

**Ling 601**  
**Introduction to Linguistics**  
**Sp 2004**

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**Description**

This course is an introduction to some of the major questions inherent in the nature of human language--its properties as a formal system and their relationship to processes of use, its acquisition and transmission through the generations, its relation to the nature and life of the individual and its culture. Some leading ideas and evidence on these questions are surveyed, but the emphasis of the course is on understanding the questions, and on what sorts of evidence would furnish satisfying answers. This analytic theme is developed through consideration of carefully selected data from various languages of the world (presupposing no previous familiarity) which illustrate characteristic aspects of language. Several of the major sub-fields of linguistics -- historical linguistics and sociolinguistics; phonetics, phonology, and morphology; syntax and semantics--are introduced in this way.

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**Administration**

**Call Number:** 11728-2

**Class Times and Location:** Tuesdays & Thursdays 1:30-3:18, in Derby Hall (DB) 0029

**Instructor:** [Keith Johnson](#), room 25 Oxley, 292-1841

**e-mail:** [kjohnson@ling.osu.edu](mailto:kjohnson@ling.osu.edu)

**Office hours:** TR 10:30-11:30, and by appointment.

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**Students with Disabilities**

Students who need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the instructor to arrange an appointment as soon as possible to discuss the course format, to anticipate needs, and to explore potential accommodations. The instructor relies on the Office of Disability Services for assistance in verifying the need for accommodations and developing accommodation strategies. Students who have not previously contacted the

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Office for Disability Services are encouraged to do so (614-292-3307; [www.ods.ohio-state.edu](http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu)).

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### Academic Misconduct

To state the obvious, academic dishonesty is not allowed. Cheating on tests or on other assignments will be reported to the University Committee on Academic Misconduct. The most common form of misconduct is plagiarism. Remember that any time you use the ideas or the materials of another person or persons, you must acknowledge that you have done so in a citation. This includes material that you have found on the Web. The University provides guidelines for research on the Web at <http://gateway.lib.ohio-state.edu/tutor/>.

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### Readings

**Textbook:** The textbook is *Language: Its Structure and Use* by Edward Finegan (4th ed., 2004, Thomson Wadsworth). Copies are for sale at the campus bookstore as well as at many other outlets.

**Articles:** Electronic copies of the assigned articles are available here. See the Course Schedule below for due dates.

- \* [Lieber \(1992\)](#)
- \* [Trubetzkoy \(1937\)](#) or [Fox & Terbeek \(1977\)](#)
- \* [Hay, et al. \(2003\)](#)
- \* [Lewis \(1979\)](#) or [Fillmore \(1970\)](#)

**Ling 600.01 project packet:** A pdf document called *Course Project and Lab Assignments -- Ling 600.01* is available [here](#). This document is for another course which focuses only on the area of linguistics that we will be covering in the first few weeks of Ling 601, but you may find Sections 1, 2, 3, and 6 of the document useful for doing the first two Field notebook assignments. These sections give hints about how to find a language consultant to work with for your fieldwork, where to look for information about the language, and so on.

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### Syllabus

The course syllabus and a description of the weekly schedule is available [here](#). The Course Schedule with links to assignments is also available in html format.

Here is a list of exercises in Finegan's book that would be particularly useful to work through as we go through the quarter.

\* *Week 2* -- Exercises 2-1, 2-2, 2-3, 2-5, 2-14, 2-15, 2-16, and 2-17, will help you prepare for the morphology language report and problem set.

Note: In Finegan's transliteration of Turkish in Exercise 2-14, he is using "y" for the palatal approximant that we are transcribing with "j" and the "barred i" symbol for the high back unrounded vowel that we are transcribing with the "upside down m" symbol.

\* *Week 3* -- Exercise 3-1 on p. 99 will also you with the phonetics and phonology language reports.

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\* *Week 4* -- Exercises 4-5, 4-7, and 4-8 will help you prepare for the phonology language report and problem set.

