

# LING/PSY 201: Introduction to Linguistics

A Fully Online and Asynchronous 7.5 Week Course

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**OFFICE HOURS:** Thursdays, 1:00-3:00 PM  
Location: [Dr. O's Zoom](#)

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**OFFICE HOURS:** Wednesdays, 2:00-3:00 PM  
Location: [Brandon's Zoom](#)

## CLASS WEBSITE

As an enrolled student, if you need any type of hardware (laptop, tablet, etc.) for this or other classes, you can borrow a device free of charge for the duration of the semester from UArizona Library's [Tech Lending Program](#). To fully participate in our course, you must have regular and reliable access to our d2l website, and all things posted on it. The syllabus, readings, video lectures, lecture slides, and all assignments and exams will be posted on d2l along with weekly announcements and other important information. If you do not have access to reliable technology and need help acquiring access, please let us know as soon as possible.

## READINGS

Readings for this course will be provided on D2L and are largely taken from the texts referenced below:

- Carnie, A. (forthcoming). *A Modular Introduction to Linguistics*. (C)
- Fromkin, V., Rodman, R., & Hyams, N. (2011). *An Introduction to Language* (9th Ed.). Wadsworth Publishing. (FRH)
- Ladefoged, P. & Johnson, K. (2015). *A Course in Phonetics* (7th Ed.). Cengage Learning. (LJ)
- Tserdanelis, G. & Wong, W.Y.P. (Eds.). (2004). *Language Files* (9th Ed.). Columbus, OH: Ohio University Press. (TW)

## VIDEO LECTURES

Each module in this course has Panopto video lectures to accompany the assigned readings; these videos in some cases expand on content found in the reading but in other cases cover topics not found in the reading at all. There are 2-3 smaller videos per unit, which range from 20-40 minutes each (so keep in mind that the PAUSE button is your friend). That said, each module's lecture series will not generally exceed 60-80 minutes altogether, which is less than or roughly equivalent to one in-person lecture. Please see our Recommended Weekly Schedule on d2l for suggestions on how best to approach this class. *Taking full advantage of the lecture series is an important predictor of success in this course; historically, students who watch the videos perform better than students who do not.* Please note that the course lectures were recorded some years ago. Although every effort was made to avoid semester-specific references, there may be one or two instances that slipped through the editing process.

## COURSE DESCRIPTION, OBJECTIVES & OUTCOMES\*

This course is designed for individuals entering the field of linguistics or related disciplines (psychology, philosophy, speech and hearing sciences, neuroscience/cognitive science, etc.). It is expected that you are enrolled in the course because you want to know more about LANGUAGE. To that end, we will take language apart and examine all its pieces - analogous to taking a car engine apart to see how it works. As you will learn, language is composed of many intricately threaded sub-structures that we will explore together. This is an important first step because we can't answer the bigger questions (like the relation between language and...the human mind/brain, society & culture, computers, meaning and consciousness, etc.), until we know what language really is. In this course, you will discover the "atoms of language". In examining these, you will gain a deeper understanding of and appreciation for one of the single-most important means of communication that humans possess.

At the end of this course, successful students will be able to:

- ...formulate clear questions about the structure, nature, and use of language.
- ...give sophisticated responses to the questions of others on these topics.
- ...identify phonemes, allophones, morphemes, and syntactic and semantic structures in a variety of languages.
- ...read and write using the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA).
- ...conduct linguistic analyses of various types (phonological, morphological, syntactic, etc.)
- ...describe the variables according to which different languages/dialects can be categorized.
- ...write a concise, coherent, and academically acceptable investigation, argument, or proposal relating to course themes.

\*Nb. The outcomes listed above correlate with all assessment outcomes for the LINGBA Program.

COURSEWORK AND GRADING	Points	Scale	
Syllabus Quiz (1)	30	805-724.5	= A
Discussion Boards (2 @ 35 pts)	70	724.4-644	= B
Problem Sets (5 @ 50 pts)	250	643-563.5	= C
Unit Quizzes (6 @ 50 pts)	300	563.4-483	= D
Everyday Linguistics Instructions Quiz (1)	50	482-0	= E
Everyday Linguistics Paper (1)	125		
Total Possible Points =	825		

**Please note** that while you can earn up to **825** points in this class, the grading scale is calculated only out of **805**. This gives you a small cushion, in case you miss something or underperform on some course component. **This also means that D2L will always underestimate your final calculated grade** (I do the adjustment at the end of term via your final adjusted grade).

