

# Introduction to Linguistics

Section: 4B60  
Time: MTWRF 3 (11:00-12:15)  
Location: AND 0019

Instructor: Joel Deacon  
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Office hours: M & R 2 (9:30-10:45) and by appointment

**Required Textbook:** *Language Files 11<sup>th</sup> ed.* by Ohio State University

## Course Overview:

This course is an introduction to the scientific study of human language. In other words, it is a course about what it means to study language scientifically. In this course we will examine the core components of human language, the methods used to describe and investigate human language, language variation and change, the attitudes pertaining to language use and variation, and how linguistic knowledge is applicable.

We will first try to define human language and comment on how it might differ from animal communication. After that we will examine language structurally by investigating how speech sounds are produced, organized, and patterned (phonetics and phonology), how languages create and structure words (morphology), what is arbitrary and needs to be memorized or stored (the lexicon), how languages create and organize phrases and clauses (syntax), and how language components get interpreted and used (semantics/pragmatics). Moreover we will briefly look at how languages change and are affected by social factors (sociolinguistics/historical linguistics), some general properties of languages around the world (Typology), and language with regards to the mind and brain (Psycholinguistics/ Neurolinguistics). *Though some may claim to know, much about human language remains a mystery.*

## Grade Distribution:

Attendance/Participation	12
Homework	5 @ 4 ea. = 20
Quizzes	4 @ 3 ea. = 12
Exam 1	12
Exam 2	12

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Exam 3	18
Final Paper	14
Extra credit	(2)
Total Points Possible	100

### Letter Grades (%)

A = 100 - 93	A- = 92.9 - 90	B+ = 89.9 - 86	B = 85.9 - 83
B- = 82.9 - 80	C+ = 79.9 - 77	C = 76.9 - 73	C- = 72.9 - 70
D+ = 69.9 - 67	D = 66.9 - 63	D- = 62.9 - 60	F = 59.9 -

\*For GPA equivalents, please see:

<http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html>

\*\*A grade of C or better is usually needed to obtain credit for this course.

### Attendance:

Attendance is required. A lot of learning happens during class sessions. However, you may have to be absent for personal reasons. Two absences are allowed for this course - no questions will be asked unless you are expected to do some pre-arranged task. If you have more than two unexpected absences, then your final grade will be lowered by 3%.

### Homework:

Late assignments will be given half-credit. No credit will be given for assignments submitted more than a week after the due date. Grades are non-negotiable and will only be changed in the event of clerical or mathematical errors in scoring. Your lowest homework grade will be dropped for the final grade. There are six homework assignments but only 5 of them will count for your final grade. Thus you may choose not to do the final homework assignment if you have done well on the previous five assignments.

Only under the circumstances below will make-up exams be possible and late assignments be given full credit;

- (1) By prior arrangement with the instructor (at least a week before the due date) for legitimate academic or personal reasons (e.g., medical appointments)
- (2) In the event of a documented medical or personal emergency (verified with a doctor's note or a letter from another verifiable authority)

### Quizzes:

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Four quizzes will be given throughout the semester. Be on time because these will often be administered at the beginning of class.

### **Exam 1, 2, & 3:**

Every two weeks you have an exam based on the assigned readings, homework, lecture notes, quizzes, and class discussions.

### **Final Paper:**

Pick a language you don't speak natively. It is alright if you are already studying this language. First introduce your language: tell where it is spoken and who speaks it. Is it endangered or healthy? Next describe this language phonologically, morphologically, and syntactically. *\*\*This does not mean you have to be comprehensive\*\**.

Simply you are to list an inventory of contrastive sounds in your chosen language and give some examples of minimal pairs (do not simply copy and paste from Wikipedia) (attempted and successful phonological rules will be impressive). Next explain a few different word derivations in your chosen language. Show that you know what type of morphological process is going on. Tell me what type of morpheme it is etc... After that describe the basic syntactic properties of your language (i.e. is it SVO, SOV, VSO or something else). Give some sample sentences from your chosen language and show a structural relation with a tree diagram. (Showing differences and similarities between it and another language will also be impressive. For example, where can and can't constituents move.) If you like semantics and pragmatics more, you may replace the morphological or syntactic analysis with a semantic/pragmatic analysis. As a final step, briefly relate your language to something else we have discussed in class. (Example: typologically what type of language is it, how has it changed, how has the culture affected the language or vice-versa.)

