

LING 201 – Intro to Linguistics Course Information

CRN: 12961

Course credit hours: 3.000

Prerequisites: None

Instructor

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Office hours: Online by appointment

Course Description

The course aims to provide a general overview of the foundational areas of linguistics, allowing students to gain familiarity with key concepts in the field, as well as problem-solving techniques that can be applied to the scientific study of language. Topics covered will include Phonetics & Phonology, Morphology, Syntax, Semantics, Pragmatics, Language Acquisition, and Language Change.

Learning Outcomes

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

1. Course Outcome #1: **Identify** and **illustrate** the objects of study of the different branches of linguistics, such as Phonetics, Phonology, Morphology, Syntax, Semantics, and Pragmatics.
2. Course Outcome #2: **Apply** the acquired theoretical knowledge on real linguistic data to **describe** languages and **solve** linguistic problems.
3. Course Outcome #3: **Familiarize** with different branches of linguistics, their main research methodology, and research goals.

Teaching Philosophy

As an instructor, it is my responsibility to maximize opportunities for every student in this course to learn, grow, and succeed in reaching both my own outcomes for the course and their personal goals and desires related to the class. To meet this responsibility, I draw on theory, frameworks, and practices rooted in principles of collaborative learning and student-faculty partnership. For some students, this may feel awkward. Much of our society's discussions about teaching focus on a banking system, in which an instructor deposits knowledge into a student's mind, and students receive, file, store, and ultimately return that information in the same format in which it was deposited. Instead, I focus on student learning, which I define as a process of individual change. This means developing skills to view the world in new ways, and engaging in different types of debates, discussions, and dialogues.

How to Succeed in this Course

If you want to be a successful student:

- Be self-motivated and self-disciplined.

- Be willing to “speak up” if problems arise.
- Be willing and able to commit to 4 to 15 hours per week per course.
- Be able to communicate through writing.
- Be able to meet the minimum requirements for the course.
- Accept critical thinking and decision making as part of the learning process.

In contrast, here are some common behaviors that lead to failing the course.

- Wait until the last day to begin assignments.
- Forget about deadlines.
- Ignore emails from the instructor regarding course activities.
- Don’t get familiar with the syllabus.

Learning Resources, Technology, & Texts

- Required Textbook:
 Title: **Language Files: Materials for an Introduction to Language and Linguistics**, 12th Edition (2016)
 Editors: Hope C. Dawson, Michael Phelan (Department of Linguistics, The Ohio State University)
 - We will read approximately two/three chapters of the textbook each week (following the schedule below), and all the activities will be based on reading from the textbook.

Course Logistics

- All assignments are due by 11:59 a.m. EST on the due date listed in the course schedule and on Brightspace.
- Deadlines are an unavoidable part of being a professional and this course is no exception. Course requirements must be completed and posted or submitted on or before the specified due date and delivery time deadline. Due dates and delivery time deadlines are defined as Eastern Standard Time (as used in West Lafayette, Indiana). To encourage you to stay on schedule, due dates have been established for each assignment; 20% of the total points will be deducted for assignments received 1-6 days late; assignments received more than 1 week late will receive 0 points.

Instructor’s Email Availability and Policies

I will be available via email daily and try to respond as soon as possible (generally within 24-48) hours. When emailing me, please place the topic in the subject line of the email (*e.g.*, XXX 240 – Assignment 2 Question). This will help me tremendously in locating and responding to your emails quickly.

Virtual Office Hours

Virtual Office Hours are a synchronous session (through a platform such as Skype or Google Hangout) set up by appointment to discuss questions related to weekly readings and/or assignments.

Assignments and Points

Your learning will be assessed through a combination of discussion posts, assignments, quizzes, tests, and projects. Details on these assignments and exams, including rubrics to guide evaluation, and guidelines on discussion participation and evaluation will be posted on the course website.

Assignments	Due
Discussion Boards	Every Saturday, by the end of the day
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Quiz 1	May 24, by the end of the day
Test 1	May 31, by the end of the day
Project 1	June 7, by the end of the day
Final Project	June 14, by the end of the day

- **Discussion Boards** (210 points total). These points will be earned each week after posting your answers on time. Please read the scoring guide for this item before submitting your answers. Also, read my feedback to enhance this grade going forward and see me if you find yourself struggling with them so that we can develop appropriate strategies together.
- **Assignments:** (377 points total). These points will be earned each week after submitting the assignments on time. Please read the feedback that I provide for ways to enhance this grade going forward and see me if you find yourself struggling with them so that we can develop appropriate strategies together.
- **Quiz Week 1:** (85 points total). This quiz covers the topics of the first week of class.
- **Test Week 1 & 2:** (170 points total). This test covers the topics of the first two weeks of class.
- **Project Week 3** (40 points total). This written project is related to the topics of the third week of class.
- **Final project** (80 points in total). This written project is related to the third learning outcome of this class.

