

LING 111:

Intro to Language

SUMMER 2018
TuThuFri 12:00-2:00pm
Lorch Hall 173

INSTRUCTOR

Kate Sherwood (ksher@umich.edu)
459 Lorch hall

OFFICE HOURS

(in my office)
MoTu 10:00-11:00AM
or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is an introduction to the scientific study of human language. We all speak at least one

language—but most of our knowledge of that language is unconscious. We will explore some of the ways that linguists attempt to understand language as a cognitive, social, and historical phenomenon. How is it structured? How does it communicate meaning? How is it produced and understood? How is it used in context, and how does it vary? After completing this course, you will have a deeper understanding of the nature of human language, what it is that linguists do, and the role that language plays in your own life.

TEXTBOOK

Language Files: Materials for an Introduction to Language and Linguistics, 12th edition. It's up to you whether you use the physical copy or the ebook.

EXPECTATIONS AND STRUCTURE OF THE COURSE

Each class period consists of a lecture, a five-minute break, and an activity based what we covered that day. Questions during the lecture are welcome and encouraged!

Attendance

Summer sources are short and intense—so if you miss a class period, you miss a lot of material. You can only miss one class period without an excuse. Any further unexcused absences will result in a reduction of your participation grade.

Be in your seat and ready to begin at 12:00 sharp, and if you leave the room during breaks, be sure to return on time.

Class Participation

Be an engaged learner. Ask questions and take part in class discussions and activities. Your participation will help you understand the material and build an interesting and informative classroom environment. You should be curious—language is a fundamental part of who we are, and an experience we all share. Think about the connections between the concepts that we're discussing, and how they might be relevant to your own experience.

Electronic devices aren't allowed during lecture. Yes, they're useful for taking notes, but unfortunately, most students can't stay away from distracting websites and apps. This makes it very hard to build a good classroom environment. If I catch you on your device, it will count as an absence.

Readings

The lectures follow the *Language Files* textbook—more or less. The class calendar lists which sections we're covering. You should follow along in the book. I make the lecture slides available, but they're not exhaustive. They'll tell you which concepts you should know, but the book is where you'll find the full explanations of those concepts.

Homework

Summer courses are half as long as fall or winter courses but have to cover the same amount of material. This means that information will come at you fast, and you'll have to do work outside of class to keep up and absorb it all. To help you with this, there are short homework assignments due before most class periods. These assignments can cover information from the lecture or the book.

Late homework won't be accepted

except in extraordinary circumstances. If you contact me beforehand, it's a lot more likely I'll consider your circumstances extraordinary!

If you're stuck on a homework problem, do your best and then come to talk to me during my next office hours. It might be possible for you to revise and resubmit the homework

Office Hours

Do you have a question that you didn't get a chance to ask in class? Are you having trouble with one of the concepts? Come see me during my office hours! Keep in mind that office hours aren't a substitute for attending class or reading the lecture materials and assigned chapters. They're the next step when you can't find your answers there. You should come to office hours prepared to talk about **specific problems** about the material.

I don't answer questions about the course content over email. I'll answer logistical questions, but if you have a question about a concept or how to do a problem, you'll have to come to see me. If you can't make my posted hours, that's fine; just email me so we can make other arrangements.

Exams

You'll have two exams: a midterm and a final. The final will be cumulative. Any material covered in the lecture, class activities, or homework is fair game for the exams.

THE GRADING BREAKDOWN

Attendance	5%
Participation	5%
Homeworks	30%
Midterm Exam	25%
Final Exam	35%

ACCOMMODATIONS

If you have a disability and need an accommodation to participate in this class or to complete course requirements, please ask Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) to provide documentation of the accommodations that you need. Then, please share this documentation with me as soon as possible. I will treat as private and confidential any information that you share.

If you suspect that you may have a disability and would like to be tested, Services for Students with Disabilities can provide free screenings and referrals to low-cost diagnostic services. Here is the contact information for Services for Students with Disabilities:

LOCATION: G-664 Haven Hall

PHONE: (734) 763-3000

WEBSITE: <http://ssd.umich.edu/>

