

LIN 3010: Introduction to Linguistics

Course Information

Semester/Year:	<i>Spring 2025</i>	
Meeting Times:	Section 17746: M,W,F Period 3 (9:35 AM - 10:25 AM)	Section 12685: M,W,F Period 4 (10:40 AM - 11:30 AM)
Location:	MAT 0006 https://campusmap.ufl.edu/#/index/0406	AND 0019 http://campusmap.ufl.edu/?loc=7
General Education Designation:	Humanities (H) (area objectives available here)	

Instructor Information

Instructor Name:	Allen Shamsi
Instructor E-mail:	allenshamsiev@ufl.edu
Instructor Phone Number:	(941) 800-7821
Instructor Office:	TUR 4122
Instructor Office Hours:	Monday Period 5 – 6 (11:45 AM - 01:40 PM) and by appointment

TA Information

TA Name:	TBD
TA E-mail:	TBD

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 and the 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](#)).
- Analyze a range of language structures at different levels of complexity (Critical Thinking SLOs for Gen Ed H [available here](#)).
- Use basic linguistic terminology to describe the features of human languages (Communication SLOs for Gen Ed H [available here](#)).

These outcomes 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:

Homework Practice (24% of Final Grade)

You will complete **six homework assignments** throughout the semester, with each assignment distributed approximately every two weeks. The assignments are designed to deepen your understanding of the course material by requiring you to apply concepts discussed in readings and class discussions. These assignments will involve analyzing linguistic data or solving problems that reinforce key theories and methodologies. While collaboration with classmates is allowed and encouraged, **each student must submit their own independent work**. All assignments should be submitted through Canvas. Please note that email submissions will not be accepted. Homework will be assigned every other Wednesday and will be due 12 days later, on the second Monday by midnight. This gives you over a week to complete each assignment. Late submissions are not accepted, and any missed assignments will receive a zero.

Quizzes (16% of Final Grade)

There will be 8 Canvas quizzes throughout the semester. These quizzes, typically consisting of three questions and/or a single problem, are designed to reinforce your understanding of key concepts discussed in lectures and ensure you are well-prepared for exams. The questions will focus on previously covered material and will be graded based on both your comprehension and accuracy. Please refer to the tentative course schedule for specific dates.

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 homework practice 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.

Extra Credit Research Participation (2%)

As part of your introduction to the field of linguistics, you are offered to **participate in 2 hours of experimental linguistic study**. Students who wish to do so may increase their total grade points by 2 (out of 100) by completing 2 hours of participation in experiments in the departments of Linguistics, Spanish & Portuguese, and Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences. **Deadline is April 1st**. For a list of studies that qualify, see the SONA website <https://ufl-slhs.sona-systems.com/>. For details on how to use SONA, see this document:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1e2P7ubMYnsfhV9Ycj47kc8niPRBPAYhh/edit?pli=1>. The list of qualifying studies will be updated throughout the semester. If you choose not to participate or do not qualify for any of the studies, you can receive the same amount of course credit by means of an alternative assignment. More instructions will be provided.

Grading

Course Learning Tasks and Grading

Assignments	% of Grade
6 Homework Practices (4 points each)	24%
8 Canvas Quizzes (2 points each)	16%
Midterm Exam	25%
Final Exam	35%
Extra Credit Research Participation	2%
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:

Ohio State University Press. (2022). *Language files: Materials for an Introduction to Language and Linguistics*. (13th ed.). Ohio State University Press.

Additional Course Materials

All supplementary course materials, including additional readings, handouts, and exercises, will be provided on Canvas. If you opt to use a second-hand copy of an earlier edition of the required textbook, it is your responsibility to verify that the activities and topics in your edition align with those in the 13th edition. Any errors or omissions in homework submissions due to edition differences are the responsibility of the student.

Instructional materials for this course consist of only those materials specifically reviewed, selected, and assigned by the instructor. The instructor is only responsible for these instructional materials.

Course Policies

Attendance Policy

Class attendance is not only **mandatory**, but also incredibly essential for your success in this course. Class meetings in this course will be devoted to exploring in depth the concepts covered in the readings through a mix of lecture, review activities, and discussions. As such, you are expected to come and ready to engage in class activities and discussions. 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 taken daily. Note: you are responsible for looking for and asking about the roll if you don't see one. I cannot prove you were in class, and you will be marked absent if your name is not on the roll sheet even if you say you were there. **How absences affect your grade:** You are allowed to take 3 unexcused absences, so it is not necessary to explain why you missed class. Each unexcused absence beyond that may lower your final course grade by one level (e.g. from A to A-). Excused absences should be consistent with UF policies (<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>).

