

# Linguistics 2000: Introduction to Language in the Humanities Spring 2014

## **Course Information:**

Time: \_\_\_\_\_  
Location: \_\_\_\_\_  
Website: <http://carmen.osu.edu/>  
Prerequisite: None

## **Instructor Information:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
Office: Oxley \_\_\_\_  
Mailbox: Oxley \_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Office Hours: [2 specified hours], and by appt.

## **TA Coordinator:**

Dr. Hope Dawson  
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## **Textbooks:**

Bauer, L. and Trudgill, P. (1998). *Language Myths*. London: Penguin.  
Mihalicek, V. and Wilson, C. (2011). *Language Files*. (11th Edition) Columbus: OSU Press.

## **1 Course Description**

This course is a general survey of language and linguistics. A number of topics relating to human knowledge and use of language are systematically investigated. Examples are drawn primarily from the English language, although other languages are used to illustrate certain concepts. Nevertheless, the focus of the course is not on any specific language or languages; rather, it is on properties common to all languages, ways in which languages may differ, and how language can be studied scientifically. The three broad topics covered in the class are 1) the sounds of language, 2) the structure of language, and 3) the meaning and use of language.

## **2 GE Requirements: Cultures and Ideas**

### **Goals:**

Students evaluate significant cultural phenomena and ideas in order to develop capacities for aesthetic and historical response and judgment, and interpretation and evaluation.

### **Expected Learning Outcomes:**

1. Students analyze and interpret major forms of human thought, culture, and expression.
2. Students evaluate how ideas influence the character of human beliefs, the perception of reality, and the norms which guide human behavior.

By investigating the structure and function of language, we study arguably the single most significant form that human thought, culture and expression can take. In addition, we study the way that ideas influencing beliefs, perception of reality, and behavior are expressed.

### **3 Assignments and grading**

#### **3.1 Assignments**

LOC activity (2 x 2.5%)	5%
<i>Language Myths</i> discussion posts (8 x 1.25%)	10%
Quizzes (5 x 5%)	25%
Homework assignments (5 x 7%)	35%
Final exam	25%

#### **3.2 Assignment Descriptions**

**LOC Assignment:** Linguistics Outside the Classroom is a requirement whereby you have to attend a talk and/or participate in an experiment twice in the semester. You must complete the first LOC activity by 2/27/14 and the second by 4/17/14. The requirement is explained more fully in the accompanying handout.

**Language Myth Discussion Board Posts:** We will read 5 chapters from *Language Myths* (plus Myth 12, for which you are not required to write discussion posts and for which I will write discussion posts as a model). For each of the 5 chapters, you are required to make two posts on the Carmen discussion board. The grades for the lowest two posts will be dropped at the end of the semester. More details are provided in the accompanying handout.

**Quizzes:** Quizzes are smaller in scope and less complex than homework assignments. Quizzes are often preparation for subsequent homework assignments. This reverses the typical structure used in many classes. Quizzes will be taken either on Carmen or in class (you will be notified before each quiz). If the quiz is taken on Carmen, you will be notified of the exact date and time that it is due.

**Homework assignments:** Homework assignments are important opportunities to practice and refine skills involved in solving particular kinds of linguistics problems. There are 5 homework assignments. You may discuss a homework assignment with other students in the class (though not with students or instructors not in the class). However, unless otherwise specified on a particular assignment, you must write your homework up individually.

If you complete a homework assignment with a grade of C or lower, you may resubmit it for a new grade. You must resubmit within 1 week of the return of the original graded work.

**Final Exam:** The exam will be a comprehensive review of the course material. More details will be provided later in the semester.

#### **3.3 Grading Scale**

93-100 (A)	83-86.9 (B)	73-76.9 (C)	60-66.9 (D)
90-92.9 (A-)	80-82.9 (B-)	70-72.9 (C-)	below 60 (E)
87-89.9 (B+)	77-79.9 (C+)	67-69.9 (D+)	

## **4 Policies**

### **4.1 Carmen**

This course uses Carmen (<http://carmen.osu.edu>) as a resource. Handouts and homeworks distributed in class will be available on the course's Carmen site. Websites and other materials involved in class lectures will also be posted, and your grades will be viewable here.

### **4.2 Homework submission**

You may submit homework assignments in person in class or via an electronic dropbox on Carmen . If you cannot attend class on the due dates, you should submit the assignment by the start of class to receive full credit. I will not accept homework via email. If you choose to submit your assignments through Carmen, please note that they must be saved as pdf (Acrobat reader) files. No other file types will be accepted. There are numerous free pdf converter sites on the internet, and many software packages have the ability to export to pdf.

If you cannot a submit homework assignment by the start of class on the due date, you will have until 11:59 the following day to submit the assignment to the Carmen dropbox associated with it. After that, the assignment will not be accepted. Late assignments will be docked 10% of the grade.

### **4.3 Quiz submission**

If a quiz is taken in class, you must take it on the day it was given or provide documentation of an excused absence (e.g. doctors note). If a quiz is taken on Carmen, you must submit it by the due date. Late quizzes will not be accepted.

## **5 Academic Misconduct Statement**

It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term "academic misconduct" includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487).

## **6 Disability Statement**

Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated, and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/>.

