

# Linguistics 2000: Introduction to Language in the Humanities (online version) Fall 2014

## **Course Information:**

Time: T 3pm-5pm  
Location: online via Carmen Connect  
Website: <http://carmen.osu.edu/>  
Prerequisite: None

## **Instructor Information:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_@osu.edu  
Office: online via Carmen Connect  
Mailbox: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Office Hours: via Carmen Connect [2 hours each week], and by appt.

## **TA Coordinator:**

Dr. Hope Dawson  
202a Oxley Hall  
614-292-5420  
[dawson.165@osu.edu](mailto:dawson.165@osu.edu)

## **Textbooks:**

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

## **Required Technology:**

Webcam  
Microphone

## **1 Course Description**

This course is of 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 Modes of instruction**

The course is offered entirely online. Students receive instruction through the following media:

1. Textbooks: The textbooks will be your primary source of information. For each topic covered, you will have readings related to that topic in your textbook. Purchase the textbook before the first day of class.
2. Carmen discussion boards: As described in more detail below, discussion boards are a place to express your own ideas and learn from your fellow students. Some discussion board posts are required, but you may also take the initiative and post about other topics as well.
3. Carmen Connect - livenessessions: These sessions take the place of class meetings in a traditionally delivered class. They are scheduled for Tuesdays, 3pm-5pm, with the exception of Veterans day: Tuesday, 11/11/14. Instead, we will have class from 3pm-5pm on Monday, 11/10/14. Each

session covers specific topics, as detailed in the course schedule below. Each session involves a variety of different activities including mini-lectures, class discussions, break-out discussions with small groups of students, quick response polls, etc.

4. Carmen Connect office hours: Office hours are a chance to talk one-on-one with your instructor about material you do not understand or are interested in learning more about. If you cannot chat at the times listed above, please email to set up an appointment at a different time.

### **3 Technology assistance**

Students can find help with the instructional technology used in this course at the Office of Distance Education and eLearning (ODEE) website:

<https://carmen-services.it.ohio-state.edu/carmen-help/students/>

For additional help, you may contact ODEE at 614-292-8860.

### **4 Academic and student support services**

As a student taking a distance education course, you have access to all of the same academic and student support services as students taking traditional courses. Detailed information about these services can be found on the website of the College of Arts and Sciences and the Student Support Center:

<http://artsandsciences.osu.edu/current-students/university-resources>

<http://ssc.osu.edu/>

### **5 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 important 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.

### **6 Assignments and grading**

#### **6.1 Assignments**

Self portrait activity	2.5%
Ohio Speaks activity	2.5%

<i>Language Myths</i> discussion posts (8 x 1.25%)	10%
Quizzes (5 x 5%)	25%
Homework assignments (6 x 6%)	36%
Final exam	24%

### **3.2 Assignment Descriptions**

**Self portrait activity:** For this activity, you will first upload a picture of yourself (as a jpeg or another picture format) in the Carmen dropbox “Self Portrait”. Next, in a separate .pdf file, answer the following questions and upload this second file also to “Self Portrait”. You will be uploading 2 files, one picture and one .pdf file.

1. Your name
2. Intended or actual academic major
3. Interests/hobbies
4. A short paragraph explaining why you are interested in this course and what you hope to get out of it.

**Ohio Speaks activity:** We include this activity to familiarize you with experimentation in Linguistics. The Ohio Speaks activity consists of a series of recordings. You will receive an instruction sheet that includes instructions on how to save audio files and upload them to Carmen. You will also be given a script that includes 2-3 passages plus a list of words. You will record yourself reading the script as described by the instructions and upload the recordings.

**Language Myth Discussion Board Posts:** We will read 5 chapters from *Language Myths* (plus Myth 12, for which I will write discussion questions as a model). You are required to make two posts on the Carmen discussion board for each chapter. 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, which reverses the typical structure used in many classes. All quizzes will be taken on Carmen. You may take a quiz at any time up to its due date. Quizzes are due at 11:59pm on the date listed on the syllabus.

**Homework assignments:** Homework assignments are important opportunities to practice and refine skills involved in solving particular kinds of linguistics problems. There are 6 homework assignments. 3 are individual homework assignments and 3 are collaborative. You may discuss an individual homework assignment with other students in the class (though not with students or instructors not in the class). However, you must write individual assignments by yourself.