*University policies regarding grades and grading systems, including Further details about [University policies regarding grades and grading systems](#), including requests for incompletes and withdrawal, are available in the online university catalog.*

**Syllabus Quiz (30 points):** All students are required to take an untimed Syllabus Quiz, which will become available no later than the first day of class. The quiz covers important information contained in the course syllabus and calendar, including codes of conduct and course policies. You may take this quiz any number of times without penalty until you score 100%. **Successful completion of this quiz with a score of 100% is a prerequisite for access to all course content past the first unit, so you should make sure to do so by the noted closing date and time given on the Course Schedule.**

**Discussion Board Participation (35 points each; 25 for the Initial Post and 10 for your Reply):** All students are required to participate in *two* discussion boards. Each discussion board requires an original post and subsequent replies to other students' posts. The content of your post will be guided by the topic for that board, which typically asks you to first complete an activity or watch a short video. You'll then craft a post (about 180 words) for the discussion board according to that board's prompts and instructions. It is especially important that you read these carefully to be sure you provide all the required information. After you submit your post, you will be able to view and respond to your classmates' posts. Replies (about 75 words) should relate as much to the original prompt as to the substance of the post to which you reply. You risk losing points for replies that simply reflect agreement, repeat the same ideas multiple times, or for being off topic. Please be sure to read the **Discussion Board Tips** document on D2L, which provides guidelines for posts and replies that earn full points. *You will be separated into smaller, randomized discussion groups to make it easier for you to scroll through posts. If you add the class close to or after the first day, you may not be assigned to a group yet and will then not be able to see the board. Please let us know if this happens to you so we can fix it!*

**Problem Sets (50 points each):** All students are required to complete *five* problem sets for this course to give you practice in linguistic analysis. Problem Sets can be found under Quizzes in D2L and will focus exclusively on data analysis. Although there are due dates for submission of problem sets, they are not timed so that you can think through them and work out the problems with your full attention. You may take up to two attempts, and after your first attempt, you will see which questions you got wrong, but not the correct answers. You can then work out, through careful analysis, why you got certain questions wrong so that you don't repeat the errors in the second attempt. *If you plan well, there will be time to check in with us between your two attempts if you need help.* If you choose to make two attempts, D2L automatically selects the highest scoring attempt as your final score. There are 25 questions per Problem Set.

**Unit Quizzes (50 points each):** All students are required to take six Unit Quizzes for this course. These quizzes will cover readings, problem sets, and video lectures in equal measure related to the unit in question. The questions are objective, such as true-false, multiple choice, etc. and you have 90 minutes to complete the quiz. Like the Problem Sets, there are 25 questions per quiz, and you may take two attempts. However, these unit quizzes are *randomized*, so you are not guaranteed to get the same questions in your second attempt as in your first. Please plan wisely to make sure you have uninterrupted internet access for the duration of the quiz. *Given that all quizzes are available the entire week in which they are due, poor planning or last-minute technical issues are not valid excuses for an extension.*

**Everyday Linguistics (50 points for instructions quiz, 125 points for the paper):** Students are required to complete one research assignment for this course. This assignment will require you to conduct a small, informal study of language and its use in everyday life and then report your results in a paper. The purpose of this assignment is to increase your awareness of language and its use as well as to give you the opportunity to conduct research in linguistics. I guarantee that you'll find it accessible, interesting, and fun! Please note that the Everyday Linguistics Instructions Quiz is part of this research assignment. Like the Syllabus Quiz, you may take however many attempts you need to earn the required 100%; otherwise, you will not be able to submit the paper itself. You'll earn 50 points (guaranteed!) just for completing the quiz, which is designed to ensure that you understand the assignment. *Please note that failure to complete the Everyday Linguistics Instructions Quiz at 100% may result in a score of zero on the associated paper because you will not be able to access the relevant assignments folder.*