## 7 Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics	Readings	Other
<b>Introduction</b>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is human language?</li> <li>• What does it mean to study language scientifically?</li> </ul>				
Week	1/7 (T)	<b>Frozen Tundra Day</b>		
1	1/9 (R)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Course Intro</li> <li>• Descriptivism vs. prescriptivism</li> <li>• Linguistic data</li> </ul>	<i>LF</i> 1.0-1.3; 9.0-9.1 <i>LM</i> 12	
Week	1/14 (T)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Design features of language</li> <li>• Animal language?</li> </ul>	<i>LF</i> 1.4; 14.1-14.3	<b>Quiz 1</b> due on Carmen by midnight on 1/14
<b>Unit 1: The Sound of Language</b>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What sounds does language consist of and how are they made?<sup>1</sup></li> <li>• How are the sounds of language organized into systems?</li> </ul>				
Week	1/16 (R)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intro. to phonetics</li> </ul>	<i>LF</i> 2.0-2.1; <i>LM</i> 5	<i>LM</i> 5 Discussion Posts by 6pm on 1/15
Week	1/21 (T)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consonants</li> </ul>	<i>LF</i> 2.2; 8.2	
	1/23 (R)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vowels</li> </ul>	<i>LF</i> 2.3	
Week	1/28 (T)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supra-segmental sounds</li> <li>• Review of Phonetics</li> </ul>	<i>LF</i> 2.5	<b>Quiz 2</b>
	1/30 (R)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intro. to phonology</li> <li>• Speech production</li> </ul>	<i>LF</i> 3.0-3.2; 9.3	<b>HW 1 due</b>
Week	2/4 (T)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Phonological rules</li> </ul>	<i>LF</i> 3.3-3.4	
	2/6 (R)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Solving phonology problems</li> </ul>	<i>LF</i> 3.5	
Week	2/11 (T)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dialect</li> </ul>	<i>LM</i> 17	<i>LM</i> 17 Discussion Posts by 6pm on 2/10

<sup>1</sup> Due to time constraints, we focus on spoken languages in this class and, for the most part, ignore signed languages.

6	2/13 (R)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review: Sounds of language</li> </ul>		<b>HW 2 due</b>
<b>Unit 2: The Structure of Language</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What are words and their parts?</li> <li>How are words combined to make sentences?</li> </ul>				
Week 7	2/18 (T)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Intro. to morphology</li> </ul>	<i>LF</i> 4.0-4.1; 9.5.1-9.5.4	
	2/20 (R)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Morphological processes</li> </ul>	<i>LF</i> 4.2-4.4	
Week 8	2/25 (T)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Solving morphology problems</li> </ul>	<i>LF</i> 4.5	<b>Quiz 3</b>
	2/27 (R)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduction to syntax</li> <li>The case of case</li> </ul>	<i>LF</i> 5.0-5.1; <i>LM</i> 16	<i>LM</i> 16 Discussion Posts by 6pm on 2/26 <b>LOC #1 due</b>
Week 9	3/4 (T)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Building blocks of syntax</li> </ul>	<i>LF</i> 5.2-5.4	<b>HW 3 due</b>
	3/6 (R)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Constructing a grammar</li> </ul>	<i>LF</i> 5.5;	
<b>SPRING BREAK: MON. 3/10–FRI. 3/14</b>				
Week 10	3/18 (T)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Constructing a grammar cont.</li> <li>Grammar beyond English</li> </ul>	<i>LM</i> 19	<i>LM</i> 19 Discussion Posts by 6pm on 3/7
	3/20 (R)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review: Structure of language</li> </ul>		
<b>Unit 3: The Meaning and Use of Language</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What do words and sentences mean?</li> <li>How does the context in which a sentence is said influence its meaning?</li> </ul>				
Week 11	3/25 (T)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduction to semantics</li> <li>Linguistic anthropology</li> </ul>	<i>LF</i> 6.0-6.1; 11.0-11.2	<b>HW 4 due</b>
	3/27 (R)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lexical semantics</li> <li>Acquisition of morphology, syntax, and semantics</li> </ul>	<i>LF</i> 6.2; 8.3	
Week 12	4/1 (T)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Compositional semantics (proffered contents)</li> </ul>	<i>LF</i> 6.3-6.4	
	4/3 (R)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A “logical” language?</li> <li>Sentence processing</li> </ul>	<i>LF</i> 9.6; <i>LM</i> 4	<i>LM</i> 4 Discussion Posts by 6pm on 4/2

Week 13	4/8 (T)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction to pragmatics</li> </ul>	<i>LF 7.0-7.2</i>	<b>Quiz 4</b>
Week 13	4/10 (R)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implicature</li> <li>• Presupposition</li> </ul>	<i>LF 7.3; 7.5</i>	
Week 14	4/15 (T)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spatial meanings</li> <li>• Semantic fieldwork</li> </ul>		<b>Quiz 5</b>
	4/17 (R)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General Review</li> </ul>		<b>HW 5 due</b> <b>LOC #2 due</b>
<b>Finals (Weds. 4/23 – Tues. 4/29)</b>				
<b>Exam</b>	<b>Monday Apr 28: 8:00am-9:45am</b>		<b>Location: TBD</b>	