

# English/Linguistics 111: Introduction to Linguistics

Spring 2009, M/W/F 9:00-9:50am

**Instructor:** Evelyn Doman

**Office:** MHRA 3104, English Department

**Office Hours:** M/W/F 10:00-10:50am or by appointment

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## Required Texts:

- *The Language Files*, 10<sup>th</sup> edition, Ohio State Press
- Yule, George. 1996. *The Study of Language*, Cambridge University Press.
- Selected readings to be posted on Blackboard

## Course Description:

This course provides an introductory study of the science of language: principles of sound, meaning, structure, and use and the interactions of language and society. Topics include those related to structure, such as semantics, phonology, morphology, syntax, and discourse. Those related to use focus on language in its social context: regional and social dialects, language acquisition, and English as an international language.

## Grading:

*Short essays (4 total): 10% each*

*Group research project: 20%*

*Quizzes: 10%*

*Written responses to problems: 10%*

*Term paper: 10%*

*Final exam: 10%*

## Learning Goals:

Through the readings, assignments, and class activities in this course, you will

1. Examine your own beliefs and attitudes about language and language use in written assignments and class discussions
2. Gain basic knowledge of the major sub-fields of linguistics
3. Learn and use different methods of linguistic analysis

## Course Grade:

A+= 97-100%

B+= 87-89.9%

C+= 77-79.9%

D+= 67-69.9%

A = 94-96.9%

B = 84-86.9%

C = 74-76.9%

D = 64-66.9%

A- =90-93.9%

B- = 80-83.9%

C- = 70-73.9%

D- = 60-63.9%

59.9% and below will result in a failing grade.

## **Overview of Assignments:**

### *Short essays (4 total): 10% each*

In this class, you will do four minor formal writing assignments. Each of these papers will range from 3-5 typed pages. Keep all drafts of your papers. Your ability to revise your paper over time will be shown in these drafts. All drafts, including the final version, must be typed. Not only the final version of your paper, but also your ability to increase the quality of your paper through each draft will be graded. As the quality increases, your grade will correspondingly increase. Criteria for grading are accuracy, completeness, and timeliness. These four papers will each count for 10% of your grade.

### *Group research project: 20%*

There will be one group project in this class. Each member will be responsible for contributing to the final project. Failure to participate fully with your group will result in your grade decreasing in this area. This will be a long-term project that will be due near the end of the term. This project will count as 20% of your grade.

### *Quizzes: 10%*

Quizzes will not be announced in advance. They will center around linguistic terms and theories learned in the lessons. As the quizzes are not announced, students should keep abreast their reading and attend class regularly.

### *Written responses to problems: 10%*

We will be learning about many of the issues associated with linguistics in this course. You will be posed questions and asked to deal with the questions based on the materials that we have read. The minimum response for each problem will be one A4 page, double-spaced.

### *Term paper: 10%*

There will be one major term paper in this class alone. It will consist of a paper 10-15 pages long, including a literature review and a conclusion with suggestions for further research. This term paper should be on a topic we have studied in class, on an issue which is problematic or interests you. The term paper will be completed in steps. Failure to complete the steps on time will result in your grade decreasing. This project will count as 10% of your grade.

### *Final exam: 10%*

A final exam will be given at the end of term. The content will cover materials read and discussions held in class. It will be composed of short essay questions, and you will be given one class period to complete the exam.

**Attendance Policy:**

1. Attendance is very important in this course. You will be allowed 3 “free” absences in which you will not need to explain to me why you were absent. After 3 absences, your grade will decrease by one letter grade for each absence. I do not differentiate between excused and unexcused absences. If you miss 6 or more classes, you will FAIL this course. There are no exceptions.
2. If you are late twice, this will count as one time absent.
3. Please note that it is your job to keep up with your attendance. There is no excuse for being surprised by attendance issues!
4. If you sleep, do homework for other classes, or use your cell phones in class, you will be counted as absent.
5. If you forget your textbook or required readings more than once, you will be counted as absent.

**Other Class Policies:**

1. Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Please refer to this topic more at [www.uncg.edu/saf/studiscp/Honor.html](http://www.uncg.edu/saf/studiscp/Honor.html). Plagiarism is copying anyone else’s work, whether it be a famous novelist or a paper on the same assignment written by your friend.
2. Another site you should become familiar with regarding academic integrity can be found at <http://academicintegrity.uncg.edu>. You are expected to abide by this.
3. Late assignments will be penalized. If you know that you will be absent when homework is due, you will be expected to send the assignment to me through another classmate or by e-mail by the assignment due date and time. Two late assignments will result in your grade being reduced by a half a grade.

**Notes:**

Feel free to use the Writing Center for your other classes. Please make sure that the tutor you see sends me an e-mail confirming your visit.

Finally, drop by my office anytime, whether you have questions about an assignment or if you just want to chat! My door is always open to you!

## Tentative Class Calendar

All classwork and assignments are subject to change. This is only a tentative schedule. Please stay up to date with changes as I announce them in class and will post on Blackboard.

Week	Dates	Goals and Assignments
1	January 21-23	Introduction and Course Overview What is Language and Linguistics? SOL, chapters 1-4 LF, 2.1-2.4
2	January 26-30	The Structure of English Phonetics Short essay one, first draft Phonology Written responses to problems SOL, 5-7 LF, 3.1-4.4
3	February 2-6	Word Formation Morphology Syntax Short essay one, final draft Resources for term paper SOL, 8-10 LF, 1.3 and 5.1-6.5
4	February 9-13	The Interpretation of English Semantics Written responses to problems Introduce the group research project SOL, 11 LF 15.3-4
5	February 16-20	Pragmatics Discourse Analysis English Variation and Change Literature review for term paper SOL, 12-13 and 19-20 LF, 12.1-2 and 12.9
6	February 23-27	Group work for project Short essay two, first draft Review LF, 10.1-2 and 4 and 11.1-5
7	March 2-6	Short essay two, final draft Written responses to problems Data collection for term paper

		SOL, 21 LF, 10.3 and 5-9
8	March 16-20	Group work for project Psycholinguistics Conclusions for term paper SOL, 15
9	March 23-27	Language and machines Written responses to problems Initial submission of incomplete term paper LF, 9.1-2 and 8-9 and 14.1-5
10	March 31-April 3	Short essay three, first draft Applied Linguistics SOL, 16 LF, 9.3-7
11	April 6-8	Second Language Acquisition Short essay three, final draft Written responses to problems Second submission of term paper SOL, 17
12	April 13-17	Group work for project Issues in second language acquisition Written responses to problems
13	April 20-24	Applying SLA to pedagogy Short essay four, first draft Written responses to problems
14	April 27-May 1	Short essay four, final draft Group presentations
15	May 4	Final submission of term paper Review
16	May 5	Final examination