**Earning Extra Credit (25 points, maximum).** There are various ways for you to earn extra points towards your overall grade in this class. One of these is to attend our Zoom office hours. For these visits, you must come prepared with substantive questions to ask about course material, assignments or anything related to linguistics (but grade queries, quiz review, and the like do not count). You earn a minimum of 5 points per visit, but more are possible depending on your efforts. There may also be linguistics experiments in which you can participate for course credit through our department's research interface (SONA). Further information about SONA and associated linguistic studies for extra credit can be found on our d2l homepage. *Participation in extra points opportunities does not guarantee that the full (or any) points will be subsequently awarded. Each submission or effort will be evaluated based on your preparedness and the depth of your work and/or thinking. **The last day to accrue extra credit is the last day of 7W2 classes by midnight.***

#### **FURTHER EXPECTATIONS**

1. Course Policies: Students are expected to abide by all university policies regarding attendance, academic integrity, and codes of conduct, among other things. For details, please see: <https://academicaffairs.arizona.edu/syllabus-policies>.
2. Email Etiquette: If you email us, *please indicate in which course you are enrolled*. We each have other course obligations and will not necessarily know to which class you belong. We will answer your email as quickly as we are able Monday-Friday. We do not guarantee responses to your email in the evenings or on weekends.
3. Due Dates and Deadlines. Each student is expected to complete all assignments by the posted due dates. It is your responsibility to note when assignments are due and to submit them at the appropriate time in the appropriate format and via the appropriate venue. Assignments will close by the date/time indicated on d2l. **Remember, the dates/times listed are “due dates”, NOT “start dates!** For all assignments, you have multiple days available to complete them and a missed due date due to poor planning does not comprise a valid excuse for accommodation. **Please know that late work is generally not accepted out of fairness to those students who are completing the work on time.** *However, we are fully aware that these are exceptional and challenging times. If you miss an assignment for an unexpected and legitimate reason, please get in touch as soon as you can. We'll then consider the situation and potentially make arrangements with you to help get you back on track. We may also reach out to check in with you if we notice that you've missed work.*
4. Technical Issues. If you have questions or concerns about d2l, there are university resources available to help you. If you experience a technical problem that is beyond your control (system shut-downs, network interruptions, etc.), please notify us as soon as possible and contact [D2L Consulting](#) for assistance. If it is possible to take a screen shot of what is appearing on your screen and email it to us, that is also an excellent way to show us what happened (if you are not sure how to take a screenshot, instructions are easily found on the web). Please also note [UArizona's WiFi hotspots](#) in case you are in need of reliable internet access.
5. Course Notes. Students should be aware that course video lectures and slides, and any other associated materials are copyrighted to us, our colleagues, and/or your textbook authors. This includes student notes or summaries that substantially reflect our lectures, assignments or other materials. These materials are made available only for personal use by students, and students may not distribute or reproduce the materials for commercial purposes without our express written consent. Violation of our copyright violates the Code of Academic Integrity and may result in course sanctions.
6. Performance. Although students are expected to participate fully in this class and to complete all assignments on time, these achievements alone are not sufficient to pass this course. To pass this course, you *must* demonstrate that you have mastered the course concepts presented this term. Students who wish to earn an 'A' must demonstrate superior mastery of course concepts throughout their work this semester.
7. Availability of Course Content & Changes in the Course Schedule or Syllabus. Information contained in the course syllabus, other than the grade and absence policy, is subject to change with advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor. The relevant material for each unit will be available no later than the first day of the week in which it is scheduled.

## **ADDITIONAL IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

Diversity & Inclusion. Inclusive Excellence is a fundamental part of the University of Arizona's strategic plan and culture. As part of this initiative, the institution embraces and practices diversity and inclusiveness. These values are expected, respected and welcomed here. This course supports elective gender pronoun use and self-identification; any public rosters or names indicating such choices will be updated throughout the semester, upon student request. As the course includes peer discussions, it is vitally important for us to create an educational environment of inclusion and mutual respect.

Basic Needs: Without a doubt, university life can be challenging in a number of ways – especially now – and it's often the case that students are unaware of resources that the university provides to help them meet and overcome these challenges, including food and financial security, mental health, childcare and much more. If you are facing challenges of any sort this semester, please consult these UArizona resource pages related to [basic needs](#) and [other helpful resources](#).

Accessibility and Accommodations. The University of Arizona strives to make learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience barriers based on disability or pregnancy, please contact the [Disability Resource Center](#) (520-621-3268) to establish reasonable accommodations.

