

Introduction to the Study of Language

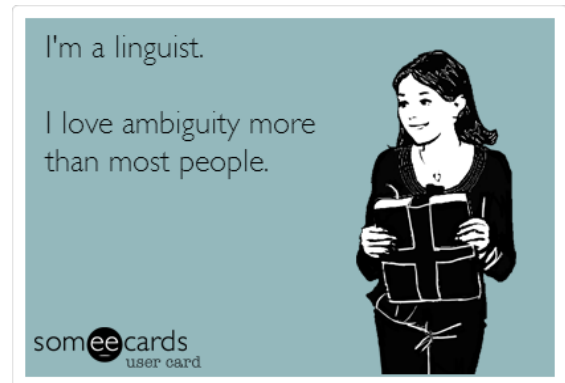
LING L103

Indiana University
Fall 2017

Lectures: MW 2:30–3:20p
Geology (GY) 126

Professor: **Dr. Ann Bunger**
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Office: Ballantine Hall 862
Office hours: Mon 9:30–11:30a, Tues 1–3p,
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Canvas: canvas.iu.edu



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Office hours:	W 10a–noon		Th 11:30a–1:30p		Th 10a–noon	
Location:	BH 858		BH 858		BH 858	
Sections:	F 9:05a	BH 314	F 12:20p	BH 307	F 2:30p	WH 007
	F 10:10a	BH 219	F 1:25p	SY 210		
	F 11:15a	WH 121	F 2:30p	WH 007		

Course Objectives

This course provides an introduction to Linguistics, the scientific study of human language. We will consider language as a structured system of form and meaning that is shaped both by its function as a means of sociocultural communication and by features of the human mind that guide its acquisition and use. During this course, you will be challenged to reconsider commonly held myths about language. In addition, you will be asked to perform analyses on linguistic data from a variety of languages and will develop critical thinking skills necessary for linguistic analysis. This course counts toward fulfillment of the S&H Breadth requirement.

By the end of the semester, students will be able to:

- Describe and define linguistic concepts and terminology.
- Use appropriate linguistic terminology to discuss language phenomena.
- Identify and categorize linguistic units (e.g., phonemes, morphemes, lexical categories, syntactic constituents) and learn how to represent them appropriately.
- Carry out linguistic analyses on data drawn from a variety of languages and at a variety of levels of discreteness (sounds, words, sentences, conversations).
- Interpret and create linguistic rules that apply to different components of language.
- Make connections across domains of linguistic analysis, e.g., correlating phonological behavior with morphological structures.
- Given two or more hypotheses about a set of data, develop an argument in support of one of them.
- Take an active role in directing and assessing their own learning process.

Required text

Department of Linguistics, The Ohio State University. (2016). *Language files: Materials for an introduction to language and linguistics*, 12th Edition. Columbus: The Ohio State University Press.

The textbook is available at the IU Bookstore and from various online retailers (be sure you are getting the 12th edition!). I have placed a copy of the 11th edition of this textbook on reserve in Wells Library. The information in this older version will be essentially the same, but page and exercise numbers may differ. The readings listed on this syllabus may change as the semester progresses. Supplemental readings will be made available on Canvas.

Course Requirements

Most classes will include presentation of material by the Instructors, class discussion, and/or group activities.

Evaluation

Quizzes	10%
Homework Assignments	40%
Exam 1	15%
Exam 2	15%
Final Exam (cumulative)	20%

Attendance and Participation

You are expected to attend and to arrive on time for all lectures and discussion sections. Regular attendance in lectures and discussion sections is essential to achieving the learning outcomes of this course. You are responsible for all notes, announcements and handouts given out in class. If you would like to obtain materials for a class that you missed for reasons other than an emergency or documented illness, first speak to a friend in the class. You may visit our office hours if there is something that requires clarification or if you would like to see lecture slides. We will not be posting slides to Canvas, but in the Class Notes folder you will find a summary of the main concepts from each week. This will be most helpful to you if you print it out before the week begins and use it to guide your reading and note-taking.

Diversity

Respect for cultural and biological diversity are central to the field of Linguistics. From both a scientific and a human perspective, there is value in considering the different opinions, backgrounds, and experiences that individuals contribute to the classroom. As we share ideas in this course, we may not always agree with each other, but we will work together to maintain an atmosphere of openness and respect for all perspectives.

