

ENG 308: Introduction to Linguistics

Fall 2004

Lecture: CH 113, MW 9:10-10:00 am

Break-out session: LA 216, F 9:10-10:00, 10:20-11:10, 12:40-1:30

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Overview

Linguistics is a scientific study of all aspects of language. As a general introduction to linguistics, this course will survey traditional subfields of linguistics including phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, pragmatics, psycholinguistics, and sociolinguistics, and also address special topics such as sign language and computational linguistics. By moving through these topics, students will build an understanding of important organizational principles that underlie language, mind, and society. Students taking this course will gain a firm background for pursuing further study in language and various disciplines, as the methods of linguistic analysis introduced in this course emphasize analytical reasoning and critical thinking. In addition, students will gain greater awareness of the diversity of human language, culture, and experience through studying the many ways in which the organization of linguistic systems interacts with various social contexts.

Required Textbook

Language Files: Materials for an Introduction to Language and Linguistics (9th edition: 2004). Ohio State University Press.

Evaluation

Attendance and participation	5%
Students must attend all class sessions ready to discuss the readings assigned for each day.	
Homework assignments	15%
There will be 5 homework assignments throughout this course.	
Response papers	10%
We will watch 4 videos in class. Students will submit response papers at the following class session. Guidelines and specific questions to address will be provided.	
Quizzes	20%
There will be 4 quizzes which test the student's understanding of the course material.	
Brochure assignment	10%
Students will write a short brochure or article, addressed towards a general audience, which either explains the relevance of linguistics for everyday life, or questions and corrects a commonly-held misconception about language. Specific guidelines to follow.	
Mid term exam (Monday, Oct. 18, in class)	20%
Final exam (Wednesday, Dec. 15, 7:30 am-9:30 am)	20%
Mid term and final exams cannot be rescheduled.	
Total	100%

Course schedule

Wk	M	W	F
1	8/30 Why study language? Read: File 1.3	9/1 Subfields of linguistics Read: File 3.1, 4.1, 5.1, 6.1, 7.1, 8.1, 9.1, 10.1	9/3 Common language myths Read: File 1.2
2	9/6 Labor day (no class)	9/8 Phonetics: Consonants and vowels of English Read: File 3.2, 3.3, 3.4	9/10 Transcription exercise
3	9/13 Phonetics: More phonetic symbols Read: File 3.7, 3.8	9/15 Film 1 Due: HW1	9/17 Phonetics review Due: Film 1 response paper
4	9/20 Quiz 1 Mini topic: Sign languages Read: File 13.1, 13.2, 13.3	9/22 Phonology: The phoneme Read: File 4.2, 4.6, 4.7	9/24 Phonological analysis exercise
5	9/27 Phonology: Phonological rules Read: File 4.3, 4.4	9/29 Morphology: Word formation and morphological typology Read: File 5.3, 5.4, 5.5 Due: HW2	10/1 Phonology and morphology review
6	10/4 Quiz 2 Mini topic: Writing language Read: File 15.2	10/6 Syntax: Lexical categories Read: File 6.2	10/8 Lexical categories exercise
7	10/11 Film 2	10/13 Syntax: Phrasal categories, constituency Read: File 6.4, 6.5 Due: Film 2 response paper	10/15 Phrasal categories exercise, review for mid term Due: HW3
8	10/18 Mid term exam	10/20 Syntax: Word order typology Read: File 6.6	10/22 Syntax review
9	10/25 Semantics: Meanings of words Read: File 7.2, 7.3, 7.4	10/27 Pragmatics: Meaning of action – speech acts Read: File 8.2 Due: HW4	10/29 Semantics and pragmatics review

10	11/1 Quiz 3 Mini topic: Computers and language Read: File 14.1, 14.3, 14.4, 14.5	11/3 Psycholinguistics: Processing language Read: File 9.2, 9.8, 9.9	11/5 Language processing exercise
11	11/8 Film 3	11/10 Psycholinguistics: Language acquisition Read: File 9.3, 9.4, 9.5, 9.6 Due: Film 3 response paper	11/12 Psycholinguistics review
12	11/15 Sociolinguistics: Language contact Read: File 11.1, 11.2, 11.3	11/17 Film 4 Due: HW5	11/19 Language contact exercise Due: Film 4 response paper
13	11/22 Quiz 4 Mini topic: The English Only movement Read: File 10.6	11/24 Individual research day to work on brochure assignment (no class)	11/26 Thanksgiving (no class)
14	11/29 Sociolinguistics: Language variation Read: File 10.2, 10.3, 10.4, 10.5 Due: Brochure assignment	12/1 Sociolinguistics: Stylistic variation Read: File 10.7, 10.8	12/3 Sociolinguistics review
15	12/6 Language change Read: File 12.1, 12.3, 12.4, 12.6, 12.7, 12.8	12/8 Conclusions/ Review	12/10 Review for the final

Final exam: Dec. 15, 7:30 am-9:30 am