I expect it to be between 4- 5 pages, double spaced with 12 point font. (Please no more than 7 pages) A bibliography is to be included and it does not count as a page. You may use the legitimate citing system you are most familiar with. Have more than two sources. (Note: A native speaker of the language can be a source). **A more detailed rubric and example paper will be given out in the second week of class.**

### **Participation in LIN/CSD experiments (extra credit):**

To encourage awareness of different aspects of experimental research in language-related fields, you are encouraged to participate in communication research during this semester. 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. Please retain a copy of the IRB form as proof that you participated. If you are currently enrolled in other classes that require participation in experiments, and your total participation requirement exceeds 3 hours this semester, please see me. Each hour will count as 1 extra credit point towards your final grade. You can only earn 2 extra credit points for the course. There are no alternate means for extra credit.

**Classroom demeanor:**

Students are expected to arrive for class on time; a consistent pattern of lateness will result in a lower final grade for the course by 2%. Laptops should only be used for notes/class related purposes. Cell phones should be turned off during class time. Under no circumstances is text messaging allowed - if you text message, you will be asked to leave the classroom and your final grade will be lowered by 2 %. Mutual respect for all members of the class is expected at all times. Talking during class time or any other general pattern of disturbing others' opportunities to learn will not be tolerated.

**Academic honesty:**

Any evidence of cheating on assignments and/or exams will result in a failing grade for the course. Where applicable, students must clearly note all sources of information and appropriately reference use of all outside sources, for all forms of media used in work for the course. Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Please see the UF website for the policy regarding plagiarism and academic honesty in general: see "Academic Honesty" or <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/procedures/academicguide.php>

**Students with disabilities:**

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 the Instructor when requesting accommodation.

**Course Schedule**

**Course Schedule (subject to change to fit the pace of our learning)**

**Note: supplemental readings & handouts will be presented and given in class. Emails with further directions and links to extra materials should be anticipated. Moreover, each class period could entail a mix of lecture time, problem solving activities, discussion sessions etc... If you miss class, you might not always know what you missed ☹**

<b>Week 1</b>	M	Syllabus, Introductions, What Linguistics is and isn't	Chapter 1
1 July-	T	Introductions continued	
5 July	W	Phonetics ( <i>Homework 1</i> )	Chapter 2
	R	Holiday	<b>Memorize IPA Cs (p 52)</b>
	F	Phonetics	<b>Memorize IPA Vs (p 57)</b>
<b>Week 2</b>	M	Phonetics →Phonology ( <b>Quiz 1</b> )	Chapter 3
8 July-	T	Phonology continued ( <i>Homework 2</i> )	<b>HW1 Due</b>
12 July	W	Phonology continued	
	R	Phonology →Morphology ( <b>Quiz 2</b> )	Chapter 4

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	F	Morphology and the Lexicon ( <i>Homework 3</i> )	<b>HW2 Due</b>
<b>Week 3</b>	M	Morphology continued	
15 July-	T	Catch up/Review/Practice	<b>HW 3 Due</b>
19 July	W	Exam 1	Chapter 5
	R	Morphology→Syntax ( <i>Homework 4</i> )	
	F	Syntax continued	
<b>Week 4</b>	M	Syntax continued	
22 July-	T	Syntax→ Semantics ( <b>Quiz 3</b> )	Chapter 6
26 July	W	Semantics continued ( <i>Homework 5</i> )	<b>HW 4 Due</b>
	R	Semantics →Pragmatics	Chapter 7
	F	Pragmatics Continued	
<b>Week 5</b>	M	Catch up/Review/Practice	<b>HW 5 Due</b>
29 July-	T	Exam 2	
2 Aug	W	Language Variation	Chapter 10
	R	Language and Culture/ Writing systems	Chapter 11/15
	F	Language Contact and Change( <b>Quiz 4</b> )	Chapters 12 & 13
<b>Week 6</b>	M	Language Acquisition ( <i>Homework 6</i> )	Chapter 8 <b>Research Due</b>
5 August-	T	The Brain and Language	Chapter 9
9 August	W	Practical Applications in Linguistics	Chapter 17
	R	Review ( <i>Cumulative</i> )	<b>HW6 Due</b>
	F	Exam 3	