Quizzes

Each week in your Discussion Section you will take a short quiz on topics from that week of classes. These are meant to provide a low-stakes review of key concepts and skills—if you’ve been keeping up with the material, we expect them to be easy. Each quiz will count for 1% of your final grade, up to 10% total. Your lowest 4 quiz grades will be dropped. If you miss a quiz for any reason, you will not be able to make it up.

Homework Assignments

There will be 9 homework assignments, many of which will consist of problem sets in which you will be asked to apply the tools of linguistic analysis to data from real languages. The homework assignment with the lowest grade will be dropped, so that only 8 will count toward your final grade.

Unless otherwise specified, you are expected to submit your assignments by the beginning of class on the day they are due. Late homeworks will receive a lowered grade (10% off for each day late). You must turn in your assignments on paper. The last three assignments will also be submitted on Canvas so that they may be run through Turnitin. If you must miss class on the day that a homework is due, you may ask a friend to turn it in or drop it off in your AI’s mailbox in Ballantine 848. The door to BH 848 locks at 4:30, so you will not be able to drop off assignments after that time. Be sure to write the time of your discussion section along with your name on all assignments. Unless otherwise specified, assignments should be typed in double-spaced 12-point Times New Roman font with 1-inch margins on all sides.

Homework Collaboration: You are always welcome to visit the Instructor and AI during their office hours to discuss assignments. In addition, we encourage you to discuss your homework assignments with other

students in the course. We expect this discussion to involve an exchange of ideas rather than simply an exchange of papers to check or share answers (see the Academic Misconduct Policy on the last page of this syllabus). If you do choose to work with other students on assignments, each student must write up the answers independently. This means that the assignments submitted by students who work together cannot be identical (although they may, in some cases, contain very similar answers). If you work with other students, list the names of each of them at the top of the assignment that you submit.

Grading Disputes: If you believe that a grading error has been made, you may meet with Dr. Bunger to ask for a regrade of that assignment. You should be prepared with specific details about the nature of the error. Vague requests to “look at this again” will not be honored. Please keep in mind that regrades may result in a lower score rather than a higher one. Finally, please note that we would be happy to talk with you about your grades in person during our office hours, but the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) prohibits us from discussing them with you by email.

Exams

There will be two (noncumulative) midterm exams that will be taken in discussion sections and a cumulative final exam during the exam period. All tests will be multiple-choice. Keep up with readings. Learn the important terms and concepts. Know how to do the problems.

Make-up exams will only be considered when discussed with us before the test, or in the event of a medical or family emergency (in which case a note from the Dean of Students must be provided). If you would like to reschedule homework due dates or exams for religious observances, please let us know at least a week in advance so that we can make the proper accommodations.

Course Outline

Readings and Assignment due dates (subject to change)

		M	W	F
Week 1 8/21–8/25	What is language?		LF ch1	Leamnsen 2011
Week 2 8/28–9/1	What is language? / Intro to Phonetics	LF 14.1, 14.2	LF 2.1, 2.2	HW1 due
Week 3 9/4–9/8	Phonetics	LABOR DAY NO CLASS	LF 2.3	
Week 4 9/11–9/15	Phonetics & Phonology		LF 3.1, 3.2 HW2 due	LF 2.4
Week 5 9/18–9/22	Phonology	LF 3.3, 3.5		
Week 6 9/25–9/29	Variation: Sound	LF 2.5, 3.3.3 HW3 due	LF ch10 pp. 417–418 and 424–423; 13.1	EXAM 1 Sound
Week 7 10/2–10/6	Morphology	LF 4.1	LF 4.4	FALL BREAK NO CLASS
Week 8 10/9–10/13	Morphology		LF 4.2, 4.3	LF 4.5

Week 9 10/16– 10/20	Syntax	LF 5.1, 5.3 HW4 due	LF 5.4	
Week 10 10/23– 10/27	Syntax	HW5 due		
Week 11 10/30– 11/3	Variation: Words & Sentences	LF 5.2.2	LF 10.1.3, 13.4.4 HW6 due	EXAM 2 Words & Sentences
Week 12 11/6– 11/10	Pragmatics; Sociolinguistics	LF 7.1– 7.4	LF 10.1, 10.2, 10.4, 10.5	code-switching links HW7 due
Week 13 11/13– 11/17	Psycholinguistics; Computational Linguistics	LF 9.1–9.2	LF 9.3, ch16 file TBD	

THANKSGIVING 11/20–11/24

Week 14 11/27– 12/1	Language & Thought; Language Endangerment	LF 11.2, Pullum_eskimohoax	LF 12.6 HW8 due	Thurman 2015
Week 15 12/4–12/8	Acquisition & Innateness	LF 8.1, 8.5	Pinker 1994	HW9 and extra credit due by 5pm