Students Facing Exceptional Circumstances. If exceptional circumstances arise during the term, such as those related to chronic illness or trauma, or due to an emergency with unforeseen and long-term impacts, please see the notices above regarding basic needs and accessibility and accommodations. You may also contact the [Dean of Students](#) office (520-621-7057), which provides support and connections to appropriate services for undergraduates. The Dean of Students can also act as a liaison for you with your professors and supervisors if you are prevented from participating in your courses due to an emergency or other serious life event.

Adding After the 1<sup>st</sup> Day of Class. Provided you register within the appropriate timeframe and/or have instructor approval, you are welcome to join the course late. However, please be aware that you may have missed assignments and deadlines that your teaching team is *not* obligated to adjust. While adding after the first day will not prevent you from earning an excellent grade, it is not valid to assume that you can add late without incurring possible costs – regardless of the reason for your late admission to the course. *You* are responsible for learning about the material you missed, and *you* are responsible for working through the remaining items in the course calendar to earn the grade you hope to achieve this semester. Of course, you may reach out to the teaching team for assistance at any time.

**COURSE CALENDAR (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)**

LS=LECTURE SERIES, DB=DISCUSSION BOARD, PS=PROBLEM SET, EL=EVERYDAY LINGUISTICS

DATES	UNIT	MATERIALS NEEDED	ASSIGNMENTS	WHERE ON D2L	COMPLETE BY (CLOSES)		
10/12-10/20	Introduction	Syllabus	Syllabus Quiz	Content/Unit 1	Fri	Oct 13 <sup>th</sup>	11:59 PM
		Discussion Forum DB1	DB1-Post & Reply	Content/Unit 1	Wed	Oct 18 <sup>th</sup>	11:59 PM
		Reading: FRH Ch. 1	Quiz 1: Introduction	Content/Unit 1	Fri	Oct 20 <sup>th</sup>	11:59 PM
		LS1: Introduction		Content/Unit 1			
10/21-10/27	Phonetics	Reading: LJ Ch. 1-2	Unit 2 PS: Phonetics	Content/Unit 2	Wed	Oct 25 <sup>th</sup>	11:59 PM
		LS2: Phonetics	Quiz 2: Phonetics	Content/Unit 2	Fri	Oct 27 <sup>th</sup>	11:59 PM
10/28-11/3	Phonology	Reading: TW Section 4	Unit 3 PS: Phonology	Content/Unit 3	Wed	Nov 1 <sup>st</sup>	11:59 PM
		LS3: Phonology	Quiz 3: Phonology	Content/Unit 3	Fri	Nov 3 <sup>rd</sup>	11:59 PM
11/4-11/10	Morphology	Reading: FRH Ch. 3	Unit 4 PS: Morphology	Content/Unit 4	Wed	Nov 8 <sup>th</sup>	11:59 PM
		LS 4: Morphology	Quiz 4: Morphology	Content/Unit 4	Fri	Nov 10 <sup>th</sup>	11:59 PM
11/11-11/17	Syntax	Reading: C Synac1	Unit 5 PS: Syntax	Content/Unit 5	Wed	Nov 15 <sup>th</sup>	11:59 PM
		LS 5: Syntax	Quiz 5: Syntax	Content/Unit 5	Fri	Nov 17 <sup>th</sup>	11:59 PM
11/18-11/22	EL Quiz	EL Instructions	Quiz on EL Instructions	Content/EL	Wed	Nov 22 <sup>nd</sup>	11:59 PM
11/25-12/1	Semantics	Discussion Forum DB2	DB2-Post & Reply	Discussions Tab	Mon	Nov 27 <sup>th</sup>	11:59 PM
		Reading: FRH Ch. 5	Unit 6 PS: Cumulative!	Content/Unit 6	Wed	Nov 29 <sup>th</sup>	11:59 PM
		LS 6: Semantics	Quiz 6: Semantics	Content/Unit 6	Fri	Dec 1 <sup>st</sup>	11:59 PM
12/2-12/6	EL Paper	EL Instructions	EL Paper	Content/EL	Wed	Dec 6 <sup>th</sup>	11:59 PM

Days shown in blue reflect due dates that are exceptions to the more typical Wed/Fri Setup. Please make a note of these exceptions and consult this calendar and our Recommended Weekly Schedule on D2L regularly for guidance on how to best manage your time for this class.