

Introduction to Language in the Humanities
Ling 201

Spring 2002, 5 credit hours

T R 10:30 a.m. - 12:18 p.m.

Enarson 200

Instructor: Allison Blodgett
E-mail: blodgett@ling.ohio-state.edu
Office & phone: Oxley 24B (292-8878)
Office hours: Mondays 2:30 p.m.-3:15 p.m., Tuesdays 9:30 a.m.-10:15 a.m.,
and by appointment

Required Materials:

- The 8th edition of *Language Files* (the red book)

Course Description: This course provides an introduction to the scientific study of language. Topics covered will include the following: What does it mean to know a language? Are humans unique in their use of language? Why are languages diverse? In what ways do languages vary from one another and in what ways are they similar, at the sound, word, and sentence level?

Course Goals: Through this course students will develop their abilities to evaluate and discuss issues regarding the use and structure of natural human languages.

Grading: Your final grade will be based on the total number of points you accumulate during the quarter. Points are earned in the following ways and correspond to the following scale:

Linguistics Outside of the Classroom		Point Total	Grade	Point Total	Grade
Linguistic Analyses	140 points	400-372	A	319-308	C+
Talks & Experiments	20 points	371-360	A-	307-292	C
		359-348	B+	291-280	C-
Linguistics in the Classroom		347-332	B	279-268	D+
Exam 1	70 points	331-320	B-	267-240	D
Exam 2	70 points			239-0	F
Cumulative Final	100 points				
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TOTAL	400 points				

This information is available in alternative formats upon request. For further information, contact the instructor or the Office of Disability Services (292-3307).

Exams. Exam dates are indicated in the course calendar and will not change. No makeup exams will be given, except in the most dire of circumstances and only with formal documentation. In those extremely rare cases, the decision to provide a makeup will be completely at my discretion.

Exams are based on class events and readings (even those that we do not discuss in class). Each exam is cumulative in the sense that the concepts in this course build on one another. The final exam is cumulative in the traditional sense; questions will be based on the entire class.

Linguistic Analyses. These assignments must be typed, legible, proofread, and turned in during class on the day due. If you use the mailbox in Oxley 222 (*blodgett*) to turn one in, you accept the risk that I will not find it until after class and that I will grade it under the late policy.

Late Policy. Assignments that are turned in after class on the day due--but before the next scheduled exam--are eligible for (at most) half credit.

Leave yourself enough time to find a computer lab with a good printer in case your printer breaks, runs out of toner, etc. E-mail submissions will not be accepted.

Survival Tips

****Come to class****--Lectures and in-class activities build on the material in the reading; they do not necessarily repeat that material.

****Learn from the reading****--If you're new to this process, this minimally involves:

- Doing the reading before coming to class.
- Taking notes as you encounter terms, people, and ideas.
- Describing these terms and ideas in your own words.

Work with someone--You are encouraged to find a study partner or group, and even to work together on homework. Please note that I take a dim view of receiving answers that are worded exactly (or nearly exactly) like someone else's. Talk about the ideas, but collect your own data and write your own answers.

Do not call me if you must occasionally miss class. It is your responsibility to get reliable notes from a classmate and to see me with questions. However, if circumstances, such as illness or a family emergency, require you to miss class for an extended period, please let me know as soon as possible. Under no circumstances should you expect me to repeat a lecture.

Do not pack up early--Class ends when the bell rings. Out of consideration for your classmates, please do not talk with others during lectures and remember to turn off all cell phones.

Academic Misconduct. The Ohio State University takes academic misconduct very seriously. If you violate university rules, you will be dealt with accordingly. For example, copying, plagiarism, cheating, and falsifying data (i.e., making up your answers to a homework instead of running the experiment and collecting the data) are serious offenses that I am required to report to the university. If you are unsure about what constitutes academic misconduct, please see me.

Course Calendar

While I reserve the right to add, omit, or shift topics, exam dates will not change. Readings should be completed before class.

Week 1: Introduction

- 4/2 Go over syllabus, expectations
- 4/4 Thinking critically about language Files 1.1-1.3

Week 2: Is language uniquely human?

- 4/9 Features of communication systems Files 2.1-2.3
- 4/11 Visual languages **Analysis #1 Due** Files 13.1-13.2

Week 3: Language Variation

- 4/16 What varies? Files 10.1-10.2
- 4/18 Why does language vary? Files 10.3-10.4, 10.8-10.9

Week 4: Language Variation

- 4/23 American Tongues **Analysis #2 Due**
- 4/25 Exam 1

Week 5: Language and Meaning

- 4/30 The role of context Files 8.1-8.4
- 5/2 The role of words Files 7.1-7.4

Week 6: Language and Sound

- 5/7 Describing sounds **Analysis #3 Due** Files 3.1-3.3, 3.7
- 5/9 Describing sounds Files 4.1-4.2

Week 7: Language and Sound

- 5/14 Using sounds Files 4.3, 4.5
- 5/16 Using sounds

Week 8: Language and Structure

- 5/21 Exam 2
- 5/23 At the word-level **Analysis #4 Due** Files 12.7, 5.1-5.4

Week 9: Language and Structure

- 5/28 At the word-level File 5.5
- 5/30 At the sentence-level Files 6.1-6.4

Week 10: Language and Structure

- 6/4 At the sentence-level Files 6.5-6.7
- 6/6 At the sentence-level

Tuesday, June 11: Cumulative Final at 9:30-11:18 a.m.