Late Submission and Makeup Policy

Time management is one of the most essential skills you need to develop during college. This includes planning your work-life balance so that you can meet all your deadlines. Every assignment in this course has a deadline that you will need to meet. Late work is not accepted except in the case of circumstances covered by the UF policy regarding attendance and make-up assignments (<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>). Extensions are granted on assignments according to this same policy.

Academic Honesty

I expect you to do your own work and follow all rules concerning testing and assignment submission. 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 via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. 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

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for 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. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

Campus Resources

Health and Wellness Resources

- ***U Matter, We Care:*** If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit U Matter, We Care website to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.
- ***Counseling and Wellness Center:*** Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.
- ***Student Health Care Center:*** Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or visit the Student Health Care Center website.
- ***University Police Department:*** Visit UF Police Department website or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).
- ***UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center:*** For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website.
- ***GatorWell Health Promotion Services:*** For prevention services focused on optimal wellbeing, including Wellness Coaching for Academic Success, visit the GatorWell website or call 352-273-4450.

Academic Resources

- ***E-learning technical support:*** Contact the UF Computing Help Desk at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.
- ***Career Connections Center:*** Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.
- ***Library Support:*** Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.
- ***Teaching Center:*** Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352- 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.
- ***Writing Studio:*** 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.
- ***Student Complaints On-Campus:*** Visit the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code webpage for more information.
- ***On-Line Students Complaints:*** View the Distance Learning Student Complaint Process.

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	Monday	Wednesday	Friday	Readings
1	January 13 Course Syllabus	January 15 Intro	January 17 Intro Syllabus Quiz Due	Syllabus LF: 1.0 – 1.6
2	January 20 Martin Luther King Jr. Day (NO CLASSES)	January 22 Intro/Phonetics HW1 available	January 24 Phonetics	LF: 2.0 – 2.3
3	January 27 Phonetics	January 29 Phonetics	January 31 Phonetics Quiz 1 available	LF: 2.4 – 2.6
4	February 3 Phonology HW1 Due Quiz 1 Due	February 5 Phonology HW2 available	February 7 Phonology	LF: 3.0 – 3.3
5	February 10 Phonology	February 12 Phonology	February 14 Phonology Quiz 2 available	LF: 3.5 – 3.6
6	February 17 Morphology HW2 due Quiz 2 Due	February 19 Morphology HW3 available	February 21 Morphology	LF: 4.0 – 4.3
7	February 24 Morphology	February 26 Morphology	February 28 Morphology HW3 due Quiz 3 available	LF: 4.4 – 4.6 Bobaljik 2008
8	March 3 Syntax HW3 due Quiz 3 Due	March 5 Syntax HW4 available	March 7 Syntax	LF: 5.0 – 5.3
9	March 10 Syntax	March 12 Syntax	March 14 Midterm Exam Quiz 4 available	LF: 5.4 – 5.6 Midterm Exam Study Guide
10	Spring Break (NO CLASSES)			
11	March 24 Semantics HW4 due Quiz 4 Due	March 26 Semantics HW5 available	March 28 Semantics Quiz 5 available	LF: 6.0 – 6.5

12	March 31 Pragmatics	April 2 Pragmatics	April 4 Pragmatics	LF: 7.0 – 7.6 Grice 1975
13	April 7 Language Acquisition HW5 due Quiz 5 Due	April 9 Language Acquisition HW6 available	April 11 Language Acquisition Quiz 6 available	LF: 8.0 – 8.6
14	April 14 Language Change Quiz 6 Due	April 16 Language Change	April 18 Language Change Quiz 7 available	LF: 13.0-13.3; 13.7
15	April 21 Practical Applications HW6 due Quiz 7 Due	April 23 Final Exam Prep 1	April 25 Final Exam Prep 2 (optional)	LF 17.0 – 17.6 Final Exam Study Guide

Final Exams:

Section 17746: 05/02/2025 @ 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (MAT 0006)

Section 12685: 05/01/2025 @ 12:30 PM - 02:30 PM (AND 0019)