Summer 2023

Syllabus - LING 0001 910 - Introduction to Linguistics

Course times: Tuesdays 7pm - 9pm
      Thursdays 7pm - 9pm
Location: Zoom
Instructor: Johanna Benz, jbenz@sas.upenn.edu
Office hours: by appointment

Email policy: allow up to 24 hours for a reply, weekend emails take until Monday

Overview

This course is an introduction to linguistics, the science of language. We will cover the basics of most major subfields in linguistics: the sciences of word formation (morphology), sound (phonetics and phonology), sentence structure (syntax), meaning (semantics and pragmatics), as well as 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
These will be short quizzes given before every class for which there's a reading assignment (which is almost all of them). They will be graded for accuracy.

20% 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.

60% 3 written assignments (at 20% each)
These will be completed outside of class time and are intended to assess what you have learned at two midpoints and at the end of the course.
Assignments 1 and 2 will be short-form exercises, assignment 3 will be an essay.

Class Schedule (tentative)**:**

Tuesday, May 23: Introduction
Thursday, May 25: Morphology
Tuesday, May 30: Phonetics
Thursday, June 1: Phonology
Tuesday, June 6: Syntax, *Assignment 1 due*
Thursday, June 8: Semantics & Pragmatics
Tuesday, June 13: Sociolinguistics
Thursday, June 15: Language change
Tuesday, June 20: Language acquisition, *Assignment 2 due*
Thursday, June 22: Language and the brain
Tuesday, June 27: buffer class, tbd
Thursday, June 29: no class, *Assignment 3 due*