

Introduction to the Study of Language

LING/ENGL 1200 section 001

Spring 2019

T,H 10:45-12:05

WEB L103

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If these office hours are not convenient, feel free to make an appointment, either by asking after class or via e-mail (leaving phone messages is not a reliable way to reach us).

**Thou hast most traitorously corrupted the youth
of the realm in erecting a grammar school.**

-Shakespeare

The Second Part of King Henry VI

Course Description:

This course will introduce you to the scientific study of language. Its goal is to give you a glimpse into the inner workings of human languages, the intricate systems that allow us to communicate our thoughts. We will explore ways that languages can differ, and, more startlingly, how much all languages have in common. You will be exposed to some of the latest thinking regarding the nature of language, from its physical manifestations to its organization in the human mind. We will look at various languages and various dialects within a language with scientific objectivity, and we will explore biases that often prevail in society about "superior" versus "inferior" forms of language.

Course Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

***Identify**

- The elements that make human language unique among communication systems
- The different levels at which humans process language
- The principles or strategies humans follow when using language
- Similarities and differences between languages and dialects cross-linguistically and cross-culturally.

***Describe**

- The speech sounds commonly found in human languages
- The meaningful parts that make up words
- The parts of speech

***Provide**

- Examples of phenomena in support of descriptive theories of language

***Analyze**

- Data sets using the tools of linguistics from
 - ~Phonology
 - ~Morphology
 - ~Syntax

~Conversations

Teaching and Learning Methods

I consider classroom learning and readings to be complementary. You won't do well in the class if you attend all classes but neglect to read the assigned textbook chapters and handouts; likewise, you won't do well, if you read the assigned textbook chapters and handouts but skip classes. You are equally responsible for all material, whether presented in class, the textbook, or Canvas.

The class is divided into units, and these units correlate with [Modules](#) on Canvas. Each module includes supplementary material, including handouts, comic strips, video, and audio. In addition, each module contains links to homework assignments. All graded homework will be turned in through Canvas in the form of a [quiz](#), a [discussion](#), or an [assignment](#). In some cases, homework will not be collected, but an answer key will be distributed. Most homework assignments are taken from our textbook, *Language Files*.

Classes will consist of lectures, discussions, and group work. Group work may be collected and count toward your participation grade.

I enjoy talking to students one-on-one. If you have brief questions or comments, I encourage you to come talk to me after class (before class, I'm not as receptive because I need to prepare for the day's lesson). If you wish to discuss something in more depth, swing by my office hours--or send me an e-mail to schedule a meeting.

Course Policy

The University [requires](#) students to attend classes. You are responsible for any material covered in class, including lectures, handouts, and group work. I urge you: **come to class**. This is for your own benefit. If, by some unfortunate circumstance, you miss a lecture, make sure you do the homework and reading, borrow notes from a reliable classmate, and then come to talk to me if you have questions.

All students are expected to maintain professional behavior in the classroom setting, according to the [Student Code](#), spelled out in the Student Handbook. Students have specific rights in the classroom as detailed in Article III of the Code. The Code also specifies proscribed conduct (Article XI) that involves cheating on tests, plagiarism, and/or collusion, as well as fraud, theft, etc. Students should read the Code carefully and know they are responsible for the content. According to Faculty Rules and Regulations, it is the faculty responsibility to enforce responsible classroom behaviors, and I will do so, beginning with verbal warnings and progressing to dismissal from class and a failing grade. Students have the right to appeal such action to the Student Behavior Committee.

Grading

Your [grade](#) will be based on **homework** (20%), **class participation** (20%), and three **exams** (20% each). There will be **no extensions** on deadlines except in the case of a severe illness, a death in the family, or a catastrophic act of nature or nation. In all cases, I expect a letter explaining the situation. The same goes for incompletes. Unless you make special arrangements with me to receive an incomplete, I will not give one. Special arrangements should be in the form of a statement that we write up and sign. University regulations prohibit the use of the "INC" grade unless the student has completed 80% of the coursework. **Plagiarism** is not tolerated and may result in a zero for the plagiarized assignment. Late exams may be accepted at my discretion, but up to 10% of the grade will be deducted for each day it is late.

Homework

All homework is distributed through Canvas. Graded assignments will be collected through Canvas. Homework is best accessed through [Modules](#). Homework takes the form of a [quiz](#), [discussion](#), or [assignment](#). Some assignments are ungraded. You should complete these on your own, and an answer key will be provided.

Class Participation

You are expected to contribute to class discussions. We will be doing group work as well as having full-class discussions. You are expected to contribute examples from your own observation of phenomena, suggest possible analyses of phenomena, and help design studies to resolve any outstanding questions that come up in the lecture or class discussion. I will take role for the first two weeks of the semester; attendance will count toward your class participation grade. Group work may be collected and count toward your class participation grade.

Exams

The first two exams will be administered in class. The final exam will be a take-home exam.

Equal Access

The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin Union Building,

581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. All written information in this course can be made available in alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services.

Course Materials

Dawson, Hope C. and Michael Phelan. 2016. *Language Files* 12. Columbus: OSU Press.

Various handouts and readings available on Canvas.

Canvas

We will be using Canvas extensively. You can access it through [CIS](#) or utah.instructure.com. You are responsible for all material presented through Canvas. All graded homework assignments will be distributed and submitted through Canvas. Material and homework are intended to be accessed through [Modules](#). Any important information we need to convey to you will be given through [Announcements](#). Be sure to set your [notifications](#) for announcements to "notify me right away."