

Summer 2022

LING 0001-910: Introduction to Linguistics

Course times: Tuesday and Thursday, 5:15-9:05pm EDT

Location: Zoom

Instructor: Gwen Hildebrandt

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OVERVIEW

An introduction to the science of language. We'll be covering most of the basic areas of linguistics: phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, pragmatics, sociolinguistics, language acquisition, and language change.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for this course.

Textbook

Language Files by The Ohio State University Press, which will be uploaded to Canvas as a PDF.

Grading

Your grade will be made up of the following components:

- 20% Reading quizzes
- 20% In-class worksheets (graded for completion)
- 20% Language journal
- 40% Assignments

Final grades will be calculated according to the following scale:

- 96-100 A+
- 93-95 A
- 90-92 A-

87-89 B+
83-86 B
80-82 B-
77-79 C+
73-76 C
70-72 C-
67-69 D+
60-66 D
< 60 F

CLASS SCHEDULE (tentative)

Tues, May 24th: Intro to linguistics

Topics: the field of linguistics, methods, grammars/I-languages, descriptivism vs. prescriptivism

Reading: none

Thurs, May 26th: Phonetics

Topics: anatomy of the mouth, the International Phonetic Alphabet, voicing, place of articulation, manner of articulation, vowel quality, suprasegmentals

Reading: LF chapters 2 and 8.2

Tues, June 1st: Phonology

Topics: phonemes, allophones, contrastive vs complementary distribution, rules, constraints, features

Reading: LF chapters 3 and 9.3-4

Assignment 1

Thurs, June 3rd: Morphology

Topics: words, morphemes, allomorphs, paradigms, inflection, derivation, morphological typology

Reading: LF chapters 4, 8.3 and 9.5

Tues, June 8th: Syntax

Topics: phrase structure, constituency, syntactic movement

Reading: LF chapters 5 and 9.6-7

Assignment 2

Thurs, June 10th: Semantics

Topics: syntax-semantics interface, meaning, truth conditions, entailment
Reading: LF chapter 6

Tues, June 15th: Pragmatics

Topics: implicature, presuppositions, Gricean maxims

Reading: LF chapter 7

Assignment 3

Thurs, June 17th: Sociolinguistics

Topics: linguistic variation, dialects, identity, overt vs. covert prestige, age, gender, politeness

Reading: LF chapters 8.5, 10 and 11

Tues, June 22nd: Language acquisition

Topics: language as an instinct, language disorders, productivity, overgeneralization, word learning, pidgins and creoles, Nicaraguan Sign Language, the Sapir-Whorf hypothesis

Reading: LF chapters 1, 8.0-1, 8.4, and 9.0-2

Thurs, June 24th: Language change

Topics: causes of change, historical linguistics

Reading: LF chapters 12 and 13

Assignment 4

Tues, June 29th: Buffer class

Topics: TBD

Reading: none

DESCRIPTION OF GRADED COMPONENTS

Reading quizzes

These will be short quizzes given every class for which there's a reading assignment. They will be graded for accuracy.

In-class worksheets

These will make up the group work portion of classes. They will be graded for completion, meaning that you get credit for completing the worksheets

regardless of accuracy. If you are absent from class, you can complete and submit the worksheet on your own to get credit.

Language journal

For the language journal, starting with the class on Phonology, you will write one entry for each class about a less-studied language of your choice.

Assignments

There will be four assignments. These will be completed outside of class time and are intended to assess what you have learned at several midpoints during the course