

# LINGUISTICS 102: INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF LANGUAGES.

## COURSE SYLLABUS

Instructor: Alexander D. Smith  
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Office: Moore Hall 574  
Course: Ling 102, section 9. MWF 1:30-2:20, Moore Hall 207  
Office Hours: Monday 11:00-12:00, Wednesday 11:00-12:00, Thursday 1:00-2:00, or by appointment.

This course has been approved as writing-intensive (WI) and students will receive WI credit upon successful completion of the course requirements. The hallmarks for the WI designation are:

- The class uses writing to promote the learning of course materials.
- The class provides interaction between the instructor and students while students do writing.
- Written assignments contribute significantly to each student's course grade.
- The class requires students to do a substantial amount of writing minimum of 4,000 words, or about 16 pages.
- To allow for meaningful professor-student interaction on each student's writing, the class is restricted to 20 students.

### **Writing Assignments:**

There are several writing assignments in this class. There will be 6 homework responses to the readings. Each must be at least 500 words long, which is about 2 pages double spaced. The final paper will be at least 1,500 words long, or about 6 pages double spaced. Length is determined strictly by word count, rather than page length, so please turn in an electronic copy along with your paper copy. There are no specific formatting requirements. General formatting guidelines will be discussed in class.

### **Tests:**

There is a midterm and a final exam. Both tests will be essay/short-answer based, meaning students will be given a list of several open-ended questions on various specific topics. The final exam is cumulative; it will include questions that cover all the material from the semester. The midterm will be held on March 20<sup>th</sup>. The final exam will be held on the final week of class, May 11<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>. The specific time and date has not yet been determined.

### **Due Dates:**

Turn in all of the assignments on time. If there are any issues with due dates, talk to the instructor about it ahead of time. Don't wait until the assignment is already past due to talk about it.

### **Linguistics Beyond the Classroom:**

As a part of the course requirements, students must participate in the Linguistics Beyond the Classroom (LBC) project. The grade for the LBC project will be given only when the instructor receives a complete LBC report from the students. One option for the LBC project involves participation to linguistics experiments. In case the student didn't come to the experiment as planned without notifying the person who conducts the experiment, the student should make another appointment for a make-up experiment. For the make-up experiment, the student will receive a half point upon completion of the make-up experiment report. Details will be given on a separate handout.

### **The Course:**

The course will be organized around a single set of readings bound into a course reader. The reader is available through MAPS printing services – details of where and when to pick up the reader will be made available on the first day of classes. The reader consists of 18 readings, each taken from different sources and tailored to a particular topic in linguistics. Additional readings that you may purchase (but that are entirely optional) are *Contemporary Linguistics*, a Linguistics textbook that deals with the theoretical foundations of the science of Linguistics. The full class meetings on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday will be a combination of lectures and discussion.

### **Grading:**

Attendance/Participation	15%
Linguistics Beyond the Classroom	5%
Response Papers	20%
Term Paper	20%
Midterm	20%
Final	20%
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Total	100%

### **Attendance:**

Attendance is very important for this class. This is where we will discuss the readings and other class materials. We will introduce new ideas in the lecture and answer any questions students may have. If a student misses a class, it is the student's responsibility to catch up with what he/she missed by asking classmates and/or instructor. The students' efforts in coming to class on time will be duly recognized.

### **Participation:**

To be successful in this class, students must attend class sessions with proper preparation. Assigned readings must be completed before corresponding lectures. Lectures are not simply a "review" of the material in the textbook; they presuppose and expand upon that material. To make the lectures more meaningful and understanding, please be prepared to share your questions and comments on assigned readings in class. Students are responsible for all of the information presented in this course, and students' active participation in class and proper preparation for class are also expected. Asking questions is very important and will affect grades. Office hours and email are also good ways to get credit for participation.

**Academic Dishonesty:**

Academic dishonesty includes plagiarism and cheating. Students who violate the University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University. Policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced.

NOTE: It is very easy to cite a resource and acknowledge where the information you are using came from. There is no need to leave information that is taken directly from an outside source uncited, and there is no need to avoid using information from outside sources out of fear of being accused of plagiarism. If you need any help referencing and citing your information, just let me know.

**Required Textbook:**

*An introduction to the study of language*, (Amy Schafer and Jacob Terrell, eds.) The reader costs \$25.00 and is available for purchase from the Hawaii Linguistic Association in TP (Temporary Portables) room #105. Temporary Portables is located behind the Korean Studies Building, next to Hale Laulima and Lincoln Hall. The Association can only take cash, so please plan ahead. You will receive a receipt upon purchase of the reader.

**Schedule:**

All readings are from the text, *An introduction to the study of language*.

Week 1, January 12<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup>

Chapter 1: What is language?

Week 2, 3, January 19<sup>th</sup> (holiday) - 30<sup>th</sup>

Chapter 2: The sounds of language

Week 4, 5, February 2<sup>nd</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup>

Chapter 3: A brief look at grammar

Homework 1 due (Feb, 2<sup>nd</sup>)

Week 6, 7, February 16<sup>th</sup> (holiday) - 27<sup>th</sup>

Chapter 7: Language variation

Homework 2 due (Feb 16<sup>th</sup>)

Week 8, March 2<sup>nd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup>

Chapter 9: Language endangerment

Week 9, March 9<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup>

Chapter 10: Language acquisition

Homework 3 due (March 9<sup>th</sup>)

Week 10, 11, March 16<sup>th</sup> - April 3<sup>rd</sup> (holiday)  
Chapter 11: Language and the brain  
Midterm (March 20<sup>th</sup>)  
Spring Break March 23<sup>rd</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup>

Week 12, April 6<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup>  
Chapter 13: Writing systems  
Homework 4 due (April 6<sup>th</sup>)

Week 13, April 13<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup>  
Chapter 15: Animal communication

Week 14, April 20<sup>th</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup>  
Chapter 5: Languages in the Pacific  
Homework 5 due (April 20<sup>th</sup>)

Week 15, April 27<sup>th</sup> - May 1<sup>st</sup>  
Chapter 12: Talking to robots

Week 16, May 4<sup>th</sup> - May 8<sup>th</sup>  
Review  
Homework 6 due (May 4<sup>th</sup>)

Week 17, May 11<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup>  
Final exam  
Term Paper