

Course title: UNCOVERING LANGUAGES (LING 5705)

Meeting time: Thursday 13:20 ~ 16:20

Location: 共同 201

Instructor: Chenhao Chiu (*chenhaochiu@ntu.edu.tw*)

Office hours: By appointment

TAs:

- Thomas Schlatter (*thomas@whoop.ch*)
 - Ray Chen (*r09142001@ntu.edu.tw*)
 - Verna Lu (*b06102086@ntu.edu.tw*)
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General description

The course aims to introduce fundamental concepts and issues of natural languages and the field of linguistics. Throughout the course, various experimental devices and equipment will be introduced and students will be provided with a number of hands-on practices and exercises. Topics cover main subfields of linguistics (e.g., phonetics, phonology, syntax, and semantics) and also extend to other applied fields, such as psycholinguistic research and language acquisition. Students are encouraged to make connections between their own experience and specialties with the course content through the approach of STEAM (*Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics*). Elaboration on the final projects are particularly welcome.

No pre-requisite is required. Students with any background are all welcome.

Learning objectives

Acquire a good understanding of natural languages and linguistics, speech science experimental designs, and relevant applications.

Readings

Déchainé, R. A., Vatikiotis-Bateson, E., and Burton, S. (2012). *Linguistics for Dummies*. Wiley

Requirements

1. PARTICIPATION: Spontaneous learning is strongly encouraged. Students are encouraged to learn outside the classroom. In-class participation, such as answering questions, sharing opinions, etc., are particularly welcome. NOTE: Attending class without any verbal or physical participation will yield point deduction to your participation grade. Students are also welcome to join the discussion on NTU COOL. You can start a new discussion thread, or find additional references/materials to facilitate the in-class discussion.
2. EXERCISES AND ACTIVITY: For most of the weeks, there will be in-class exercises to facilitate the content for that week. You may be asked to submit a summary or answer sheet for each exercise. You are encouraged to work with your cohorts, and group submissions are allowed. All in-class exercises are due at the end of each

class. **NO LATE ASSIGNMENTS will be accepted or graded.** In-class hands-on exercises may include:

- (a) Linguistic data analyses
 - (b) The way you talk (i.e., articulation)
 - (c) Mini-experiments, including native speakers' judgments and interlocutory interaction
 - (d) Linguistic Olympiad
 - (e) Language fieldwork
3. READINGS: You are responsible for all the assigned readings, including textbook chapters and assigned reading for each week. Feel free to ask for extended reading materials, especially for your final project.
4. NTU COOL:
- All the course materials, including syllabus, weekly slides, and announcements will be uploaded to NTU COOL. If you are a registered student, the system should automatically sign you up. Once you log in, you should be able to find the thread for this course.
 - Most of the course-related communication will be delivered through NTU COOL and your **@ntu.edu.tw** account. Please make sure to check them regularly.
 - Each student will be randomly assigned to a discussion group. For each week, each discussion group has to post ONE question to the discussion board on NTU COOL. This question has to tie with the content covered during that week. Please make sure to discuss with your group members and the posted question needs to be a consensus among the members. The instructor and TA(s) will go through your posted question and provide feedback/comments. Make sure to respond to those comments. Also note:
 - All the group members will receive the same grade for the discussion. Please engage voluntarily.
 - You have ONE WEEK to post your question. That is, the question should be posted by next week's lecture. **No late submissions will be accepted or graded.**
5. PROJECTS: Students will form in groups and work together for the final project. This project will be in one of the following formats:
- Linguistic fieldwork
 - Contribution to Linguistics Olympiad

The topic is of students' choice, but need to be approved by TA(s) AND the instructor. Ideally, the topic has to tie with the content introduced in the course, but not limited so.

6. BONUS POINTS: In order to encourage further “deep learning”, bonus points will be awarded if you submit an additional final project.

(a) *Bonus project*: This final project can be any kind of work related the course materials to your own expertise or interest. This can be a team work and each one of you will receive the same amount of the extra points! Here are some thoughts for you.

- *60-second language*: Create a 60-second podcast-like audio file, introducing one of the topics/concepts you learned from this course. Note this project is **NOT** a summary of the course. You should use your own words or ways of expression to explain the topic you choose to elaborate. This has to be an individual project and should be given in **Mandarin**. You should be the one who is narrating. Ms. Google voice-over is **NOT** allowed. Check your recording quality before submission. At the final presentation, you will be playing your work to the class. You will also tell us what the biggest challenge was and how it was resolved, what you have learned, and how this assignment has affected you. You will receive 2 bonus points to your final grade.
- A cellphone/tablet application/webpage based on the knowledge you learn from this course would be a good idea! You can be as creative as you want on the format of this work. You will receive 2 bonus points to your final grade.

(b) *Experiment participation*: Apart from developing applications for smart phones, you can also participate in linguistics experiments running at the Graduate Institute of Linguistics here at NTU. After the experiment, make sure to ask for the proof of participation. Bring the proof of participation to your TA, and you will receive bonus points (1 point/experiment) to your final grade.

You are welcome to have bonus projects and experiment participations as many as you want, but the total of the bonus points to your final grade will be 5 points.

7. ETHICS: Research ethics will be strictly enforced with no exception. Any plagiarism or ethical violations will be reported to the University.
8. GENERAL REMINDER: Everyone is equal in this class and should be treated that way. Show your respect to your instructor and your fellow students!

Evaluation

• Participation	10%
• In-class Exercises	30%
• Reflections on invited talks	10%
• NTU COOL discussion	10%
• Midterm exam	15%
• Final project (poster presentation)	25%
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• Bonus points	5%

Weekly schedule

Week	Date	Modules	Topics	Readings
1	9/17	I.	Introduction	Ch. 1 & 2
2	9/24		Word formation	Ch. 5
3	10/1		DAY OFF!	
4	10/8		Word meanings	Ch. 7
5	10/15		Sentences	Ch. 6
6	10/22		Physical sounds	Ch. 3
7	10/29		How bodies talk?	Ch. 15
8	11/5		Phonology	Ch. 4
9	11/12		Pragmatics (CH) Sound symbolism + metaphor; Sociolinguistics (GIS; linguistic maps by 徐樂德)	Ch. 8 Ch. 9
10	11/19	II.	How do babies acquire languages?	Ch. 13
11	11/26		Psycholinguistics	TBA
12	12/3		Brain and languages (Also guest lectured by 莊勻、柯逸均)	Ch. 16
13	12/10	II.	AN INTRODUCTION TO FORMAN LANGUAGES 王凱弘	
14	12/17		TA research day; 台大言迷社 (Guest lecture TBD) Linguistic Olympiad (Guest lectured by 江王京玉) 跨域專長、神認學程、大專生論文、研究所先修	
15	12/24		手指在說話：台灣聾人的語言、文化與溝通方式 陳怡君 教授 (馬偕醫學院)	
16	12/31	IV.	MIDTERM EXAM	
17	1/7		語言使用田野調查；NO CLASS	
18	1/14		POSTER PRESENTATION	

- The weekly schedule is subject to change owing to the arrangements of invited speakers.