework assignments in any way, shape, or form is strictly prohibited. For computer work, this includes, but is not limited to, using the same file/document as someone else, using a modified file/document, or copying information between files/documents.

No written work may be a joint effort in any way unless explicitly permitted and stated.

**Electronics:** Cell phones are expected to be on silent and stored away. Cell phone use will not be tolerated and will result in dismissal from class.

Laptops and tablets are allowed in class for notetaking purposes only. You will be asked to put away your computer if you are discovered using social media sites in class.

**Accommodations for students with disabilities:**

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register online with the Dean of Students Office: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc> The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation.

**Course evaluations:**

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course based on 10 criteria. These evaluations are conducted online at: <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>

Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at: <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results>

**Schedule:**

Note that the schedule and its content is subject to change, given our progress with the material. While every effort will be made to ensure we stay on track, disruptions can arise. The instructor will advise the students in a timely manner of any changes to the course schedule.

<u>Week 1</u>	Introduction	<i>LF</i> Ch. 1	Jan. 7—11
<u>Weeks 2, 3</u>	Phonetics Phonology	<i>LF</i> Ch. 2 <i>LF</i> Ch. 3 <b>No class:</b> <b>Homework 1:</b>	Jan. 14—25 Jan. 21 <b>Jan. 25</b>
<u>Weeks 4, 5</u>	Phonology, cont. Morphology	<i>LF</i> Ch. 4 <b>Homework 2:</b>	Jan. 28—Feb. 8 <b>Feb. 4</b>
<u>Weeks 6, 7</u>	Morphology, cont. Syntax	<i>LF</i> Ch. 5 <b>Exam 1: Feb. 15</b>	Feb. 11—Feb. 22

**Homework 3: Feb. 22**

<u>Week 8</u>	Syntax, cont.		Feb. 25—Mar. 1
<u>Week 9</u>	<b>SPRING BREAK—NO CLASS</b>		
<u>Weeks 10, 11</u>	Semantics	<i>LF</i> Ch. 6 <b>Homework 4: Mar. 11</b> <b>Exam 2: Mar. 22</b>	Mar. 11—Mar. 22
<u>Weeks 12, 13</u>	Semantics, cont. Pragmatics	<i>LF</i> Ch. 7	Mar. 25—Apr. 5
<u>Weeks 14, 15</u>	Pragmatics, cont. Psycholinguistics Sociolinguistics	<i>LF</i> Ch. 9 <i>LF</i> Ch. 11 <b>Homework 5: Apr. 12</b> <b>Exam 3: 17</b>	Apr. 8—19
<u>Week 16</u>	Sociolinguistics, cont.	<b>Homework 6: Apr. 24</b> <b>Exam 4: Take-home</b>	Apr. 22, 24