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# LIN 401 (Sec. 001): Introduction to Linguistics Fall 2017

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## Instructor

Karthik Durvasula  
Office: B330 Wells Hall  
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## Meetings

by Regular Off. hours:  
Tue, 2:30 - 4:30pm  
(or) by appointment

## Teaching Assistant

Yan Cong  
Office: B331 Wells Hall  
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## Meetings

by Regular Off. hours:  
Mon, 3:00 - 5:30pm  
(or) by appointment

## Class Schedule / Location

Monday/Wednesday      12:40 - 2:30pm      Holden Hall C136

**Note 1:** Its best to email a day or two BEFORE you meet with me/Yan so that we can let you know if we are free at the time you plan to come.

## Course Goals

This course is intended to introduce students to the basic concepts, principles and methods of modern linguistics. You will gain an understanding of what human language is and how it works. By the end of the course, you will be able to reflect on your own linguistic behavior and the behavior of those around you, and you will be able to analyze what you observe and discuss it in a meaningful way.

This course will discuss many different languages, including languages of non-Western cultures. We will also consider the languages of minorities in this country. By studying these issues, you will gain insight, perspective and understanding of a variety of languages and cultures beyond your own.

## Recommended Text

- Mihalicek, Vedrana & Wilson, Christin (2011). *Language Files: Materials for an Introduction to Language and Linguistics, 11<sup>th</sup> Edition*. Ohio State University Press.
- Materials may be
  - (a) distributed in class.
  - (b) posted on the course website (D2L).
  - (c) placed on reserve in the library.

**Note 2:** You are responsible for all material in the assigned chapters and supplemental readings, even if we do not discuss it in class (unless you are given information to the contrary). You are also responsible for all material covered that is not in the book (unless you are given information to the contrary).

## Course Requirements

### Attendance

Students are expected to attend and participate in all classes. It is important to attend all classes since materials that are not covered in the textbook maybe be presented. Please be sure to get the notes from any class you may miss. Some materials maybe be sent via email, but you should also check with me or a classmate regarding material you may have missed.

### Readings

Students are expected do all the assigned readings. It is best to read each chapter by the day a particular topic begins.

### Homework (assignments to be sent by e-mail or posted on the website)

If you are not able to turn in your homework on time, you must contact me IN ADVANCE; if you do not do this, you will automatically receive 0% for the assignment.

Homework must be LEGIBLE (preferably, typed) and turned at the beginning of class. If you are absent, you may e-mail the assignment or leave it in my mailbox in the linguistics dept. (B330 Wells Hall).

### Participation

Students are expected to attend all classes and participate in discussions. If you know that you cannot attend a class for a legitimate reason (e.g. illness), and you let me know IN ADVANCE, points will not be deducted from your participation grade. If you do not show up, you will receive 0% for participation.

### Exams

There are a total of 3 tests.

NO MAKE-UPS WILL BE GIVEN, except in the case of an excuse officially recognized by the Deans office.

Grading Weight		Grading Scale	
Test 1	30%	4.0	93% or higher
Test 2	30%	3.5	85% - 92.9%
Test 3	25%	3.0	77% - 84.9%
Homework	10%	2.5	69% - 76.9%
Participation	5%	2.0	61% - 68.9%
Total	100%	1.5	53% - 60.9%
		1.0	45% - 52.9%
		0.0	44.9% or lower

**Note 3:** If you cannot come to a scheduled test, you must discuss this with me at least ONE CLASS PERIOD BEFORE the test. If there is an emergency after this, and you cannot contact anyone in person, send me an e-mail explaining the nature of the emergency and how you can be contacted to discuss the matter.

### Spartan Code of Honor Academic Pledge

*As a Spartan, I will strive to uphold values of the highest ethical standard. I will practice honesty in my work, foster honesty in my peers, and take pride in knowing that honor is worth more than grades. I will carry these values beyond my time as a student at Michigan State University, continuing the endeavor to build personal integrity in all that I do.*

## Course Schedule

This schedule is subject to slight variation, so if you miss a class, be sure to check with me or a classmate. It is most helpful to do the readings for a given topic BEFORE the first class dealing with that topic. This will make the lectures easier to follow, and you will be in a better position to ask questions about things that might not be clear to you.

Week	Date	Lecture Topic
1	August 30	Course organization
2	September 4	<b>No Class; Labor Day</b>
2	September 6	<b>Introduction:</b> Prescriptive vs. Descriptive Grammar; Languages of the World; Discuss basic concepts
3	September 11	<b>Phonetics:</b> Phonetic Transcription; IPA
3	September 13	<b>Phonetics:</b> Consonant and Vowel Descriptions
4	September 18	<b>Phonetics:</b> Practice Transcription and Description
4	September 20	<b>Phonology:</b> Phonemes, Allophones, Distributional Analyses
5	September 25	<b>Phonology:</b> Practice Analyses; Rule Formalism
5	September 27	<b>Phonology:</b> Underlying Representations
6	October 2	<b>Phonology:</b> Practice Underlying Representations
6	October 4	<b>Review:</b> Phonetics & Phonology
7	October 9	<b>Test 1</b>
7	October 11	<b>Morphology:</b> Word-structure and Word-formation rules
8	October 16	<b>Morphology:</b> Analysis of Word-structure
8	October 18	<b>Morphology:</b> Practice Word-structure and Morpho-phonology
9	October 23	<b>Syntax:</b> Grammaticality, Syntactic Categories
9	October 25	<b>Syntax:</b> Practice Grammaticality and Syntactic Categories
10	October 30	<b>Syntax:</b> Analysis and Transformations
10	November 1	<b>Syntax:</b> Practice Analysis and Transformations
11	November 6	<b>Syntax:</b> Practice Analysis and Transformations
11	November 8	<b>Review:</b> Morphology and Syntax
12	November 13	<b>Test 2</b>
12	November 15	Language and the Brain I
13	November 20	Psycholinguistic Experiments
13	November 22	First Language Acquisitions I
14	November 27	First Language Acquisitions II
14	November 29	Dialect Variation: Accents and Variation
15	December 4	Historical Linguistics
15	December 6	Review for Test 3
Finals Week	December 12	<b>Test 3</b> <b>12:45 - 2:45pm; in your regular classroom</b>