Ling 140: Language Documentation and Description (formerly: Field Methods)
Spring 2023

Meetings:	Tu/Th 12:30–2pm, 204 Dwinelle & 1226 Dwinelle
Instructors:	Peter Jenks, Godiya Simon
Office:	1217 Dwinelle
Email:	jenks@berkeley.edu, godiya.simon@berkeley.edu
Office Hours:	Tu 11a-12p, W 10-11a

Description In this course you will learn to discover, document, and describe grammatical phenomena in a language that you have no previous exposure to. This semester, UC Berkeley graduate student Godiya Simon will be serving as our native language collaborator and consultant for her native language Kibaku, a Chadic language spoken in northeastern Nigeria. To study this language, you learn how to conduct linguistic interviews (= *elicitation*), and how to collect linguistic (= *texts*). Over the course of the semester, we will describe the phonological inventory of Kibaku and basic phonological alternations, parts of the morphology and syntax of Kibaku, as well as producing community-oriented documents about Kibaku for the purposes of the Kibaku community.

Attendance Attendance is required with the exception of excused absences for illness, personal emergencies, or religious holidays. I will record attendance and it will be part of your final grade. Class meetings will consist either of us working with Godiya as a group (= *group elicitation*) or meeting together to discuss our findings. In addition, you will be expected to meet with Godiya once a week for an hour with a partner, starting in Week 3 (= *individual elicitation*).

Course requirements This course will be a lot of work; the more you put in, the more you get out. This is probably the only course you take in college where the work you are doing is potentially generating genuinely new knowledge about language and new resources which may be usable by a linguistic community, so a lot is on the line.

1. **Data processing**: After every elicitation session, you will be expected to type up the data you have collected in Google Docs/Sheets. You will also be expected to upload your recorded elicitation session. I will regularly check your progress in this area throughout the semester.

2. **Readings**: The readings for this course provide essential background knowledge and will be required.

3. **Assignments**: You will be expected to turn in two assignments over the course of the semester: i) a (partial) phonology sketch, ii) a sketch of some small portion of Kibaku morphosyntax, iii) and a short narrative text. You will also be expected to present your final project in the final week of class.

4. **Final project**: You will turn in a final project, due on the Tuesday of finals week (Tuesday May 10). The grade of your final paper will be calculated based on the final paper itself, the quality and improvement from your first draft of the paper, and a presentation on your project in the last week of class.

Grading Your final grade will be calculated according to the rubric below. Attendance and participation will be measured both by your attendance, your preparation for group elicitation sessions, and your degree of engagement with the language and the material over the course of the semester. Your progress in data processing will be assessed three times in the semester.

Attendance and participation	15%
Data processing (Sheets/Docs)	15%
Phonology sketch	15%
Morphosyntx sketch	15%
Text	15%
Final project	25%

Course Schedule and Assignments

Week 1 Basic vocabulary
  Read: Leonard 2020

Week 2-3 Verbs, adjectives, archiving
  Read Bowern, ch. 3-5

Week 4 Basic morphology
  Read: Bowern, ch. 6

Week 5 Phonological inventory review
  Read: Hyman 2014; **Assignment:** Data check

Week 6 Tone crash course
  Assignment: Phonology sketch due Tues Feb. 28

Week 7 Syntax and morphology topics
  Read: Bowern, ch. 7-8

Week 8-9 Text collection
  Read: Bowern, ch. 9, Himmelmann 2006

Week 10 Morphosyntax summary, syntax in groups
  Assignment: Texts due Tues March 21, Data check

 SPRING BREAK

Week 11-12 Working towards final project

  textbfAssignment: Morphosyntax sketch due Tues April 9

Week 13 Working towards final project
  Assignment: Draft of final project due Tues. April 25

Week 14 Short presentations on final project
       Assignment: Data check

Readings

- Bowern, Claire. 2007. *Linguistic fieldwork: A practical guide.* Palgrave McMillan.

- Leonard, Wesley. 2021. Centering indigenous ways of knowing in collaborative language work. In *Sustaining Indigenous Languages: Connecting Communities, Teachers, and Scholars*. Lisa Crowshoe, Inge Genee, Mahaliah Peddle, Joslin Smith, and Conor Snoek, Eds. pp. 21-33. Northern Arizonia University Press.

- Himmelmann, Nikolaus P. 2006. Language documentation: What is it and what is it good for? In *Essentials of Language Documentation*. Jost Gippert, Nikolaus P. Himmelmann and Ulrike Mosel, Eds. pp. 1-30. Mouton de Gruyter.

- Hyman, Larry M. 2014. How to study a tone language: with exemplification from Oku (Grassfields Bantu, Cameroon) *Language documentation and conservation* 8, 525-562.

Course Policies

Promptness All assignments have specific due dates listed in the course site and the Calendar on bCourses. You are expected to meet those listed due dates. Late assignments will be penalized 10%. All assignments will be submitted via bCourses.

Honor Code The student community at UC Berkeley has adopted the following Honor Code: "As a member of the UC Berkeley community, I act with honesty, integrity, and respect for others." The expectation is that you will adhere to this code. Read the entire Berkeley Honor Code for more information.

Collaboration and Independence Reviewing course materials and collaborating on projects might be enjoyable and enriching things to do with fellow students. This is recommended. However, all assignments are to be completed independently and must be the result of one's own independent work.

Cheating A good lifetime strategy is always to act in such a way that no one would ever imagine that you would even consider cheating. Anyone caught cheating on a quiz or the Final Exam will receive a failing grade in the course and will also be reported to the University Center for Student Conduct. The expectation is that you will be honest in the taking of quizzes and exams.

Plagiarism To copy text or ideas from another source without appropriate reference is plagiarism and will result in a failing grade for your assignment and usually further disciplinary action. For additional information on plagiarism and how to avoid it, read the UC Berkeley Library Citation Page, Plagiarism Section.

Academic Integrity and Ethics Cheating on exams and plagiarism are two common examples of dishonest, unethical behavior. Honesty and integrity are of great importance in all facets of life. They help to build a sense of self-confidence, and are key to building trust within relationships, whether personal or professional. There is no tolerance for dishonesty in the academic world, for it undermines what we are dedicated to doing - furthering knowledge for the benefit of humanity.

Incomplete Course Grade Students who have substantially completed the course but for serious extenuating circumstances, are unable to complete the Final Exam, may request an Incomplete grade. This request must be submitted in writing to the GSI and instructor. You must provide verifiable documentation for the seriousness of the extenuating circumstances. According to the policy of the university, Incomplete grades must be made up within the first three weeks of the next semester.

Students with Disabilities If you require course accommodations due to a physical, emotional, or learning disability, contact UC Berkeley's Disabled Students' Program (DSP). Notify the instructor and GSI through course email of the accommodations you would like to use. You must have a Letter of Accommodation on file with UC Berkeley to have accommodations made in the course.