**LING-L 103 Introduction to the Study of Language**

Instructor: Jason F. Siegel, FRIT/LING

M-F 10:20A-11:35

Ballantine Hall 142

Office Hours: Weatherly Hall 307 M, R 12-1

**Course description**

This course is a broad introduction to the academic discipline of studying language. We will focus on the nature of language by exploring different aspects of language such as meanings, words, sentences, and sounds. In-class activities and homework will be designed to help students understand new terminologies and have hands-on experience to examine English and various unfamiliar languages. By end of the course, you should be knowledgeable about the core areas of language structure, gain an appreciation of the fundamental similarities and differences among all human languages, and develop an informed perspective on issues of language.

**Course goals and objectives**

This course will be lecture-driven; however, students are expected to be prepared to discuss the day’s topic, responding to both discussion questions and questions that demonstrate basic comprehension of concepts introduced in the readings. Students are encouraged to ask as many questions as they need to in order to grasp the concepts, which are frequently unclear even to professional linguists. They should also be prepared to link what they learn in class to what they hear around campus, at home, on TV, etc. By the end of the course, students should have a basic command of 1) the goals, aims, and methods of linguistic inquiry, 2) the diversity of phenomena that exists in the world’s languages as well as the commonalities that are shared by all languages, and 3) the relationship of linguistics to other disciplines.

**Evaluations**

In a small class such as this, it is absolutely essential that all students contribute to class discussion on a regular basis, asking questions, taking part in group activities, and offering thoughtful answers to questions posed in class. Therefore, participation (and necessarily attendance) will be 10% of the final grade. Students will also keep a journal reflecting on language. This assignment is spelled out in greater detail on another sheet, but essentially, students will write journal entries that deal with either topics we cover in class or language phenomena or discussions that they encounter outside of class. Journal entries should include concepts or themes mentioned in class or readings. The journal will comprise 15% of the course grade. There will be various homework assignments most nights. Homework cannot be turned in late, and is worth 10% of your final grade. Homework and reading together should take about 2 hours a night. If it takes much longer, please tell me, and I will adjust the workload. The bulk of the grade comes from quizzes and tests. There will be five quizzes worth 5% of your final grade, with the lowest quiz dropped for a total of 20%. They may or may not be announced in advance, and they may cover material discussed in the readings under discussion. There will also be a mid-term (20%) and a final (25%). For the mid-term, you will have the chance to make corrections, earning up to half of the points you lost.

**Readings**

There will be one main text for this course: *Contemporary Linguistics* by William O’Grady et al., accompanied by a Study Guide. The textbooks can be purchased at Boxcar Books, and not at TIS or the IMU Bookstore. The textbook is supplemented by online readings. Students are expected to read the online sections and should expect that quizzes and tests will cover things only found online. There may be readings from other textbooks as well. All readings except those from the O’Grady text will be available on OnCourse.

Key: *CL* = *Contemporary Linguistics*, W = Workbook, O = Online exercises

**Calendar Readings Homework**

May 10 Introduction

May 11 What is language? CL Ch. 1 W: Practice 1.1-1.4

May 12 Phonetics CL Ch. 2 W: Practice 2.4, 2.7-8, 2.13, 2.20, 2.23

May 13 Phonology CL Ch. 3.1-3.3 W: Practice 3.2, 3.4, 3.6

May 16 (continued) *CL* Ch. 3.4-end W: Practice 3.8-10, 3.13, 3.15

May 17 Morphology *CL* Ch. 4 W: Practice 4.2-3, 4.6, 4.11-4.13

May 18 Syntax *CL* Ch. 5.1-2 W: Practice 5.1-3, 5.8

May 19 (continued) *CL* Ch. 5.3-end W: Practice 5.9

May 20 Semantics *CL* Ch. 6 W: Practice 6.1-5, 6.8

May 23 Catch-up

May 24 Historical Linguistics CL Ch. 7 W: Practice 7.1, 7.4-5, 7.7, 7.9

SCREENING *The Linguists* TIME AND PLACE TBA

May 25 Typology CL Ch. 8 CL: Questions 1, 2, 5, 6; O: 1-2

May 26 Review

May 27 **Midterm**

May 30 Memorial Day (no class)

May 31 Lexicography TBA Midterm corrections

June 1 Sociolinguistics Ch. 14 CL: Questions 1, 4 ; Sociolinguistics assignment

June 2 (continued)

SCREENING *My Fair Lady* TIME AND PLACE TBA

June 3 Linguistic anthropology

June 6 Psycholinguistics Ch. 12 CL: Questions 1-2,4-5

June 7 Neurolinguistics Ch. 13 CL: Questions 1, 5, 6, 9

June 8 L1 acquisition Ch. 10 CL: Questions 2, 4-7

June 9 L2 acquisition Ch. 11 CL: Questions 2, 3, 5-6

June 10 Computational linguistics Ch. 17 CL: Questions 1, 3, 5-6

June 12 SUNDAY SCREENING *In the Land of the Deaf* TIME AND PLACE TBA

June 13 Sign languages Ch. 15

June 14 OPEN DAY FOR STUDENT INTEREST Journals due

Possible subjects: Language policy, evolution of language, animal communication, philosophy of language

June 15 Review, Evaluations

June 16 Final exam