



Introduction to Linguistics

Course Number	L44 Ling 170D	Instructor	Dr. Nick Danis
Semester	Fall 2019	Contact	nsdanis@wustl.edu
Time	Tu./Th. 4:00–5:20pm	Office Location	Psychology 402F
Location	Duncker 101	Office Hours	Wed. 2–4pm or by appt.

1 Description

This course introduces students to the scientific study of language. All major subfields are covered: the physical description of speech sounds (phonetics), the cognitive patterning of these sounds in a speaker's grammar (phonology), the creation and analysis of word and phrase structure (morphology and syntax), and the study of compositional meaning of these sentences (semantics) and their interaction in a discourse (pragmatics). Students will learn the fundamental tools and analytical methodology in each. Additionally, this course covers special topics in language variation, acquisition, and change; and writing systems.

2 Course Goals

- Learn the different subfields within linguistics
- Understand representations and methodology within multiple significant subfields of linguistics
- Analyze natural language data within multiple significant subfields of linguistics

3 Required Materials

The majority of readings come from *Language Files*, abbreviated LF:

- Department Of Linguistics (2016). *Language Files: Materials for an Introduction to Language and Linguistics*. Ohio State University Press. 768 pp. ISBN: 978-0-8142-5270-3

You must use the 12th edition. Earlier editions are likely to differ in content and organization. Any other readings will be posted as PDFs as needed.

4 Grade

Your grade breakdown is shown below.

- Attendance 10%
- Homework ×6 15%
- Midterm Exams ×3 50%
- Final Exam 25%

4.1 Attendance

Attendance is tracked via Canvas. It is your responsibility to sign the sign-in sheet for every class you attend. Everyone receives one free absence. Excused absences include school-related scheduling conflicts and illnesses. Please email me with proper documentation for the absence to be excused.

4.2 Homework

Throughout the semester, there are six homeworks administered via Canvas. You will be able to immediately see your score. You can re-take the quiz as many times as you like, and only your **latest** grade will be recorded. However, you must take the quiz alone, and I am trusting you to not discuss your results with others while the quiz is still active.

4.3 Midterm Exams

Three midterm exams are given throughout the semester. The lowest of these will be dropped.

4.4 Final Exam

The final exam is cumulative, and is administered during finals period.

4.5 Letter grades

Letter grades are assigned based off the following scale. Numerical grades are **not** rounded.

100	≥	A+	≥	97	80	>	C+	≥	77
97	>	A	≥	93	77	>	C	≥	73
93	>	A-	≥	90	73	>	C-	≥	70
90	>	B+	≥	87	70	>	D+	≥	67
87	>	B	≥	83	67	>	D	≥	63
83	>	B-	≥	80	63	>	D-	≥	60

If you are taking this class pass/fail, you must receive at least a C- (70%) to pass.

If you believe there has been an error in grading, I am happy to discuss it with you. However, you must bring it up to me within one week of the graded assignment being returned to you. After this, the grade is considered final.

5 Academic Integrity

This course adheres to the university's Academic Integrity Policy (<https://studentconduct.wustl.edu/academic-integrity/>), and takes cheating and plagiarism very seriously. All work completed online must be done alone, and no resources not approved by the instructor may be used during exams.

Schedule (tentative)

Date	Day	Comment	Reading	Due
8/27/19	T	What is linguistics?	Files 1.x	
8/29/19	R	Phonetics: IPA/Articulation	Files 2.0–2.3	Survey
9/3/19	T	Phonetics: Typology	Files 2.4–2.5	
9/5/19	R	Phonetics: Acoustics	File 2.6	
9/10/19	T	Phonology: Phonotactics	Files 3.0–3.2	HW1
9/12/19	R	Phonology: Phonemes	Files 3.3–3.5	
9/17/19	T	Phonology: Analysis		
9/19/19	R	Phonology		HW2
9/24/19	T	Exam 1 (Phonetics, Phonology)		
9/26/19	R	Colloq: Kevin Scannel (SLU)		
10/1/19	T	Morphology: Morpheme Classification	Files 4.0–4.2	
10/3/19	R	Morphology: Analysis	Files 4.3–4.5	
10/8/19	T	Morphology		
10/10/19	R	Morphology	Files 5.0–5.3	
10/15/19	T	No Class - Fall Break		HW3
10/17/19	R	Syntax: Fundamentals	Files 5.4–5.6	
10/22/19	T	Syntax: Categories	Files 5.4–5.6	
10/24/19	R	Syntax: Phrase Structure		
10/29/19	T	Syntax: Thematic Structure	Fromkin 3.2.2	HW4
10/31/19	R	Exam 2 (Morphology, Syntax)		
11/5/19	T	Semantics	Files 6.x	
11/7/19	R	Semantics	Fromkin 7.0-7.2	
11/12/19	T	Pragmatics	Files 7.x	
11/14/19	R	Pragmatics		HW5
11/19/19	T	Language Change & Variation	Files 13.0–13.4	
11/21/19	R	Historical Linguistics	File 13.7	
11/26/19	T	TBD		HW6
11/28/19	R	No Class - Thanksgiving		
12/3/19	T	Exam 3 (Semantics, Pragmatics, Historical)		
12/5/19	R	Wrap-up & review		
12/18/19	W	Final Exam (Cumulative)		6-8pm

6 ADA Compliance

Washington University is committed to providing accommodations and/or services to students with documented disabilities. Students who are seeking support for a disability or a suspected disability should contact Disability Resources at 935-4153. Disability Resources is responsible for approving all disability-related accommodations for WU students, and students are responsible for providing faculty members with formal documentation of their approved accommodations at least two weeks prior to using those accommodations. I will accept Disability Resources VISA forms by email and personal delivery. If you have already been approved for accommodations, I request that you provide

me with a copy of your VISA within the first two weeks of the semester. Please see more information at <http://cornerstone.wustl.edu/>.

7 Sexual Assault Resources

The University is committed to offering reasonable academic accommodations (e.g., no contact order, course changes) to students who are victims of relationship or sexual violence, regardless of whether they seek criminal or disciplinary action. If you need to request such accommodations, please contact the Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Center (RSVP) at rsvpcenter@wustl.edu or 314-935-3445 to schedule an appointment with an RSVP confidential, licensed counselor. Information shared with counselors is confidential. However, requests for accommodations will be coordinated with the appropriate University administrators and faculty. Please see more information at <https://students.wustl.edu/relationship-sexual-violence-prevention-center/>