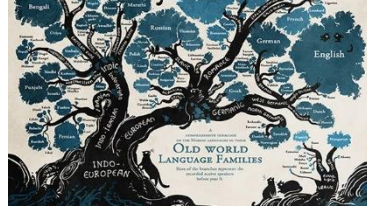


**Syllabus: LC 261**  
**Introduction to the Linguistics Study of Foreign Languages**  
Fall 2019

**Instructor:** James Stratton  
**Office:** SC G022  
**E-mail:** jstratt@purdue.edu  
**Office Hours:** Tuesdays and Thursdays (3pm-4pm)  
**Class:** Recitation Building 302 (MWF 2:30-3:20)



### **Course Description**

This introductory course offers a broad overview of human language and the field of linguistics. Firstly, we examine the properties and features of human language and discuss how it differs from animal communication. Secondly, after briefly discussing the major language families and labels such as language and dialect, we survey the fundamental branches of linguistics: phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics and pragmatics. In the final part of this course, we examine how linguistics has combined with other disciplines by surveying the fields of sociolinguistics, historical linguistics and psycholinguistics. Because there are approximately 7000 languages spoken in the world, this course takes examples from multiple languages; languages you are perhaps familiar with, languages you might be currently learning, and languages you are perhaps less familiar with.

### **Learning Outcomes**

At the end of this course, you will:

- ❖ have developed an understanding of language as an object of scientific inquiry
- ❖ have developed a critical awareness of explanations for language-related phenomena
- ❖ understand the core terms and concepts of linguistics
- ❖ have acquired linguistic skills such as IPA transcription, morphological and syntactic dissection, dialect awareness and an understanding of language evolution
- ❖ be familiar with the most important scientific findings in the field of linguistics and how they inform us about our understanding of the human brain and language acquisition
- ❖ be better prepared to learn foreign languages you are currently studying or have always wanted to learn since you will be aware of the features of human language

### **Books/Texts**

Required: *Language Files*, 11th edition, Ohio University Press.

Optional: *Language Instinct* by Steven Pinker

\*Any additional readings will be provided on Blackboard

### **Grading Scale**

A- to A+: 86-90, 91-95, 96-100  
B- to B+: 70-74, 75-80, 81-85  
C- to C+: 66-70, 71-75, 76-79  
D- to D+: 50-54, 55-60, 61-6

### **Grade Distribution**

20% 4 Homeworks (4 \* 5)  
20% 2 Quizzes (2 \* 10)  
10% Take-home Assignment  
15% Attendance & Participation  
35% 2 Midterms (2 \* 17.5)

### **Participation & Attendance**

You are expected to arrive on time and participate in class discussions and activities. Participation means no cellphone use in class, answering questions, and sharing your opinions and efforts when doing group work.

### **Homework**

Throughout the semester, you will submit four homework assignments, which will be available on Blackboard. You will have at least a week to complete each homework assignment and instructions will be provided in class.

### **Take-Home Assignment**

Because this is the *Linguistic Study of Foreign Languages*, you will be asked to choose a language of your choice (*other than English*) and explore the language from a linguistic standpoint. You will be provided with more details in the course of the semester, but in essence you will be asked to:

- ❖ Provide a brief historical overview of the language, the language family it descends from [if known!], where is it spoken and by whom. Is it learned as a foreign language?
- ❖ Present the sound inventory (including phonemes and allophones), and learn to pronounce (two sounds in the language which do not exist in your native tongue)
- ❖ Discuss at least two phonological rules in the language and provide examples
- ❖ Describe the syntactic structure of the language (SVO)
- ❖ Choose a branch of linguistics (e.g., phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax) and discuss why the language is challenging for native speakers of English?

### **Quizzes and Midterms**

Over the course of the semester, there will be two short quizzes and two in-class midterms. You will be provided with information on the topics to review in advance. The general themes for the quizzes are listed below. The first mid-term will cover material from the first half of the semester and the second mid-term will cover material from the second half of the semester.

