LING 0001-920: Introduction to Linguistics

Course times: Tuesday and Thursday, 7:00 -9:00pm EDT
Location: TBA (in-person)
Instructor: Ugurcan Vurgun
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is a general introduction to linguistics, defined as the science whose domain of investigation is the nature of (human and natural) language. The course contains overviews of the main areas that contribute to the understanding of language, such as phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, and pragmatics. The course also explores some applications of linguistics to fields such as computational linguistics, psycholinguistics, and sociolinguistics.

OBJECTIVES AND REQUIREMENTS

By the end of this course, you will be able to:
- Identify and analyze the basic units and structures of language at different levels
- Explain how linguistic data can be collected and used to test hypotheses
- Compare and contrast different languages and dialects in terms of their linguistic features
- Appreciate the diversity and complexity of human language
- Recognize the relevance of linguistics to other disciplines and real-world issues

Textbook

Language Files: Materials for an Introduction to Language and Linguistics (13th edition) by The Ohio State University Press. Chapters will be uploaded to Canvas as pdf files.

Grading

Your final grade will be based on the following components:
- Homework assignments (40%): There will be four homework assignments throughout the semester. Each assignment will cover one or more chapters from the textbook. You will have one week to complete each assignment after it is posted.

- Quizzes (20%): There will be four quizzes during recitations. Each quiz will test your understanding of the material covered in the previous lectures. Quizzes are closed-book and closed-notes.

- Language Journal (20%): You are expected write a journal on what you have learnt on each class with examples from a language (preferably one other than English).

- In-class worksheets (20%): Worksheets will be filled out by groups during the group work portion of each class. You are expected to collaborate and come up with ideas on each topic.

Course policies

Please read carefully and follow these policies throughout the semester:

- Grading 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

- Attendance: Attendance is mandatory for lectures. Please contact your instructor if you have to miss a class.

- Late work: Late work will not be accepted unless you have a valid excuse (such as illness or emergency) with documentation.

- Academic integrity: Academic integrity is essential for learning and scholarship. You must adhere to Penn's Code of Academic Integrity at all times. Any violation of academic integrity (such as plagiarism or cheating) will result in a zero for that assignment or exam, as well as possible disciplinary action by Penn's Office of Student Conduct.

Class Schedule (Tentative)

Week 1: What is linguistics?
- Lecture 1: June 29 (Thursday) - Introduction to the course and the field of linguistics
- Lecture 2: July 4 (Tuesday) - The design features of human language
- Reading: Search 'What is linguistics?' on YouTube, and write three bullet points
- Assignment 1: Due by July 6 (Thursday)

Week 2: Phonetics & Phonology
- Lecture 3: July 6 (Thursday) - The description of speech sounds
- Lecture 4: July 11 (Tuesday) - The patterns and rules of speech sounds
- Reading: Language Files chapters 2, 3
- Quiz 1: July 11 (Tuesday)

Week 3: Morphology & Syntax
- Lecture 5: July 13 (Thursday) - The structure and formation of words

- Lecture 6: July 18 (Tuesday) - Phrase structures, constituency
- Reading: Language Files chapters 4, 5, 8.3, 9.5, 9.6, 9.7
- Assignment 2: Due by July 20 (Thursday)

Week 4: Semantics & Pragmatics
- Lecture 7: July 20 (Thursday) – Meaning, truth conditions, entailment
- Lecture 8: July 25 (Tuesday) – Implicatures
- Reading: Language Files chapters 6, 7
- Assignment 3: Due by July 27 (Thursday)

Week 5: Sociolinguistics & Language Acquisition
- Lecture 9: July 27 (Thursday) – Meaning, truth conditions, entailment
- Lecture 10: Aug 1 (Tuesday) – Implicatures
- Reading: Language Files chapters 8.0, 8.1, 8.4, 8.5, 9.0, 9.2, 10, 11
- Assignment 3: Due by Aug 3 (Thursday)

Week 5: Psycholinguistics
- Lecture 11: Aug 3 (Thursday) – Behavioral methods to study language processing
- Reading: Chapter 9 of Language Files