

INTRODUCTION TO LINGUISTICS

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Office hours: TTh 2:20-3:20pm, CL 1503A

Course Description

This course is a survey of general linguistics with particular emphasis placed on American English. We will discuss the major areas of the field including speech production (phonetics), sound patterns (phonology), word formation (morphology), sentence structure (syntax), meaning (semantics), language change over time (historical linguistics), language contact, and language acquisition. The course will emphasize practical skills of linguistic analysis, with part of each class devoted to data analysis. The course grade will be calculated as follows:

Midterms (2):	25%
Homework Assignments (7):	25%
Term Paper:	20%
Final Exam (Cumulative):	30%

Textbook

Stewart, Thomas, Jr., and Nathan Vaillette. 2007. *Language Files: Materials for an Introduction to Language and Linguistics*. 10th ed. Columbus: Ohio State University Press. [Additional materials will be posted on the course website.]

Approximate Course Outline (timing to be adjusted as needed)

Week		Date	Topics	Readings	Important Dates
1	T	08/28	Introduction to the Study of Languages.	Chapter 1	
	Th	08/30			
2	T	09/4	Phonetics: The Sounds of English and Other Languages.	Chapter 2	
	Th	09/6			Homework 1 is due (09/6).
3	T	09/11	Phonology: Interaction of Speech Sounds.	Chapter 3	
	Th	09/13			
4	T	09/18			
	Th	09/20			Homework 2 is due (09/20).
5	T	09/25	MIDTERM 1 (PHONETICS/PHONOLOGY)		
	Th	09/27	Morphemes: The Smallest Units of Word Structure.	Chapter 4 & Course Website	
6	T	10/2			
	Th	10/4	Allomorphs: Variable Morpheme Shapes.		
7	T	10/9			
	Th	10/11			
8	T	10/16	Syntax: Structure of English Sentences.	Chapter 5	
	Th	10/18			Homework 4 is due (10/18).
9	T	10/23			
	Th	10/25			
10	T	10/30	Meaning in Language.	Chapters 6, 7	
	Th	11/1			Homework 5 is due (11/1).
11	T	11/6	MIDTERM 2 (MORPHOLOGY, SYNTAX, SEMANTICS)		
	Th	11/8	Language Change Over Time.	Chapter 12	
12	T	11/13			
	Th	11/15		Homework 6 is due (11/15).	
13	T	11/20			
	Th	11/22	Thanksgiving Recess: No Class		
14	T	11/27	Language Acquisition.	Chapter 8	
	Th	11/29	Language and Brain.	Chapter 9	Homework 7 is due (11/29).
15	T	12/4	Contact Between Languages.	Chapter 11	
	Th	12/6			