

Lectures: M,T,W,R,F Period 2 (9:30-10:45)

Anderson 19

Instructor: Ashima Aggarwal

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Office hours: T,W 11:00-12:15 and by appointment

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Description & Goals

Language is a central part of our daily lives. It is how we communicate our thoughts and desires to others – be it our ideas for world peace or what we want for lunch. Yet, we usually take language for granted, using it effortlessly without stopping to think about how it works. So, what exactly *is* language, and how *does* it work?

This course is an introduction to linguistics, the scientific study of language. In order to understand what language is, we will examine a number of topics, including:

The sound system of language (phonetics and phonology)

The structure of words and sentences (morphology and syntax)

The meaning of words and sentences (semantics)

How language is produced and understood (psycho- and neurolinguistics)

How children learn language (language acquisition)

How languages differ over time and situations

We will find that while language is highly complex, it is also systematic and rule-governed. At the end of this course, you should understand what linguists study and have a good understanding of the core concepts in each of the above topics.

Policies

Attendance : Since a lot of discussion takes place in class and many times information presented in lectures might not be present in the book it is suggested that you attend the class regularly. To encourage regularity in class your attendance accounts 6% of your grade. I will allow up to 3 absences without any questions. It is however suggested that you be present in all the lectures except in case of an emergency. If you are planning to take a leave on the day of a Quiz or an Exam please let me know beforehand so that I can arrange an alternate exam/Quiz for you.

Exams & Quizzes: There will be three exams in this course. These exams will be closed-book. Exams 1 and 2 will cover material since the beginning of the course and Exam 1, respectively. The final exam will cover the entire course, with an emphasis on the topics since Exam 2. The final exam will be on 21st June during regular class hours (9:30-10:45) in the regular classroom(AND 19). There will also

be three short quizzes (about 20 mins) given during the course on the dates mentioned in the syllabus.

Assessment & Grading: Your grade will be determined on the basis of grades for exams and assignments, with the following breakdown:

Exam 1 16%
Exam 2 16%
Exam 3 22%
Quizzes 15% (5% each)
Homework 15% (3% each)
Attendance 6%
Research Participation 10%

Grades will be assigned based on the following distribution

	91-100 A	88-90.9 A-
85-87.9 B+	81-84.9 B	78-80.9 B-
75-77.9 C+	71-74.9 C	68-70.9 C-
65-67.9 D+	61-64.9 D	58-60.9 D-
	Below 58 E	

See <http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html> for how these grades are translated to grade points.

Students with Special Needs: Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to Ashima Aggarwal when requesting accommodation.

Academic Honesty: Academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community. An academic honesty offence is defined as the act of lying, cheating, or stealing information so that one gains academic advantage. Any individual who becomes aware of a violation of the Honor Code is bound by honor to take corrective action. Violations of the Honor Code include, but are not limited to: plagiarisms, cheating, bribery, misrepresentation, fabrication, and conspiracy. Such violations may result in the following: lowering of grades, mandatory zero on assignments, redoing assignments, a final failing grade in the course, expulsion from the course, and/or referral to the student-run Honor Court. The Honor Code states: "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity." 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. For more information, refer to: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/honorcode.php>.

Disagreements and Grade Disputes: If you disagree with a grade or have other grade-related issues, please approach the instructor as soon as possible and try to

solve the disagreement together. Please *do not* wait until the end of the semester (when it is really too late) to try to resolve any problems.
If you find yourself struggling with any of the material, please see me as soon as you can – **do not wait until it is too late!**

Assignments

On average, you should plan to dedicate roughly 2-3 hours of outside time and effort per hour spent in class. This means you should plan to spend 6-9 hours a week on reading, homework, and other class- related activities for this course.

Readings

The textbook for the course is:

Mihalicek, V. & C. Wilson (2011). *Language Files: Materials for an Introduction to Language and Linguistics*, 11th ed. Department of Linguistics, Ohio State University.

Reading assignments should be completed *before* the date that they are assigned in the schedule.

Homework

There are 6 homework assignments in this course. You must complete **FIVE** of these assignments. Each homework will be assigned using Sakai (accessible through <http://lss.at.ufl.edu>). The purpose of the homework is to give you a chance to apply what you've learned from the lectures and the textbook and to prepare for questions on the exams. Each will be due at the beginning of the Section given in the schedule, and then will be discussed in that section. **NO late assignments will be accepted.** Homework will *not* be accepted via electronic means except under extraordinary circumstances and with prior approval of the instructor.

Research Participation To encourage awareness of different aspects of linguistics and language research, you are required to participate in 3 hours or 2 studies of language or communication research during the semester. So, you may participate in one 3-hour long study or two studies of any length. Please contact the instructor to find suitable research experiment. A list of experiments that qualify for this credit can be found at <http://users.php.ufl.edu/jjreilly/pool/pool.html>. This site will be updated throughout the semester. After participating in the study or studies, please write a 1.5 – 2 page description of the methods and goals of the study, as well as any comments you have about your experience. You may have to discuss the study with the experimenter in order to complete this! Include a copy of the informed consent form with your write-up when you turn it in. These must be turned in no later than **June 7th** for you to receive credit.

If you do not qualify for any of the studies, you can receive the same amount of course credit for reading a short research article and writing a 1.5 - 2 page synopsis of it. This must be turned in **June 7th**. If you choose this option, you must speak with me before **May 31st** in order to arrange this alternate assignment.

Schedule of Topics & Assignments (Subject to Change)

Date	Topic/Assignment
5/13	Introduction
5/14	Introduction Chapter 1
5/15	Animal Communication Chapter 14
5/16	Phonetics Files 2.0 – 2.4
5/17	Homework 1 due IPA practice, Phonetics File 2.5
5/20	Phonetics Files 2.6 - 2.8
5/21	Phonology Files 3.0-3.3
5/22	Quiz 1 phonology Files 3.3 - 3.5
5/23	Homework 2 due Review for exam
5/24	Exam 1
5/27	No Class
5/28	Morphology Files 4.0-4.2, 4.4
5/29	Morphology practice File 4.5- 4.6
5/30	Homework 3 due Syntax Files 5.0 - 5.2
5/31	Syntax Files 5.3 – 5.4
6/03	Syntax File 5.5 – 5.6
6/04	Typology (No reading)
6/05	Quiz 2 Semantics Files 6.0 – 6.2
6/06	Homework 4 due Semantics Files 6.3- 6.4
6/07	Exam 2 Research Participation due
6/10	Pragmatics Chapter 7

6/11	Child language Acquisition Files 8.0- 8.3
6/12	Child language Acquisition Files 8.4- 8.5
6/13	Language Processing Files 9.0-9.3
6/14	Homework 5 due Language Processing Files 9.5-9.7
6/17	Language Variation Chapter 10
6/18	Language and Culture Chapter 11(esp. File11.2)
6/19	Quiz 3 Homework 6 due Language Contact Chapter 12
6/20	Review for Exam 3
6/21	Exam 3