

Linguistics 2100 (CRN 61025), The Study of Language

Spring 2026

Class Times: Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:55-4:15 PM

Room: Caldwell G10

Instructor: Melia Gomes

Email: mdg57124@uga.edu

Office hours: Tuesdays 11 AM - 1 PM in Gilbert 121, or by appointment

Course Overview:

This course introduces the scientific study of language, emphasizing such topics as the mental organization of grammar, the relationship between the study of language and other disciplines, and the relationship between language and its use in society. In order to provide a broad understanding of human language, this course covers major formal and functional subfields in Linguistics, including phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, pragmatics, neurolinguistics, psycholinguistics, language acquisition, language change and language variation.

Textbook (optional):

Yule, G. (2022). *The Study of Language* (8th ed.). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

doi:10.1017/9781009233446

Course Requirements:

- 3 Unit Exams (30% total)
 - Exam 1 (10%) will cover Unit 1 on Sounds: introduction to language, phonetics and phonology.
 - Exam 2 (10%) will cover Unit 2 on Structures: morphology and syntax.
 - Exam 3 (10%) will cover Unit 3 on Sub-Fields of Linguistics: meaning, language in the brain, language acquisition, historical linguistics and sociolinguistics. This exam is online and students are encouraged to use their notes.
- Language Project (20% total)
 - Students will investigate linguistic topics within one language of their choice throughout the semester. This will be completed in 4 parts using the eLC Assignment function.
- Homeworks (5% each, 30% total)
 - There will be 6 homework assignments, completed using the eLC Quiz function.
- Attendance (10% total)
 - Missing at least half of the class (40+ minutes) will be counted as an absence.
- Participation (10% total)
 - Participation is mainly based on willingness to engage in classroom discussions and attempted completion of ungraded activities.

Grades: A (100-93), A- (92-90), B+ (89-87), B (86-83), B- (82-80), C+ (79-77), C (76-73), C- (72-70),

D (69-60), F (59 or lower) **Note:** A final grade of 0.5 and above rounds up!

General Information and University Policies:

Per the Linguistics department's policy for this course, students are allowed 1 week of unexcused absences (2 classes for Tuesday/Thursday schedule), after which points will be deducted from overall participation grade. If there are more than 2 weeks (5 or more classes) of unexcused absences, this may result in an automatic failure of the class. Absences may be excused for UGA sanctioned athletic and academic events that are brought to the instructor's attention prior to the event date. Otherwise, excused absences are up to the instructor's discretion. Typically, excused absences are reserved for reasons (as judged by the instructor) that are urgent and unavoidable, so be aware that just because you inform your instructor of an absence in advance, that does not guarantee that it will be excused.

Students may make up exams or turn in late assignments if they must miss class due to their required participation in a UGA sanctioned event, or if a documented illness prevents them from completing the work on time. I am willing to work with students on making up work or exams if I have been made aware of the situation beforehand. Make up exams will only be available during office hours.

Students who need any type of accommodation should contact Accessibility and Testing (A&T), formerly the DRC. You are not required to disclose any disability-related information to me, but you are welcome to inform me if you think it will be beneficial (that information is 100% confidential).

As a UGA student, you have agreed to abide by the university's academic honesty policy, "A Culture of Honesty," and the Student Honor Code. All academic work must meet the standards described in "A Culture of Honesty" found at the following link:

<https://honesty.uga.edu/academic-honesty-policy/student-honor-code/>. Lack of knowledge about the academic honesty policy is not a reasonable explanation for committing a violation. Students will be required to sign a statement reaffirming that they agree to abide by the university academic honesty policy when taking in-person exams. Questions related to the course assignments and the academic honesty policy should be directed to the instructor.

Mental Health and Wellness Resources:

If you or someone you know needs assistance, you are encouraged to contact Student Care and Outreach in the Division of Student Affairs at 706-542-8479 or visit <https://sco.uga.edu>. They will help you navigate any difficult circumstances you may be facing by connecting you with the appropriate resources or services.

UGA has several resources for a student seeking mental health services, including (<https://well-being.uga.edu/>) or crisis support (706-542-2273).

If you need help managing stress anxiety, relationships, etc., please visit BeWellUGA (<https://healthcenter.uga.edu/bewelluga/>) for a list of workshops, classes, mentoring, and health coaching led by licensed clinicians and health educators in the University Health Center. Additional resources can be accessed through the UGA App.

Tentative Course Schedule (subject to change):

Week	Date	Topic	Assignment Due
1	T 1/13	Introductions, Syllabus, Introduction to Language	
	TH 1/15	Phonetics	
2	T 1/20	Phonetics	
	TH 1/22	Phonetics	
3	T 1/27	Phonetics	Language Project: <i>Part 1: Introduction</i> due 11:59 PM (eLC Assignment)
	TH 1/29	Phonology	Homework 1: <i>Phonetics</i> due 2:55 PM (eLC Quiz)
4	T 2/3	Phonology	
	TH 2/5	Phonology	
5	T 2/10	Phonology	
	TH 2/12	Exam 1 Review	Homework 2: <i>Phonology</i> due 2:55 PM (eLC Quiz)
6	T 2/17	Unit 1 Exam	

Week	Date	Topic	Assignment Due
	TH 2/19	Morphology	
7	T 2/24	Morphology	Language Project: <i>Part 2: Unit 1</i> due 11:59 PM (eLC Assignment)
	TH 2/26	Morphology	
8	T 3/3	Syntax	Homework 3: <i>Morphology</i> due 2:55 PM (eLC Quiz)
	TH 3/5	Syntax	
9	T 3/10	No class (Spring Break)	
	TH 3/12	No class (Spring Break)	
10	T 3/17	Syntax	
	TH 3/19	Exam 2 Review	Homework 4: <i>Syntax</i> due 2:55 PM (eLC Quiz)
11	T 3/24	Exam 2	
	TH 3/26	Meaning	
12	T 3/31	Meaning	Language Project: <i>Part 3: Unit 2</i> due 11:59 PM (eLC Assignment)

Week	Date	Topic	Assignment Due
	TH 4/2	Language in the Brain	
13	T 4/7	Language Acquisition	Homework 5 due 2:55 PM (eLC Quiz)
	T 4/9	Language Acquisition	
14	T 4/14	Historical Linguistics	
	TH 4/16	Sociolinguistics	
15	T 4/21	Exam 3 Review	Homework 6 due 2:55 PM (eLC Quiz)
	TH 4/23	No in-person class	Exam 3 due 11:59 PM (eLC Quiz)

Additional deadlines:

Language Project Part 4: Unit 3 due Thursday 4/30 at 11:59 PM (eLC Assignment)