

Introduction to Linguistics (LING 20001)*

Spring 2020

MWF 9.30-10.20a (Central time)

Instructor: Brandon Rhodes

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Office Hours via Zoom: Sun 2.00-3.00p, F 12.00-1p (Central time) and by appointment

Course logistics: Most material that would have been presented in lecture will be presented in relatively short (approx. 10-20min) videos uploaded to Canvas. For each day we would have met on campus, there will typically be 2-3 of these videos. Scheduled meetings will then come in two flavors: (i) a discussion of the material, where the direction of the discussion will be guided more by the questions you all ask; and (ii) a practice / demo session, where I will have an activity that we can walk through to more closely understand the basic modes of analysis in linguistics. That said, all of this is flexible, so **please** offer feedback to improve this experience.

Course Description: This course will be a sample platter: on (roughly) a weekly basis, we will introduce a subfield of linguistics, motivate its place, learn some of the basic analytical tools / concepts for that subfield, and, ideally, highlight the deeper connections that string that particular subfield together with the others. A lot of the material will focus on showing that there is interesting and significant structure in language and then on understanding how we may analyze it. We will also look at ways in which languages differ, which can be very insightful for the reason that it is not completely unconstrained. Last, we will talk about language as a social behavior, learning about how people use it to communicate information about themselves and/or their community and about ways it has change over time.

Readings: There is no required textbook for this course. The homework and exams will be based on the material presented in the slides during lecture. If you would like to consult a textbook for additional help at any point, a pdf the 12th edition of *Language Files* (Ohio State University Press) can be found here <https://kb.osu.edu/handle/1811/91418>.

Grade components:

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| Homework | 40% |
| Midterm Exam | 20% |
| Final Exam | 20% |
| Attendance & participation | 15% |
| Research Awareness | 5% |

Homework: There will be 6 homework assignments this quarter, which will contribute equally to your grade. Assignments should be submitted through Canvas.

Exams: There will be one midterm exam and a *cumulative* final exam.

*This syllabus is subject to change, due to the atypical circumstances. I will always keep the most up-to-date version on Canvas, making an announcement whenever it changes.

Attendance & participation: We will have a mix of synchronous class discussion on Zoom and online (asynchronous) lectures.

- **Synchronous** meetings are not required, but they are highly recommended. Yes, I am **slightly** biased, but hear me out: in my experience as an instructor and as a student, one of the most helpful things is to hear how someone else has processed the same information; this is particularly evident in how a colleague/classmate will frame a question and how an instructor then answers that question. Additionally, any activities we will do will not have been randomly chosen, so these sessions can be a great time to figure out (i) what is most important and (ii) use that information to help guide you in the process of weaving together the topics we present into a coherent mental picture.
- **Asynchronous** activities are required unless otherwise stated or prior accommodations made.

Research awareness: Read an academic article and write a 250-500 word summary of the research question and critical findings.

Letter Grade Distribution:

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|---------------|----|---------------|----|
| ≥ 93.00 | A | 77.00 - 79.99 | C+ |
| 90.00 - 92.99 | A- | 73.00 - 76.99 | C |
| 87.00 - 89.99 | B+ | 70.00 - 72.99 | C- |
| 83.00 - 86.99 | B | 60.00 - 69.99 | D |
| 80.00 - 82.99 | B- | ≤ 59.99 | F |

Late Work Policy: Unless you receive an extension from me ahead of the due date, you will lose 10% of the maximum grade for each day an assignment is late. *Please do not prioritize this course over your physical or mental health* - let me know if you need an extension.

Academic Integrity: It is your responsibility to be familiar with the University's policy on academic honesty. Instances of academic dishonesty will be referred to the Office of the Provost for adjudication. That being said, you are allowed (encouraged!) to collaborate with other students in the class on homework assignments. Please include a note indicating with whom you collaborated.

Accommodations: If you need any accommodations, please provide your instructor with a copy of your Accommodation Determination Letter (provided to you by the Student Disability Services office) as soon as possible so that you may discuss how your accommodations may best be implemented in this course.

Tentative Course Outline:

Week 1: Apr 6-10

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| M | Linguistics & Language 1 |
| W | Linguistics & Language 2 |
| F | Linguistics & Language 3 |

Week 2: Apr 13-17

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| M | Phonetics 1 | <i>HW1 assigned</i> |
| W | Phonetics 2 | |
| F | Phonetics 3 | |

Week 3: Apr 20-24

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| M | Phonology 1 | <i>HW1 due, HW2 assigned</i> |
| W | Phonology 2 | |
| F | Phonology 3 | |

Week 4: Apr 27-May 1

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| M | Morphology 1 | <i>HW2 due, HW3 assigned</i> |
| W | Morphology 2 | |
| F | Morphology 3 | |

Week 5: May 4-8

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| M | Syntax 1 | <i>HW3 due, Midterm assigned</i> |
| W | Syntax 2 | |
| F | Syntax 3 | |

Week 6: May 11-15

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| M | Semantics 1 | <i>Midterm due, HW4 assigned</i> |
| W | Semantics 2 | |
| F | Semantics 3 | |

Week 7: May 18-22

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| M | Pragmatics 1 | <i>HW4 due, HW5 assigned</i> |
| W | Pragmatics 2 | |
| F | Language & Modality | |

Week 8: May 25-29

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| M | **No class: Memorial Day!** | |
| W | Language change | <i>HW5 due, HW6 assigned</i> |

graduating students: Final assigned, no HW6 assigned

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| F | Language variation |
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Week 9: Jun 1-3

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| M | Psycholinguistics 1 | |
| W | Psycholinguistics 2 | <i>HW6 due, Final assigned</i> |
| | | <i><u>graduating students:</u> Final</i> |
| | | <i>due</i> |

Final exam due: June 12