Missed or Late Work

Missed discussion posts/assignments/quizzes/test/projects may only be made up when you notify me ahead of time with an explanation and plan for completion. These requests will be accepted at my discretion and may include a point penalty of 5% per day late. Asking for an extension does not guarantee it will be granted.

Grading Scale

In this class grades reflect the sum of your achievement throughout the semester. You will accumulate points as described in the portion above. At the end of the semester, final grades will be calculated by adding the total points earned and translating those numbers (out of 962) into percentages, and those percentage into the following letters (there will be no partial points or rounding).

- A+: 97 - 100%
- A: 94 - 96%
- A-: 90 - 93%
- B+: 86 – 89 %
- B: 81 – 85 %
- B-: 77 – 80 %
- C+: 73- 76 %
- C: 69 – 75 %
- C-: 65 – 68 %
- D+: 61- 64 %
- D: 56 – 60 %
- D-: 52 – 55 %
- F: 51 % or below

Incompletes

A grade of incomplete (I) will be given only in unusual circumstances. To receive an “I” grade, a written request must be submitted prior to the second week of class and approved by the instructor. The request must describe the circumstances, along with a proposed timeline for completing the course work. Submitting a request does not ensure that an incomplete grade will be granted. If granted, you will be required to fill out and sign an “Incomplete Contract” form that will be turned in with the course grades. Any requests made after the course is completed will not be considered for an incomplete grade.

Course Schedule

Week	Topic & Readings	Assignments
Week 1	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. <i>What are Languages?</i>2. <i>What is Phonetics?</i>3. <i>What is Phonology?</i>4. <i>What is Morphology?</i>	<i>Discussion Boards (due Saturday, May 23rd, 11:59 pm)</i> <i>Assignments (due Saturday, May 23rd, 11:59 pm)</i> <i>Quiz Week1 (due Sunday, May 24th, 11:59 pm)</i>
Week 2	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. <i>What is Syntax?</i>2. <i>What is Semantics?</i>3. <i>What is Pragmatics?</i>	<i>Discussion Boards (due Saturday, May 30th, 11:59 pm)</i> <i>Assignments (due Saturday, May 30th, 11:59 pm)</i> <i>Test Weeks 1 & 2 (due Sunday, May 31st, 11:59 pm)</i>
Week 3	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. <i>What is Language Acquisition?</i>2. <i>What is Language Variation?</i>3. <i>What is the Study of Language and Culture?</i>4. <i>What is Language Contact?</i>	<i>Discussion Boards (due Saturday, June 6th, 11:59 pm)</i> <i>Assignments (due Saturday, June 6th, 11:59 pm)</i> <i>Project Weeks 3 (due Sunday, June 7th, 11:59 pm)</i>
Week 4	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. <i>What is Language Change?</i>2. <i>What is Psycholinguistics?</i>3. <i>What is Computation Linguistics/</i>	<i>Discussion Boards (due Saturday, June 13th, 11:59 pm)</i> <i>Assignments (due Saturday, June 13th, 11:59 pm)</i> <i>Final Project (due Sunday, June 14th, 11:59 pm)</i>

* Schedule and assignments subject to change. Any changes will be posted in the learning management system.

Extra-Credits

Students in this class will have different possibilities to earn extra-credits:

1. Completing the **Final Course Evaluation** sent by the Purdue Evaluation Center at the end of the class. Students proving proof of completion (screenshot of the confirmation page after submitting their response) will receive 2 (two) points to be added to their final grade.
2. **Project Week 3 Second Submission.** Students submitting a second Projects Week 3 (using the option they did not choose for their first submission) will earn a maximum of 5 (five) points to be added to the score of the Final Project. The amount of points earned (from 1 to 5) depends on the quality of the work that will be assessed using the criteria listed in the scoring guide for Project Week 3.
3. **Final Project Second Submission.** Students submitting a second Final Projects (using one of the 2 other options they did not choose for their first submission) will earn a maximum of 5 (five) points to be added to the score of the Final Project. The amount of points earned (from 1 to 5) depends on the quality of the work that will be assessed using the criteria listed in the scoring guide for the Final Project.

Students can earn extra credits combing option 1 with either option 2 or 3. The combination of options 2 and 3 is not allowed. The deadline to submit your work is June 14th at 11:59 pm.

Attendance Policy

The class is completely online.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is one of the highest values that Purdue University holds. Individuals are encouraged to alert university officials to potential breaches of this value by either [emailing](#) or by calling 765-494-8778. While information may be submitted anonymously, the more information that is submitted provides the greatest opportunity for the university to investigate the concern.