Collaborative homework assignments are completed in small groups. For each homework assignment, each group of 3-5 students will have access to a Carmen Connect meeting room to discuss their work. You may send copies of your work back and forth by email or find a file sharing system that everyone has access to online (e.g. Google Drive, Dropbox). More details will be provided during live sessions.

**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 and Carmen Connect**

This course is offered through Carmen (<http://carmen.osu.edu>) and Carmen Connect (<https://carmenconnect.osu.edu/>). All course materials are distributed via Carmen, and grades can be viewed there. Live sessions and office hours are conducted on Carmen Connect.

### **4.2 Attendance**

Attendance at the Carmen Connect live sessions is strongly encouraged. The content of the sessions will enhance and deepen the material covered in the reading, and will be assessed on quizzes and homework assignments. Live sessions will be recorded and posted on Carmen. If you are unable to attend a session for some reason, download and view the recording, and ask questions about anything that is unclear.

### **4.3 Homework submission**

You will submit homework assignments via an electronic dropbox on Carmen. I will not accept homework via email. Homework assignments 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 (e.g. Microsoft Word, Open Office) have the ability to export to .pdf.

Homework is due at 11:59pm on the date on which it is listed on the syllabus. If you cannot submit homework assignment by the due date, you will have until 11:59 the following day to submit the assignment. After that, the assignment will not be accepted. Late assignments will be docked 10% of the grade.

## **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/>.

For additional information, use OSU's ADA website as well:

<http://ada.osu.edu/resources/Links.htm>

## **7 The First Class Day of Class**

The first class session is on Tuesday, 9/2/14, from [3:00pm] to [5:00pm]. You will enter the class by entering the course carmen site and clicking on [X]. To make it possible for you to familiarize yourself with this process, I have created a link on our LING 2000 webpage called "PRACTICE CARMEN CONNECT". You will see this listed in the News items on the front page. Please click on this link and you will enter our online virtual classroom. Once you are in the classroom, you may then exit by clicking on [Y]. Please do this before our first scheduled meeting. Keep in mind that much of this will be new to you and perhaps frustrating at first. So, don't give up! Email me with any questions or concerns you have.

## **8 Course Schedule**

This course is a hybrid between synchronous and asynchronous learning. Synchronous learning means that all students are working on the same material at the same time. Their work is synchronized. This course is synchronous in that assignments have specific due dates. Students must turn in assignments by the due dates in order to get credit. This synchronous component is designed to keep you from falling behind and leaving a lot of work for the end of the semester.

Asynchronous learning means that at any given time different students are working on different things. Asynchronous learning allows students to work around events in their own lives and work at their own pace. This course is asynchronous in that all of the course materials are available from the very first day until their due date. The dates in the "Suggested Dates" column on the course schedule are there to help you make sure that you finish all of the course materials by the time assignments related to them are due. However, nothing requires you to stick to those dates. **(Please note that, on the other hand, the dates in the "Assignments/Events" column are hard deadlines, not suggestions.)** If you know you have a family vacation coming up and want to work a week or two ahead so that you do not have to do anything while you are away, you can do so. All of the quizzes and homework assignments will be available to you as early as you want them. That way, if you get ahead in the reading, you can complete the assignment while the material is fresh on your mind.

## Course Schedule

Unit	Suggested Dates	Topics	Readings	Assignments / Events
<b>Unit 0: 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>				
0.1	8/27 – 9/2	<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	<b>8/28: Self portrait activity</b>  9/2: Live class session on Units 0.1-0.2
0.2	9/2-9/5	<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>9/5: Quiz 1</b> on units 0.1-0.2  <b>9/5: Ohio Speaks activity</b>

