

# Course Syllabus: LINGUIST 101/CULANTH 107/ENGLISH 111

## Introduction to Linguistics

### *Instructor:*

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### *Teaching Assistant:*

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**Course Time and Location:** MW 11:40-12:55, Social Sciences 113

### **Course Synopsis:**

In this course, we will study language "with a capital L." That is, we will not focus on one particular language; we will instead use examples drawn from the various languages of the world to study structural and social phenomena associated with human communication. In the first part of the course, we will discuss the structural aspects of language: sounds, words and word parts, sentence structure, semantics, and language acquisition and storage. The second part of the course will deal with social phenomena of language: language variation, dialects, language policy and practice, and language and gender. By the end of the course, I hope you will have developed not only an interest in the language you hear around you every day, but also the tools with which to examine it critically.

### **Textbook:**

We will be using *Language Files (10th ed.)*, by the Ohio State University Department of Linguistics. It is available in the bookstore, or if you would like to find it online, it is available on Amazon and Half.com. The ISBN is 0814251633. **PLEASE DO NOT BUY ANY OTHER EDITIONS OF THE BOOK.**

### **Policies:**

There will be no mandatory homework and no tests in this course. The only instrument of assessment will be 20-25 daily quizzes. In general, you can expect a 1-2 class lag period between when material is first presented in class and when it is tested on a daily. You are responsible for contacting me if you have any questions about the material. Every daily will be weighted equally in grading.

There are two options for grading. They are as follows:

#### *Option A*

Your final grade for the course is the average of all your dailies throughout the semester, excluding the worst three.

#### *Option B*

Your dailies, excluding the worst three, will count for 75% of your final grade, and you will take a cumulative final exam worth 25% of the final grade. Please note that if you

select this option and your final exam negatively impacts your overall grade, you will still receive the lower grade.

*Example:*

Jim's average on dailies is an 82% after the lowest three are dropped. If he chooses option A, his final grade will be a B-. If he chooses option B, he will take the final exam, which will count for 25% of his grade. He earns a score of 95 on the final exam, and his final grade is  $(.82)(75) + (.95)(25) = 85.25$ , a B.

You will be asked to make a decision *in writing* on the last day of class preceding the final exam. Once entered, your decision is binding and cannot be changed. If you are not in class on the last day of classes, you will be assigned to Option A.

I have chosen to implement the "dailies" method for several reasons. First, it allows you some flexibility in how you choose to prepare for the course. Second, it allows for prompt and targeted feedback, as opposed to waiting a long time for large homework problem sets and tests to be graded. Finally, it functions simultaneously as a grading and attendance policy, eliminating administrative overhead.

**Syllabus and Assignments**

Please note that this syllabus and assignments are tentative and subject to change depending on a variety of factors. This will serve as a general template for the organization of the course.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Read Prior to Class</b>	<b>In class</b>
Jan 07	N/A	Introduction; course policies; grading
Jan 12	Ch. 1	Performance and competence; the communication chain; subfields of linguistics; three types of grammar
Jan 14		Arbitrary and non-arbitrary linguistic signs
Jan 19	<b>NO CLASS: Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday</b>	
Jan 21	Ch 2.1	Spelling and sound; acoustic vs. articulatory phonetics; techniques for observing your vocal tract; vocal tract anatomy and the physiological processes of speech; what is the IPA?
Jan 26	Ch. 2.2	Phonetics on the barbie; creating a consonant inventory; three criteria for classifying consonants; voicing; place of articulation; manner of articulation
Jan 28	Ch. 2.3	Criteria for describing vowels; tongue height; frontness/backness; monophthongs and diphthongs; roundedness; IPA transcription
Feb 02	Ch. 2.4, 2.5	IPA transcription
Feb 04	Ch. 3.1	Toilet paper as a linguistic analysis tool; phonemes vs. allophones; contrastive and non-contrastive sounds; contrastive distribution; minimal pairs;

		complementary distribution
Feb 09	Ch. 3.2, 3.3	Phonological vs. phonetic transcription; application of phonological rules; surface vs deep structures; natural classes
Feb 11	Ch. 3.4	Phonotactic constraints; foreign accents; sounds across the world's languages
Feb 16	Ch. 3.5	Phonology problems
Feb 18		Phonology problems
Feb 23	Ch. 4.1	Phonology problems (if necessary)
Feb 25	Ch. 4.2	Words and their parts; derivation; inflection; inventory of inflectional affixes for English; bound vs. free morphemes
Mar 02	Ch. 4.3, 4.4	Morphological processes
Mar 04	Ch. 5.1, 5.2	Morphological typology; morphological trees
Mar 09	<b>NO CLASS: Spring Break</b>	
Mar 11		
Mar 16	Ch. 5.3	Basic principles of syntax
Mar 18	Ch. 5.4	Lexical categories; phrase structure rules
Mar 23		More phrase structure rules; sentence diagramming
Mar 25	Ch. 5.5, 5.6	Sentence diagramming
Mar 30		Sentence diagramming concluded; word order typology (time permitting)
Apr 01	Ch. 6.1, 6.2	Intro to semantics; lexical meaning; lexical relations (hyponymy, antonymy, etc.)
Apr 06	Ch. 7.1, 7.2	Pragmatics; felicity; the Cooperative Principle
Apr 08	Ch. 7.3	More Gricean maxims; implicature; conversation in context
Apr 13	Ch. 8.1-8.3	Child language acquisition
Apr 15	Ch. 10.1-10.3	Principles of sociolinguistics; sociolinguistic variables; style and register; speech communities
Apr 20		Sociolinguistics
Apr 22		Language and Gender in Hip Hop

**If you choose grading option B, the final exam will take place on Monday, April 27, from 7-10 PM. Depending on the number of students selecting to take the final exam, it may be given at a time and place mutually agreeable to all participants.**