

# LINGUISTICS 1

## INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF LANGUAGE

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### Course Description

This course is an electronic version of Linguistics 1 “Introduction to the Study of Language”, taught using the Internet and email. This is a balanced survey of what is known about human language, with particular emphasis placed on American English. We will discuss the structure of human language including articulation and interaction of speech sounds (phonetics and phonology), word formation and sources of new words (morphology), structure of sentences (syntax), meaning (semantics and pragmatics), social aspects of language (sociolinguistics), the origin of English and related languages (historical linguistics), language acquisition by children, language and the brain, and the nature of sign languages. This course may be taken as an introduction to the scientific study of language, and will also provide the necessary background for higher-level courses in linguistics. The course grade will be calculated as follows:

Homework Assignments (5):	60%
Final Exam (Cumulative):	40%

### Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for this course other than an Internet access and an email account. Please also download the fonts for the International Phonetic Alphabet to your computer (they are needed for your homework assignments). The fonts are available for free download at <http://scripts.sil.org>.

### Textbook and Course Materials

Stewart, Thomas, Jr., and Nathan Vaillette. 2004. *Language Files: Materials for an Introduction to Language and Linguistics*. 9<sup>th</sup> ed. Columbus: Ohio State University Press. [Required]

Pinker, Steven. 1994. *The Language Instinct* (any edition). [Optional]

[Additional materials will be posted on the course website.]

### Course Outline

Week	Topics	Readings	Important Dates
1	The sounds of English.	Ch. 3 pp. 41-60	
2	Interaction of speech sounds.	Ch. 4 pp. 99-115, 118-23	
3	Structure of words.	Ch. 5 pp. 145-66	Homework 1 is due.
4	Structure of sentences.	Ch. 6 pp. 185-210	
5	Meaning in context.	Ch. 7 pp. 228-32, Ch. 8 pp. 250-60	Homework 2 is due.
6	Language and the brain.	Ch. 9 pp. 271-79	
7	How do children acquire language?	Ch. 9 pp. 283-313	Homework 3 is due.
8	Language and society.	Ch. 10 pp. 329-72	
9	Contact between languages.	Ch. 11 pp. 379-99	Homework 4 is due.
10	Language change.	Ch. 12 pp. 403-14, 416-21, 426-39	
11	Milestones in the history of English.	Ch. 12 pp. 440-47	Homework 5 is due.
12	ASL (= American Sign Language).	Ch. 13 pp. 456-64	