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### Assignments

#### **Article reviews:**

See due dates in the Course Schedule below. The review should begin with a brief summary of the main points and arguments of the article. This part will be like writing an abstract for the article. It should be no more than a paragraph or two. Finish with a short paragraph identifying anything about the article that you found particularly convincing or particularly not convincing. For example, if you found part of the data and the connection from these data to an argument very compelling, recap that connection and say why it seemed compelling. Alternatively, if there seemed to be something missing in the data presented in support of an argument (e.g., a compelling set of counter examples), describe that. The whole review should be no more than a page, double spaced and in no smaller than 10 point type.

**Problem sets:** See the Schedule for due dates.

- \* Morphology
- \* Phonetics – You will also need to listen to some audio files for this problem set.
- \* Phonology – The font that I use in these handouts is SILDoulosIPA93, which can be downloaded from the SIL IPA fonts page. But please remember that I will accept neat handwritten problem sets, so you should download the font and learn to use it only if you think you plan to do more work in phonetics and phonology beyond this course.
- \* Comparative Reconstruction – (You can listen to examples of the voiced versus voiceless nasal consonants in Burmese by going to this page of Peter Ladefoged's UCLA Phonetics Lab Archive.
- \* Syntactic analysis or an alternative Syntax problem set for those of you who are interested in computerized natural language processing. See also an implementation of a chart parser.

\* Semantics

#### **Language reports:**

- \* Assignment 1 Finding a language and Morphology
  - \* Assignment 2 Phonetics
  - \* Assignment 3 Minimal pairs, allophones
  - \* Assignment 4 Related languages
  - \* Assignment 5 Syntax, phrase structure
  - \* Assignment 6 Lexical semantics, semantic roles
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### Course Schedule

This is the schedule of reading assignments and homework due dates for this quarter.

March 30 – **General introduction and Morphology**

April 1 *reading: Finegan, chapter 2*

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April 6 – Article review: [Lieber \(1992\)](#), [Morphology Problem set](#)

April 8 – **Phonetics**, reading: *Finegan, chapter 3*.

Language Reports: [Introduction](#), and [Morphology](#)

April 13 – [Phonetics Problem set](#)

April 15 – Language Report: [Phonetics](#)

April 20 – **Phonology**, reading: *Finegan, chapter 4*

April 22 – Article review: [Fox & Terbeek \(1977\)](#) or you may choose to read a classic article by N.S. [Trubetzkoy \(1937\)](#)

April 27 – Language Report: [Phonology](#); [Phonology problem set](#)

April 29 – **Language variation**, reading: *Finegan, chapter 11*

May 4 – Article review: [Hay et al. \(2003\)](#)

May 6 – **Language change**, reading: *Finegan, chapter 13*

May 11 – [Comparative reconstruction problem set](#)

May 13 – Language Report: [Related languages](#)

May 18 – **Syntax**, reading: *Finegan, chapter 5*

May 20 – [Syntax problem set](#) or an [alternative Syntax problem set](#) for those of you who are interested in computerized natural language processing.

May 25 – Language report: [Syntax](#)

May 27 – **Semantics**, reading *Finegan, chapter 6*

June 1 – Article review: [Lewis \(1979\)](#) or [Fillmore \(1970\)](#).

June 3 – Language report: [Semantics](#)

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### Useful links

\* You will need to have the free program [Adobe Acrobat Reader](#) to view the PDF files posted on this web site. This program is already installed on many computers, so before you go to the trouble to download it, try clicking on one of the assignments or problem sets and see if you can read the file.

\* A useful reference for the phonetics and phonology sections of the course is Peter Ladefoged's book *Consonants and Vowels* and the accompanying [sound files](#).

\* To download a program to look at waveforms and spectrograms, you can go to the [Praat](#) home page.

\* To see older isogloss maps and to listen to some audio files of regional varieties of American English (with a primary focus on rural varieties), you can go to the home page for the [Dictionary of American Regional English](#).

\* To see newer maps of sound changes in progress, with more focus on urban varieties, you can go to the home page for the [TELSUR](#) project.

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\* [Click here to read a BBC article on a sound change in progress in an individual.](#)  
The original article describing this study is Jonathan Harrington, Sallyanne Palethorpe, Catherine I. Watson (2002). Does the Queen speak the Queen's English? *Nature* 408, 927-928 (21 Dec 2000).