FINAL EXAM: Cumulative Monday 12/11 12:30–2:30p GY 126

Additional Policies and Resources

The Code

<http://www.iu.edu/~code/code/responsibilities/academic/index.shtml>

As a student at IU, you are expected to adhere to the standards and policies detailed in the Code of Student Rights, Responsibilities, and Conduct, including responsibilities to uphold and maintain academic and professional honesty and integrity. When you submit an assignment with your name on it, you are signifying that the work contained therein is yours, unless otherwise cited or referenced. Any ideas or materials taken from another source for either written or oral use must be fully acknowledged. See Part II-G of the Code for detailed descriptions of types of academic misconduct that will not be tolerated, including (but not limited to) cheating, plagiarism, and facilitation of academic misconduct. All suspected violations of the Code will be handled according to University policies. Sanctions for academic misconduct may include a failing grade on the assignment, a reduction in your final course grade, or a failing grade in the course, among other possibilities, and must include a report to the Dean of Students, who may impose additional disciplinary sanctions.

In addition, you should be aware that selling any materials, assignments, or study guides provided by the instructors of this course is not permitted. Violations of this policy will be reported to the Dean of Students as academic misconduct (violation of course policies), with potential sanctions as described above. Additionally, these violations may constitute a violation of IU information technology and intellectual property policies and additional consequences may result.

Students with disabilities

<http://studentaffairs.indiana.edu/disability-services-students/index.shtml>

Any student with a documented disability needing accommodations is requested to speak directly to the Office of Disability Services for Students (Wells Library, Suite W 302; iubdss@indiana.edu; 812-855-7578) and Dr. Bunger as early as possible in the semester (preferably within the first week of class). All discussions will remain confidential.

Student Academic Center

<https://sac.indiana.edu/>

If you are struggling academically, or just want to hear about new learning strategies, perspectives, and behaviors that can facilitate academic success, the Student Academic Center offers a range of free on-line and face-to-face resources to support student academic success.

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)

<http://healthcenter.indiana.edu/counseling/>

School—and life—can be intense at times, and if your academic responsibilities or other personal concerns are weighing on you, we encourage you to contact CAPS (812-855-5711). The people there can be a resource and a source of support both in times of crisis and also when you just need an extra ear. We're happy to listen to you as well, but we don't have the counseling training that the folks at CAPS do, and we may be legally required to report certain things that you share with us (e.g., reports of sexual assault, suicidal thoughts).

Technology in the classroom

It is your responsibility as a member of this classroom community to avoid the use of technological devices that may distract others. Cell phone use and texting during class time are prohibited; you can have one violation for free, and after that you will lose 1% from your final grade for each violation of this policy. Photos, videos, and audio recordings may not be made in this classroom without prior permission from Dr. Bunger. Students who violate this policy will be asked to leave the classroom. The use of laptops during class time is strongly dispreferred. Not only are they distracting, but research has shown that students who use laptops to take notes do not learn material as well as students who take notes by hand. Come talk to Dr. Bunger if you feel that you cannot do without a laptop, and we will try to work something out.

Linguistics in the Wild! Extra Credit

Find examples of concepts or phenomena we discuss in class out there in the world (from real life, pop culture, social media, etc.), and email them to Dr. Bunker (acbunger@indiana.edu) along with a brief description (2–4 sentences) of how they relate to class. Your description should both identify the concept or phenomenon that your example illustrates and provide some commentary on it.

For example:

When my cousin's hair was sticking up at Thanksgiving, my aunt told him his hair "needs combed." This is an example of syntactic variation in dialects of English. This phrase might not be considered "standard" (prescriptive) English, but it is common (and descriptively grammatical) in Indiana dialects.

You will earn a half point (0.5) of extra credit on your final grade for each example that provides an appropriate illustration of class topics. You may earn up to a total of 2 extra credit points.

If more than one person submits the same example, the credit will be split, so try to make your observations unique. You will not receive any credit for examples that have already been discussed in class (e.g., some people say "soda" and some people say "pop."). Examples may be shared in class (anonymously), so if you would prefer that your example be kept confidential, please mention that when you submit it.

Extra credit points will be added to your final grade for the class.

Extra Credit may be turned in any time before (or at) 5pm on the last day of classes.

Extra credit must be submitted by email to acbunger@indiana.edu