

LIN 3010: Introduction to Linguistics

Course Information

Semester/Year:	Fall 2024	
Meeting Times:	Section 13628: M,W,F Period 3 (9:35 AM - 10:25 AM)	Section 13638: M,W,F Period 4 (10:40 AM - 11:30 AM)
Location:	MAT 0006 https://campusmap.ufl.edu/#/index/0406	
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:	Haiyin Yang
TA E-mail:	haiyin.yang@ufl.edu

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 typed, printed, stapled, and clearly labeled with your name and the names of any collaborators. Please note that email submissions will not be accepted. Homework will be assigned on Wednesdays and is due the following Friday at the start of class, giving you over a week to complete it. 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 November 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. For that, you can **attend department seminars** and write a two-page (double-spaced) summary of the talks. 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 or 12th editions. Any errors or omissions in homework submissions due to edition differences are the responsibility of the student.

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			August 23 Course Syllabus	Syllabus
2	August 26 Intro	August 28 Intro Syllabus Quiz Due	August 30 Intro/Phonetics	LF: 1.0 – 1.5 LF: 2.0 – 2.3
3	September 2 Labor Day (NO CLASS)	September 4 Phonetics	September 6 Phonetics HW1 Due Quiz 1 available	LF: 2.4 – 2.6
4	September 9 Phonology Quiz 1 (phonetics) Due	September 11 Phonology	September 13 Phonology	LF: 3.0 – 3.3
5	September 16 Phonology	September 18 Phonology	September 20 Phonology HW2 due Quiz 2 available	LF: 3.5
6	September 23 Morphology Quiz 2 (phonology) Due	September 25 Morphology	September 27 Morphology	LF: 4.1 – 4.3
7	September 30 Morphology	October 2 Morphology	October 4 Morphology HW3 due Quiz 3 available	LF: 4.4 – 4.5 Bobaljik 2008
8	October 7 Syntax Quiz 3 (morphology) Due	October 9 Syntax	October 11 Syntax	LF: 5.0 – 5.3
9	October 14 Syntax	October 16 Syntax	October 18 Syntax HW4 due Quiz 4 available	LF: 5.4 – 5.5 Carnie 2002
10	October 21 Semantics Quiz 4 (syntax) Due	October 23 Semantics	October 25 Midterm Exam	LF: 6.0 – 6.4 Midterm Exam Study Guide
11	October 28 Pragmatics	October 30 Pragmatics	November 1 Pragmatics HW5 due Quiz 5 available	LF: 7.0 – 7.5 Grice 1975

12	<i>November 4</i> Language Variation Quiz 5 (semantics and pragmatics) Due	<i>November 6</i> Language Variation	<i>November 8</i> Language Variation	LF: 10.0 – 10.5
13	November 11 Veterans Day (NO CLASS)	<i>November 13</i> Language Acquisition	<i>November 15</i> Language Acquisition HW6 due Quiz 6 available	LF: 8.0 – 8.5
14	<i>November 18</i> Language Change Quiz 6 (LV & LA) Due	<i>November 20</i> Language Change	<i>November 22</i> Language Change Quiz 7 available	LF: 13.0-13.3; 13.7
15	Thanksgiving Break (NO CLASSES)			
16	<i>December 2</i> Practical Applications Quiz 7 (Language Change) Due	<i>December 4</i> Final Exam		LF 17.0 – 17.6 Final Exam Study Guide