

prIns'p'lz v IINwIstIks (Principles of Linguistics)

English 3755 (CRN: 41721). MWF 1100-1150. Cushwa 2527. Instructor: Dr. Jim Schramer.
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DESCRIPTION

Principles of Linguistics is an intermediate-level course in linguistics, the scientific study of human language. Linguistics studies the patterns of language which carry meaning and articulate social and linguistic identity. Though the details of the patterns vary across languages and cultures, the kinds of patterns are constant. All languages have structured systems – of sounds, of words, of phrases and sentences, of form and meaning. All languages have ways of signaling and acknowledging differences in social status and group, and all languages fall into one of a small number of types, which characterize how the various patterns come together. This course will consider languages as structured systems of form and meaning, with attention to the biological, psychological, cultural, and social aspects of language and language use.

GOALS: By the end of the course you should

- have examined your beliefs about language and language use
- Be aware of both the diversity among and the similarities between different language systems
- Be familiar with various linguistic methods for describing and analyzing languages
- Be able to apply some selected linguistics theory to literary analysis

REQUIRED TEXT: Brown, Attardo & Vigliotti, *Understanding Language Structure, Interaction, & Variation* 3e. Michigan UP, 2014. (Abbreviated as BAV on the course calendar)

POINTS & LETTER GRADES

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Language Artifacts =	[100 –or– 10 best @ 10 pts. each]
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Quizzes =	[100 –or– 4 @ 25 pts. each]
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Midterm Exam =	[100 pts]
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Final Presentation =	[200 pts]

TOTAL • 500 • A = 450 or ↑ • B = 400-449 • C = 350-399 • D = 300-349 • F = 299 or ↓

ASSIGNMENTS

☒ **Language Artifacts:** Over the course of the semester, you will be expected to submit twelve weekly language artifacts. You may keep the top ten grades. A language artifact is an observation that you make about language out there in your life that you relate to something we're covering in the course material. Part of the process of learning about language is to begin to pay closer attention to its uses in your everyday lives. Collecting and sharing linguistic artifacts will help train your eyes and ears to focus. Locate an artifact related to language – articles, news clips, videos, FB posts, emails/texts, TV/film/music media, etc. An artifact can be a YouTube video about a particular regional accent; a newspaper, magazine, or online article about how text messaging is ruining English; a conversation [yours, someone else's] where you hear a weird slang term; a TV clip where something happens related to language (*see* any episode of Family Guy ☺); a photo of a sign with grammatically-questionable language; a description of something noteworthy that happens with language in your family, whether it be pronunciation or special vocabulary – ALL of these things make fantastic language artifacts! It's an election year: plenty of subjects in speeches and debates.

Submit artifacts to me via email (or via Blackboard if you prefer) each week (consult schedule for due dates). Your submission will be assessed according to its *reliability*, *creativity*, *originality*, and *applicability*. It can be a photo or video of the phenomenon itself (like, one you've shot, if you're so inclined!). It can be a link to an article or video or website that has to do with language. It can be a language tree you've drawn to represent the kingdom of Westeros (Game of Thrones fans). What this helps me do is know that you're

beginning to focus on language, which is something we normally take for granted. Part of being good at learning about language is simply tuning in.

☑ **Quizzes** There will be four (4) 25-point quizzes throughout the semester. Quizzes are considered in-class work and cannot be rescheduled **unless you have made prior arrangements** with me. Dates are specified on the schedule.

☑ **Midterm Exam:** A multi-section midterm exam will be given during the 8th week and will be worth 100 points. The sections will include phonetic transcription, morpheme analysis, word formation matching, tree diagrams, and parts of speech matching.

☑ **Final Presentation:** You will create a two-part final presentation on the linguistic topic of your choice. I will provide a sample list of topics and we will have a workshop to help you brainstorm and get started. Each presentation should be as multi-media as you can make it and will need to have some theoretical linguistic background. The first part of the presentations will consist of a draft and a final version of a seven to eight-page paper (1750 – 2000 words); the second part should be an oral and visual presentation that will run approximately 8-10 minutes and you will be held to a time limit to allow for all to participate. The draft is worth 50 points; the final “paper” is worth 100 points; the oral and visual presentation is worth 50 points.

ADA STATEMENT

Youngstown State University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. This syllabus is available in alternative format upon request. In accordance with University procedures, if you have a documented disability and require accommodations to obtain equal access in this course, please contact me privately to discuss your specific needs. You must be registered with the Center for Student Progress Disability Services, located at 275 Fifth Avenue, and provide a letter of accommodation to coordinate reasonable accommodations. You can reach CSP Disability Services at 330-941-1372. Youngstown State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and/or expression, disability, age, religion or veteran/military status in its programs or activities. Please visit www.ysu.edu/ada-accessibility for contact information for persons designated to handle questions about this policy.

CSP STATEMENT

The Marion G. Resch Center for Student Progress is a resource on Campus established to help students successfully complete their university experience. Please phone (330) 941-3538 or visit the Center for assistance in tutoring or for individualized assistance with social and academic success. The main Center is located in Kilcawley West below the bookstore.

YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES: Please arrive on time for all class sessions. You are responsible for satisfactorily fulfilling the requirements of this class. You are entirely responsible for missed material in the event of absence. I will not reteach or re-lecture on missed material— please be sure to request notes from a classmate. If you require particular attention (e.g., family emergencies, learning issues, health issues, etc.) you should notify me if the issue will prevent you from fulfilling the requirements of the course. Excessive absences will negatively affect your performance in the course.

Note: If you are a student athlete and will have to miss a class because of a competition, please give me a letter from the athletic department that specifies the day(s) you will be away from class.

I expect that you will respect the questions and opinions of your colleagues in the classroom. Text messaging or placing/receiving cell phone calls during class is a breach of classroom etiquette. If you must take a call (because it is about your job, an ill family member, or a child-care issue), please exit the

classroom. When we use computers, they will be for your use on assignments only: no gaming, no checking e-mail, or visiting chat rooms during class time.

Finally, I expect that all of your work will be your own. Don't plagiarize; the penalties are not worth the risk. If you are unsure as to what constitutes fair use of material or how to cite a source, please contact me. I can help you resolve the problem.

FALL 2016 • Course Calendar

Week 1 (8/24-8/26): Introduction and Overview (BAV 1)

- What is Linguistics?
- Language Myths
- Prescriptive vs. descriptive accounts of language

LANG ARTIFACT #1 DUE **FRI 8/26**

Week 2 (8/29-9/2): Phonetics (BAV 2: 18-28)

- Intro to Articulatory phonetics
- Consonants, vowels
- IPA transcription

LANG ARTIFACT #2 DUE **WED 8/31**

Week 3 (9/7-9/9): Phonetics/Phonology (BAV 2:28 32)

MONDAY, 9/5: LABOR DAY – NO CLASSES

- Sound features, speech production
- Phonemes and allophones
- Minimal pairs/sets

LANG ARTIFACT #3 DUE **WED 9/7**

****Quiz 1 – Friday 9/9****

Week 4 (9/12-9/16): Phonology (cont'd) (BAV 2: 32-38)

MONDAY, 9/7 = LABOR DAY – NO CLASSES

- Distinctive features, rules
- Rule writing, syllables, phonotactics

LANG ARTIFACT #4 DUE **WED 9/9**

Week 5 (9/19-9/23): Morphology (BAV 2: 39-46)

- Allomorphy, affixes, derivation and inflection
- Word coinage, isolating morphemes
- Word formation techniques

LANG ARTIFACT #5 DUE **WED 9/21**

****Quiz 2 – Friday 9/23****

Week 6 (9/26-9/30): Syntax (BAV 2: 47-57)

- Crash course in parts of speech
- Constituency, phrase structure rules
- Ambiguity

LANG ARTIFACT #6 DUE **WED 9/28**

Week 7 (10/3-10/7): Syntax (cont'd)

- Sentence diagrams
- Diagramming workshops

LANG ARTIFACT #7 DUE **WED 10/5**

****Quiz 3 – Friday 10/7** [TREES]**

Week 8 (10/10-10/14): Review & Midterm

LANG ARTIFACT #8 DUE **WED 10/12**

****Midterm Exam – Friday 10/14****

Week 9 (10/17-10/21) Semantics (BAV 3: 72-84)

- Saussure, encyclopedic meaning
- Denotation, connotation, applications to literature
- Non-literal uses of language, irony/sarcasm, applications to lit.

LANG ARTIFACT #9 DUE **WED 10/19**

Week 10 (10/24-10/28): Pragmatics (BAV3: 85-95)

- Gricean pragmatics, applications to literature

LANG ARTIFACT #10 DUE **WED 10/26**

Week 11 (10/31-11/4): Sociolinguistics

- Dialects/idiolects, variation
- Pidgins and creoles, applications to literature

LANG ARTIFACT #11 DUE **WED 11/2**

Week 12 (11/7-11/9): FRI 11/11 – UNIVERSITY CLOSED – VETERAN'S DAY

- Syntactic change, lexical change
- Semantic change; styles/registers, power/solidarity
- Gender and language, taboo language
- Stylistics and its application to literature

Quiz 4 – Wednesday 11/9*

Week 13 (11/16-11/18): Language Acquisition

(Note: Class will not meet on Monday 11/14)

- L1A: the problem, hypotheses about acquisition
- Stages of phonological and lexical development

LANG ARTIFACT # 12 DUE **WED 11/16**

- Morphological, syntactic, and pragmatic development

Week 14 (11/21 – 11/25): Historical Linguistics/Sociolinguistics

WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY 11/23-25 THANKSGIVING BREAK

- Gullah, AAVE, Appalachian English (BAV 7: 169-187)

Week 15: (11/28-12/2) Linguistics on the Fringe

- What is on the cutting edge of language study? DRAFTS DUE **MON 11/28**

Week 16: (12/5-12/9) **FINAL PRESENTATIONS**

HELPFUL RESOURCES:

Installation of IPA software:

http://scripts.sil.org/cms/scripts/page.php?site_id=nrsi&item_id=DoulosSILfont

Hear audio of IPA and try sounds on:

<http://hctv.humnet.ucla.edu/departments/linguistics/VowelsandConsonants/>

Other related stuff:

<http://www.omniglot.com/links/language.htm>