

Linguistics 201: Introduction to Language in the Humanities

Syllabus: Spring 2004

M,W,F 2:30 p.m. – 3:48 p.m.

Enarson, Room 200

Instructor	Detmar Meurers
E-Mail	dm@ling.osu.edu
Office	201A Oxley Hall
Office Phone	292-0461
Office Hours	Wednesday 4 – 6 p.m.
Course Web Page	http://ling.osu.edu/~dm/04/spring/201/
Textbook	Language Files (8th edition) Stewart, T. and N. Vaillette (eds.), 2001.

1 Course Description

The course is a general survey of language and linguistics; in other words, we will systematically investigate what it means to know and use language. The focus of the course is not on any specific language or languages; rather, it discusses properties common to all languages and on ways in which languages may differ. Examples are drawn primarily from English, although other languages are used to illustrate certain concepts.

2 General Policies

Many of the following policies are obvious and are just listed here for the sake of being explicit.

Class Etiquettes Don't cheat. Don't chat. Don't read newspapers. Arrive on-time. Don't prepare to leave before the end of class. Don't ask me during office hours to repeat a whole lecture you missed.

Attendance and Participation All students are required to participate in class discussion. Since this is a challenging course, I strongly suggest that you attend every class meeting. Your effort also counts when it comes to matters of grading.

Missed Classes It is your responsibility to try to understand the material covered. If you have to miss a class, it is your responsibility to find reliable notes, copy the handouts or get the material from the course web page. Lectures will not be repeated for you.

3 Grading procedures for the course

Linguistics Outside of the Classroom: Talks and Experiments This requirement is explained in the accompanying handout.

→ 5% of the overall course-grade

Participation Participation includes attendance as well as participation in class discussion. If you attend every day, you will automatically receive 5 out of 10% for participation. The final 5% is reserved for active class participation, e.g., asking questions and taking part in discussions.

→ 10% of the overall course-grade

Homework There will be weekly homework assignments which will be given out on Wednesday and will be due at the beginning of the class on the following Monday. **No late homework will be accepted.** The lowest homework grade will be dropped.

→ 20% of the overall course-grade

Quizzes Quizzes (brief, closed-book/note mini-exams) will be given every other week. **No make-up quizzes will be given.** The lowest quiz grade will be dropped.

→ 15% of the overall course-grade

Exams

- A midterm exam, covering the contents of the first part of the course, will be given on **Friday, April 30.**

→ 25% of the overall course-grade

- The final exam, covering the contents of the second part of the course, has been set by the Registrar to be on **Monday, June 7 1:30 am – 3:18 pm**

→ 25% of the overall course-grade

Make-up exams can be scheduled only in the event of death in the family or illness. Documentation and notification no later than the exam date are required.

Total for Exams: 50% of the overall course-grade

Grading Scales

A 93 - 100	B+ 87 - 89	C+ 77 - 79	D+ 67 - 69
A- 90 - 92	B 83 - 86	C 73 - 76	D 60 - 66
	B- 80 - 82	C- 70 - 72	E 0 - 59

4 Preliminary Weekly Schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Reading	Assignments Due
1	M Mar. 29	Course Overview and Organization		
	W Mar. 31	Introduction, Parts of the Language System	Language Files 1.1–1.3	
	F Apr. 2	Animal Communication I	2.1–2.3	
2	M Apr. 5	Animal Communication II		
	W Apr. 7	Characteristics of Language		
	F Apr. 9	Pragmatics I : The Role of Context, Speech Acts	8.1	Quiz 1
3	M Apr. 12	Pragmatics II: Gricean Maxims of Conversation	8.3	Homework 1
	W Apr. 14	Semantics: Theories of Meaning	7.1–7.2	
	F Apr. 16	Syntax I: Categories	6.1–6.4	
4	M Apr. 19	Syntax II: Constituency		Homework 2
	W Apr. 21	Syntax III: Phrase-Structure	6.5	
	F Apr. 23	Morphology I: Introduction	5.1–5.3	Quiz 2
5	M Apr. 26	Morphology II: Identifying morphemes, hierarchical structure	5.4–5.5	Homework 3
	W Apr. 28	Review		
	F Apr. 30	Midterm		
6	M May 3	Phonetics I: Sounds of Speech	3.1	Homework 4
	W May 5	Phonetics II: Vowels and Consonants of English	3.2–3.3	
	F May 7	Phonetics III: Suprasegmental Features	3.6–3.7	Quiz 3

7	M May 10 W May 12 F May 14	Computational Linguistics I Computational Linguistics II Computational Linguistics III	14.1, 14.2, 14.4	Homework 5
8	M May 17 W May 19 F May 21	Child Language Acquisition Errors in Speech Production and Perception Historical Linguistics I: Families, Wave Model, Comparative Method	9.2–9.5 9.7 12.1 - 12.4	Homework 6 Quiz 4
9	M May 24 W May 26 F May 28	Historical Linguistics II: What Changes Language Variation I: Which Levels Vary, Social Stratification Language Variation II: Regional Dialects	12.6 - 12.9 10.1–10.3 10.4–10.7	Homework 7
10	<i>M May 31</i> W June 2 F June 4	<i>Memorial day – no classes</i> Language Contact: Pidgin and Creole languages Review	11.1–11.3	Homework 8