The [Purdue Honor Pledge](#) "As a boilermaker pursuing academic excellence, I pledge to be honest and true in all that I do. Accountable together - we are Purdue"

Nondiscrimination Statement

Purdue University is committed to maintaining a community which recognizes and values the inherent worth and dignity of every person; fosters tolerance, sensitivity, understanding, and mutual respect among its members; and encourages each individual to strive to reach his or her own potential. In pursuit of its goal of academic excellence, the University seeks to develop and nurture diversity. The University believes that diversity among its many members strengthens the institution, stimulates creativity, promotes the exchange of ideas, and enriches campus life. [Link to Purdue's nondiscrimination policy statement.](#)

Students with Disabilities

Purdue University strives to make learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience physical or academic barriers based on disability, you are welcome to let me know so that we can discuss options. You are also encouraged to contact the Disability Resource Center at: drc@purdue.edu or by phone: 765-494-1247.

Emergency Preparation

In the event of a major campus emergency, course requirements, deadlines and grading percentages are subject to changes that may be necessitated by a revised semester calendar or other circumstances beyond the instructor's control. Relevant changes to this course will be posted onto the course website or can be obtained by contacting the instructors or TAs via email or phone. You are expected to read your @purdue.edu email on a frequent basis.

Mental Health Statement

- **If you find yourself beginning to feel some stress, anxiety and/or feeling slightly overwhelmed, try [WellTrack](#).** Sign in and find information and tools at your fingertips, available to you at any time.
- **If you need support and information about options and resources, please see the [Office of the Dean of Students](#) for drop-in hours (M-F, 8 am- 5 pm).**
- **If you're struggling and need mental health services:** Purdue University is committed to advancing the mental health and well-being of its students. If you or someone you know is feeling overwhelmed, depressed, and/or in need of mental health support, services are available. For help, such individuals should contact [Counseling and Psychological Services \(CAPS\)](#) at 765-494-6995 during and after hours, on weekends and holidays, or by going to the CAPS office of the second floor of the Purdue University Student Health Center (PUSH) during business hours.

Netiquette

Your instructor and fellow students wish to foster a safe online learning environment. All opinions and experiences, no matter how different or controversial they may be perceived, must be respected in the tolerant spirit of academic discourse. You are encouraged to comment, question, or critique an idea, but you are not to attack an individual. Our differences, some of which are outlined in the University's nondiscrimination statement below, will add richness to this learning experience. Please consider that sarcasm and humor can be misconstrued in online interactions and generate unintended disruptions. Working as a community of learners, we can build a polite and respectful course ambience. Please read the Netiquette rules for this course:

- Do not dominate any discussion. Give other students the opportunity to join in the discussion.
- Do not use offensive language. Present ideas appropriately.
- Be cautious in using Internet language. For example, do not capitalize all letters since this suggests shouting.
- Avoid using vernacular and/or slang language. This could possibly lead to misinterpretation.
- Keep an "open-mind" and be willing to express even your minority opinion.
- Think and edit before you push the "Send" button.
- Do not hesitate to ask for feedback.

Violent Behavior Policy

Purdue University is committed to providing a safe and secure campus environment for members of the university community. Purdue strives to create an educational environment for students and a work environment for employees that promote educational and career goals. Violent Behavior impedes such goals. Therefore, Violent Behavior is prohibited in or on any University Facility or while participating in any university activity.

See the [University's full violent behavior policy](#) for more detail.

Diversity and Inclusion Statement

In our discussions, structured and unstructured, we will explore a variety of challenging issues, which can help us enhance our understanding of different experiences and perspectives. This can be challenging, but in overcoming these challenges we find the greatest rewards. While we will design guidelines as a group, everyone should remember the following points:

- We are all in the process of learning about others and their experiences. Please speak with me, anonymously if needed, if something has made you uncomfortable.
- Intention and impact are not always aligned, and we should respect the impact something may have on someone even if it was not the speaker's intention.
- We all come to the class with a variety of experiences and a range of expertise, we should respect these in others while critically examining them in ourselves.

Course Evaluation

During the first two weeks of the course, you will be provided with an opportunity to evaluate this course and your instructor. During the last two weeks of class, Purdue uses an online course evaluation system. You will receive an official email from evaluation administrators with a link to the online evaluation site. You will have up to two weeks to complete this evaluation. Your participation is an integral part of this course, and your feedback is vital to improving education at Purdue University. I strongly urge you to participate in the evaluation system.

Disclaimer

This syllabus is subject to change. All the changes will be announced on Brightspace.