

Spring 2020

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Office Hours: TR, 10:40-11:30 via Zoom

Course Description

In this course, we will explore the following two questions:

“What is the nature of human language?”

“How can we as linguists understand the nature of human language?”

In doing so, the goal of the course is to provide a broad overview of the field of linguistics and the ways in which linguists analyze human language phenomena.

Course Objectives

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

- Demonstrate an understanding of the core areas of linguistics
- Analyze a range of language structures at different levels of complexity
- Use basic linguistic terminology to describe the features of human languages

Course Learning Tasks

To accomplish the objectives of this course, we will complete the following tasks:

Homefun Tasks (8 x 3%; 24% total)

In order to give you practice in the linguistic analysis techniques we cover in each module, you will complete a small homefun task following each module. These tasks will require you to analyze real-world language use and discuss the results of your analysis with your classmates.

Quizzes (8 x 2%; 16% total)

In order to assess your ability to put the knowledge gained in each module into practice, you will take a quiz following each module. These quizzes will be based on information covered in the lectures.

Exams (60%)

There will be two exams: a midterm (25%) and a final exam (35%). They will both consist of problems similar in content and format to those on homefun tasks and quizzes. The midterm exam will cover the contents of Modules 1-4. The final exam will be cumulative and cover the contents of Modules 1-8.

Grading

Course Learning Tasks and Grading

Assignment	% of Grade
Homefun Discussions	24% (8 x 3%)
Quizzes	16% (8 x 2%)
Midterm Exam	25%
Final Exam	35%

Grading Scale

100—93	A	76—73	C
92—90	A-	72—70	C-
89—87	B+	69—67	D+
86—83	B	66—63	D
82—80	B-	62—60	D-
79—77	C+	59—0	E

More information regarding current UF grading policies can be found here:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

Course Textbook and Additional Readings

For this course, we will be primarily reading chapters from the following textbook:

Finegan, E. (2015). *Language: Its Structure and Use* (7th Edition). Stamford, Connecticut: Cengage Learning.

Any additional readings will be made available on Canvas.

Course Policies

Participation

You are expected to watch all lectures and participate in all discussions on Canvas. Failure to do so will result in you missing out in important information that is vital to your success in the course.

Canvas

Canvas will be our primary communication channel. Use your Gatorlink to login to <elearning.ufl.edu>. All class resources will be stored in Canvas. Assignments will be submitted to Canvas and feedback on assignments will also be submitted via Canvas. For these reasons, make sure you know how to upload assignments, view feedback on those uploads, and receive notifications and announcements. Additionally, checking the Canvas homepage regularly will be essential for success in this course.

Late work

Late submission of assignments reduces the maximum score by 10% for each day the assignment is late. Assignments turned in 5 days after the due date are not accepted. Exceptions to this policy can be made in the event of verifiable extenuating circumstances. An extenuating circumstance is an event beyond your control, such as an accident or emergent medical condition. Verifiable means that supporting documents will be required.

E-mail and Conferences

If you need to contact me, send an email or a message through Canvas. If I do not respond within 24 hours, please email me again. Please feel free to email with any questions that you have about the course or constructive feedback. Virtual office hours will be conducted through Zoom on Canvas. Additionally, if you need to meet with me at a time outside scheduled office hours, you can e-mail me to make an appointment.

Technical Support

If you need assistance resolving technical issues with Canvas or any course materials, contact the UF Computing Help Desk (<http://helpdesk.ufl.edu/>).

Accommodation

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Academic honesty

Students are held accountable to the UF Honor Code: (<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>)

Course Evaluation

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

Tentative Course Schedule

The course syllabus provides a general plan for the course; deviations may be necessary. If deviations are made, I will upload an updated schedule to Canvas.

Week	Module	Assignments
1 (1/6-10)	Introduction to Course Introduction to Linguistics	Welcome Quiz
2 (1/13-17)	Introduction to Linguistics Phonetics	Homefun 1 Quiz 1
3 (1/21-24)	Phonetics	
4 (1/27-31)	Phonetics Phonology	Homefun 2 Quiz 2
5 (2/3-7)	Phonology	
6 (2/10-14)	Morphology	Homefun 3 Quiz 3
7 (2/17-21)	Morphology	
8 (2/24-28)	Morphology Midterm Review	Homefun 4 Quiz 4 Midterm Exam
9 (3/9-13)	Syntax	
10 (3/16-20)	Syntax	Homefun 5 Quiz 5
11 (3/23-27)	Semantics	
12 (3/30-4/3)	Semantics; Pragmatics	Homefun 6 Quiz 6
13 (4/6-10)	Pragmatics & Social Variation	Homefun 7 Quiz 7
14 (4/13-17)	Regional Variation & Review	Homefun 8 Quiz 8
15 (4/20-22)	Final Exam	