Quiz 1: Human and Animal Communication, Language Families and Phonetics

Quiz 2: Morphology and Syntax, Semantics, Pragmatics and Sociolinguistics

### **Academic Dishonesty**

“Cheating, plagiarism, or knowingly furnishing false information to the University are examples of dishonesty.” [Part 5, Section III-B-2-a, Student Regulations], and “acts of cheating, lying, and deceit... must not be tolerated. Moreover, knowingly to aid and abet... other parties in committing dishonest acts is in itself dishonest.” [University Senate Document 72-18, December 15, 1972]. Purdue’s student guide for academic integrity is at [www.purdue.edu/odos/academic-integrity](http://www.purdue.edu/odos/academic-integrity). Any violation of academic integrity will unfortunately result minimally in a failing or zero grade for a particular assignment and may result in a failing grade for the course. In addition, the OSRR will consider applicable university penalties like removal from the university.

### **Grief Absence Policy for Students**

Purdue University recognizes that a time of bereavement is very difficult for a student. The University therefore provides the following rights to students facing the loss of a family member through the Grief Absence Policy for Students (GAPS): Students will be excused for funeral leave and given the opportunity to make up assignments or assessments in the event of the death of a family member.

### **Non-Discrimination**

Purdue University prohibits discrimination against any member of the University community based on race, religion, color, sex, age, national origin or ancestry, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, disability, or status as a veteran. The University will conduct its programs, services and activities consistent with federal, state and local laws, regulations and orders and in conformance with the procedures and limitations set forth in Executive Memorandum No. D-1, which provides specific contractual rights and remedies.

### **Disabilities**

If you anticipate physical or academic barriers based on disability, let me know. We will work together to make this class work. Students with disabilities must be registered with Adaptive Programs in the Office of the Dean of Students before I can provide classroom accommodations. If you are eligible for academic accommodations because of a documented disability, schedule an appointment with me as soon as possible. If you or someone you know is feeling overwhelmed, depressed, and/or in need of support, services are available at the Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS), (765)494-6995, or <http://www.purdue.edu/caps/>.

## Class Schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Reading/Assignment
1	Jan. 7, 9, 11	What is Linguistics? Human vs Animal Language	F: Ch. 1.1-1.3 (p. 2-19)
2	Jan. 14, 16, 18	Language and Dialect Language Families	W: Ch. 14.1-14.3 (p. 574-590) F: Chambers & Trudgill (bb) F: Ch. 10.0-1 (p. 417-423)
3	Jan. 23, 25	<i>Martin Luther King Day (18<sup>th</sup>)</i> Phonetics	Fr: Ch.2.1 (p. 40-52)
4	Feb. 4, 6, 8	Phonetics	M: Ch. 2.2 (p. 53-57) W: <i>Do Ex. 2.1, 2.2 (Q 1-7)</i> Fr.: <i>Do Ex. 2.4 (no. 22)</i> <b>HMK1 due</b>
5	Feb. 11, 13, 15	Phonology	M: Ch. 2.3-2.4 (p. 58-68) F: Ch. 3.1-3.2 (p. 108-121)
6	Feb. 18, 20, 22	Phonology <b>Quiz 1</b>	M: Ch. 3.03.2 W: Ch 3.3 <b>HMK2 due</b>
7	Feb. 25, 27 Mar. 1	Morphology	M: (3.6) ex. 25 and 34 W: Ch. 4.0-4.1 (p. 154-162) F: Ch. 4.2-4.4 (p. 163-176)
8	Mar. 4, 6, 8	Syntax	W: Ch. 5.1-5.2 (p. 202-216) F: Ch. 5.3-5.5 (p. 217-234) <b>HMK3 due</b> <i>Midterm Review</i>
9	Mar. 11, 13, 15	<b>Spring Vacation –No class</b>	
10	Mar. 18, 20, 22	<i>Midterm Review</i> Semantics <b>Midterm</b>	F: Ch. 6-6.4 (p. 246- 265)
11	Mar 25, 27, 29	Pragmatics Sociolinguistics	F: Ch. 7.0-7.2 (p. 274- 285)
12	Apr. 1, 3, 5	Historical Linguistics	M: Ch. 10-10.5 (p.416-449)
13	Apr. 8, 10, 12	Endangered Languages Language Contact	<b>HMK4 due</b> F: Ch. 12 (p. 491-516)
14	Apr. 15, 17, 19	Writing Systems First Language Acquisition <b>Quiz 2</b>	F: Ch. 8 (p. 315-345)
15	Apr. 22, 24, 26	Second Language Acquisition Language & the Brain	F: Ch. 9 (p. 358-400)
16	Mar 24, 26	Special Topics <i>Review</i>	

\*Second midterm schedule TBA