
LIN 401 (Sec. 002): Introduction to Linguistics Spring 2022

Instructor

Karthik Durvasula
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Office hours

Tue, 2:15 - 4:00pm
We'll use the class Zoom id while classes are online.
We'll meet in my office, once classes are in-person.

Teaching Assistant

Jingying Xu
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TA office hours

Mon: 3:00 - 4:00pm, Th: 3:00 - 4:00pm
<https://msu.zoom.us/j/6636924911> (no p/w)

Class Schedule

Tuesday/Thursday 10:20 - 12:10pm

Class Location

For the first 3 weeks: <https://msu.zoom.us/j/97515569662> (p/w Phon)
Rest of the semester: Erickson Hall 226

Note 1: It's best to email a day or two BEFORE you meet with us 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, 11th 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

Lectures (lectures will be posted on D2L)

Students are expected to attend 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 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 (will be posted on D2L)

Students are expected do all the assigned readings. It is most helpful to do the readings for a given topic BEFORE the 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.

Homework (will be posted on D2L)

If you are not able to turn in your homework on time, you must contact us by the day it is due to figure out an alternate date of submission (typically, within a week of the original deadline); if you do not do this, you will automatically receive 0% for the assignment.

Homework must be LEGIBLE and turned in at the beginning of class on the day it is due. If you are absent and have an officially recognized reason for being absent, you may e-mail the assignment or leave it in my mailbox in the linguistics dept. (B330 Wells Hall).

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 Dean's office. Any issues about grading must be addressed *within 1 week* of the date when the graded work was returned.

Grading Weight		Grading Scale	
Test 1	30%	4.0	93% or higher
Test 2	30%	3.5	85% - 92.9%
Test 3	20%	3.0	77% - 84.9%
Homework	20%	2.5	69% - 76.9%
Total	100%	2.0	61% - 68.9%
		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	January 11, 2022	Course organization
1	January 13, 2022	Introduction: Prescriptive vs. Descriptive Grammar; Languages of the World; Discuss basic concepts
2	January 18, 2022	Phonetics: Phonetic Transcription; IPA
2	January 20, 2022	Phonetics: Consonant and Vowel Descriptions
3	January 25, 2022	Phonetics: Practice Transcription and Description
3	January 27, 2022	Phonology: Phonemes, Allophones, Distributional Analyses
4	February 1, 2022	Phonology: Practice Analyses; Rule Formalism
4	February 3, 2022	Phonology: Underlying Representations
5	February 8, 2022	Phonology: Practice Underlying Representations
5	February 10, 2022	Phonetics & Phonology: Acquisition and Psycholinguistics
6	February 15, 2022	Review: Phonetics & Phonology
6	February 17, 2022	Test 1
7	February 22, 2022	Morphology: Basic Morphology
7	February 24, 2022	Morphology: Lexical Categories
8	March 1, 2022	Morphology: Practice of Morphological Analysis
8	March 3, 2022	Morphology: Allomorphy & Word-structure
9	March 8, 2022	Spring Break
9	March 10, 2022	Spring Break
10	March 15, 2022	Syntax: Grammaticality, Syntactic Categories
10	March 17, 2022	Syntax: Practice Syntactic Categories
11	March 22, 2022	Syntax: Advanced Constituencies
11	March 24, 2022	Syntax: Advanced Constituencies 2
12	March 29, 2022	Syntax: Analysis and Movement
12	March 31, 2022	Morphology and Syntax: Acquisition and Psycholinguistics
13	April 5, 2022	Review: Morphology and Syntax
13	April 7, 2022	Test 2
14	April 12, 2022	Language and the Brain I
14	April 14, 2022	Return to first language acquisition
15	April 19, 2022	Return to first language acquisition II
15	April 21, 2022	Dialect Variation: Accents and Variation
16	April 26, 2022	Historical Linguistics
16	April 28, 2022	Review for Test 3
Finals Week	May 6, 2022 (Friday)	Test 3 7:45 - 9:45am; in your regular classroom