<b>Unit 1: The Sound of Language</b>				
<b>Unit 1.1: Phonetics</b>				
What sounds does language consist of and how are they made? <sup>1</sup>				
1.1.1	9/6-9/9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Intro. to phonetics</li> <li>Phonetics and writing systems</li> </ul>	<i>LF</i> 2.0-2.1; <i>LM</i> 5	<b>9/8: LM 5 Discussion Posts</b>  9/9: Live class session on Units 1.1.1-1.1.2  9/16: Live class session on Units 1.1.3-1.1.4  <b>9/19: Quiz 2</b> on Unit 1.1  <b>9/21: HW 1 due</b> on Unit 1.1
1.1.2	9/9-9/12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consonants</li> </ul>	<i>LF</i> 2.2; 8.2	
1.1.3	9/12-9/16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vowels</li> </ul>	<i>LF</i> 2.3	
1.1.4	9/16-9/21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supra-segmental sounds</li> </ul>	<i>LF</i> 2.5	
<b>Unit 1.2: Phonology</b>				
How are the sounds of language organized into systems?				
1.2.1	9/21-23	<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	9/23: Live class session on Units 1.2.1-1.2.2  9/30: Live class session on Units 1.2.3  <b>10/1: LM 17 Discussion Posts</b>  <b>10/7: HW 2 due</b> on Unit 1.2  10/7: Live class session reviewing Unit 1
1.2.2	9/23-9/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Phonological rules</li> </ul>	<i>LF</i> 3.3-3.4	
1.2.3	9/25-9/29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Solving phonology problems</li> </ul>	<i>LF</i> 3.5	
1.2.4	9/29-10/2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dialect</li> </ul>	<i>LM</i> 17	
1.2.5	10/2-10/7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review: Sounds of language</li> </ul>		
<b>Unit 2: The Structure of Language</b>				
<b>Unit 2.1: Morphology</b>				
What are words and their parts?				
2.1.1	10/8-10/10	<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	10/14: Live class session on Units 2.1.1-2.1.2  <b>10/19: HW 3</b> on Unit 2.1
2.1.2	10/10-10/14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Morphological processes</li> </ul>	<i>LF</i> 4.2-4.4	
2.1.3	10/14-10/19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Solving morphology problems</li> </ul>	<i>LF</i> 4.5	

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

<b>Unit 2.2: Syntax</b>				
How are words combined to make sentences?				
2.2.1	10/19-10/21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction to syntax</li> <li>• The case of case</li> </ul>	<i>LF 5.0-5.1; LM 16</i>	10/21: Live class session on Units 2.2.1-2.2.2
2.2.2	10/21-10/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Building blocks of syntax</li> </ul>	<i>LF 5.2-5.4</i>	<b>10/21: LM 16 Discussion Posts</b>
2.2.3	10/24-10/30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Constructing a grammar</li> <li>• Grammar beyond English</li> </ul>	<i>LF 5.5; LM 19</i>	<b>10/24: LM 19 Discussion Posts</b> 10/28: Live class session on Unit 2.2.3
2.2.4	10/30-11/4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review: Structure of language</li> </ul>		<b>10/30: Quiz 3</b> on Units 2.2.1-2.2.3 11/4: Live class session on Unit 2.2 <b>11/4: HW 4</b> on all of Unit 2
<b>Unit 3: The Meaning and Use of Language</b>				
<b>Unit 3.1: Semantics</b>				
What do words and sentences mean?				
3.1.1	11/5-11/7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction to semantics</li> <li>• Linguistic anthropology</li> </ul>	<i>LF 6.0-6.1; 11.0-11.2</i>	<b>11/10: MONDAY</b> Live class session on Units 3.1.1-3.1.3
3.1.2	11/8-11/10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lexical semantics</li> <li>• Acquisition of morphology, syntax, and semantics</li> </ul>	<i>LF 6.2; 8.3</i>	<b>11/17: LM 4 Discussion Posts</b> 11/18: Live class session reviewing unit 3.1 and learning about Ohio Speaks results
3.1.3	11/10-11/15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compositional semantics (proffered contents)</li> </ul>	<i>LF 6.3-6.4</i>	
3.1.4	11/15-11/18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A “logical” language?</li> <li>• Sentence processing</li> </ul>	<i>LF 9.6; LM 4</i>	<b>11/18: Quiz 4</b> on Unit 3.1
<b>Unit 3.2: Pragmatics</b>				
How does the context in which a sentence is said influence its meaning?				
3.2.1	11/19-11/21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction to pragmatics</li> </ul>	<i>LF 7.0-7.2</i>	11/25: Live class session on Units 3.2.1-3.2.2
3.2.2	11/21-11/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implicature</li> <li>• Presupposition</li> </ul>	<i>LF 7.3; 7.5</i>	<b>11/25: Quiz 5</b> on Units 3.2.1-3.2.2
3.2.3	11/25-12/2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spatial meanings</li> <li>• Semantic fieldwork</li> </ul>		12/2: Live class session on Unit 3.2.3 <b>12/2: HW 5</b> on Unit 3.2



**Review of Course**

3.2.4	12/2-12/9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• General review of all topics</li></ul>		12/9:	Live class session reviewing all topics
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**Exam Due by 11:59pm on Friday, 12 December 2014**