

LING/ENGL 1200: Introduction to the Study of Language

1. General Course Information

Course meetings: Online

Instructor: Austin Tracy

Austin Tracy

Office: Chat on Canvas (or Zoom by appointment)

Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays from 5 pm to 6 pm or by appointment

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2. General course description and objectives

This course is an introduction to the nature of human language from the perspective of modern linguistics. It focuses on sounds, words, and sentences through analysis of data from various languages. Additional topics may include: social and geographic variation, language change through time, first- and second-language acquisition, and language and culture.

By the end of the course students will be able to:

1. Identify
 1. The meaning provided by the International Phonetic Alphabet
 2. Constituents (Syntactic word groups)
 3. Semantic Roles
 4. Factors that contribute to language variation
2. Analyze Linguistic Data with Tools from
 1. Phonology
 2. Morphology
 3. Syntax
 4. Pragmatics
3. Provide

1. Evidence for humans having a uniquely powerful system of communication

3 Grades

Grades will be calculated using a weighted system such that online quizzes based on the readings will account for 15% of the overall score, the final exam will account for 20%, other quizzes for 30%, discussion for 25%, and linguistics study participation will account for the last 10%. This will be according to what follows:

- a) 15%: reading checks (3 for 50 pts each = 150 pts possible)
 - b) 20%: final exam (200 pts possible)
 - c) 30% quizzes (6 for 50 pts each = 300 pts possible)
 - d) 25%: discussions (5 for 50 pts each = 250 pts possible)
 - e) 10%: linguistics study participation (100 pts possible)
- Total: 100% (1000 pts possible)

The letter grade will be determined according to the following scale:

94-100 A 90-93 A- 87-89 B+ 84-86 B 80-83 B- 76-79 C+ 72-75 C 68-71 C- 64-67 D+ 60-63 D
<59 E

Late Work Policy: For any work that is turned in late, there will be a 10% deduction per day except the discussions that are stricter. For example, a 50 point assignment is worth 50 pts up to the deadline, 45 the day after it was due, 40 the next day, etc. However, anything after July 31, 2020, will not be accepted at all.

Exceptions: If circumstances arise such as hospitalizations, funerals for close family members, etc. you may email me for an exception.

4 Explanation of Coursework

Online Quizzes for Reading Checks (150 pts possible)

There are three quizzes that will be available throughout the semester. They will focus on the readings. You will be given one chance at them.

Exam 1 (200 pts possible)

The exam will cover content from each module of the course. It may include data set analysis, multiple choice questions, short answers, essay questions, or whatever would best assess your knowledge of the course content and provide evidence that you really know the material. Exam 1 will be released on 7/30/20 at 12:01 am, and will be due on 7/31/20 by 11:59pm). The exam must be completed individually.

NB: For extended response questions there will be a rubric provided, so it is really clear what is expected.

Quizzes (300 pts possible)

These assignments are meant to help you really grasp the basics of what is language and fundamental aspects of phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics combined with pragmatics. Each of these quizzes can be taken multiple times, up to the deadline. That is, you can keep retaking these quizzes until you have the score you want, unless the deadline passes. Note that the questions are not likely to be the same from one trial to the next.

Discussion (250 pts possible)

These assignments will require you to provide one academic comment for credit. An academic comment will be most importantly defined for this class by what it is not, which is that it is not repeating what someone else has said and it is not praising them for their response (although praise is really appreciated for just having a great online community). Late responses to the discussions are penalized twice as much as other assignments with a 20% deduction per day late.

NB: A rubric will be provided for each of these to delineate exactly what you need to do (as it is exactly what I will use to grade your submission).

Linguistics Study Participation (100 pts possible)

In this course students must earn 1 required credit for participation in linguistics studies this semester for this course and write about the experience. For more information about the studies and to sign up for linguistics studies, please visit <http://speechlab.utah.edu/participate.php>

If you need accommodation of any kind, have a question about accommodation, and/or prefer to complete an alternative assignment for any reason, please create a Sona account and then email the speech lab at speechacquisitionlab@gmail.com. Arrangements for alternative assignments must be made before the current semester's add/drop deadline.

NB: A rubric is provided for this assignment that you can use to ensure you have covered what you need to.

5. Course Materials

1. Finegan, A. (2015). *Language: Its Structure and Use*. 7th ed. Boston: Thomson.
 1. Note: It may be possible to use a 6th edition but I will be using the 7th ed. The text is on reserve at the main campus Marriott library (2 copies, 3-hour checkout periods), and can be rented electronically via [VitalSource](#), which is also accessible through clicking on Bookshelf on the course menu.
2. Everything else will be made available to you through Canvas as it is ready.

6 Commitment to Diversity and Inclusion

Our classrooms provide opportunities to embrace diversity and promote equity. As educators, we commit to engaging all students in higher education. This commitment requires that we are willing to listen, learn and change; that our classrooms challenge assumptions; and that all members of our community are responsible for creating and maintaining a safe space for learning and growth. Respectful debate and civil disagreement are encouraged and expected; mocking, belittling, and bullying will not be tolerated.

7 University Policies

1. The Americans with Disabilities Act. The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services, and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in this class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin Union Building, (801) 581-5020. CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. All written information in this course can be made available in an alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services.

2. Addressing Sexual Misconduct. Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender (which includes sexual orientation and gender identity/expression) is a civil rights offense subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, color, religion, age, status as a person with a disability, veteran's status or genetic information. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator in the Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action, 135 Park Building, 801-581-8365, or the Office of the Dean of Students, 270 Union Building, 801-581-7066. For support and confidential consultation, contact the Center for Student Wellness, 426 SSB, 801-581-7776. To report to the police, contact the Department of Public Safety, 801-585-2677(COPS).

3. University Safety Statement. The University of Utah values the safety of all campus community members. To report suspicious activity or to request a courtesy escort, call campus police at 801-585-COPS (801-585-2677). You will receive important emergency alerts and safety messages regarding campus safety via text message. For more information regarding safety and to view available training resources, including helpful videos, visit safeu.utah.edu

Note: The discussion boards are considered to be part of the university. Your professional behavior is required while using them. Misconduct may result in your being ejected from the class.

8 Changes

Changes may be made to the coursework with reasonable prior notice. I plan to modify several of the materials to better assist you in understanding the course content and in succeeding in the class.

9 Schedule

Week 1: May 11-15	Materials to Cover: The syllabus (this document) Assignments: Intro Discussion (Due May 22) Suggested Assignments: Sign Up for a Study with the Speech Lab (or at least Register)
Week 2: May 16-22	Materials to Cover: Human Language and Animal Communication Assignments: Intro Discussion (Due May 22)

Week 3: May 23-29	Materials to Cover: Finegan pp. 1-25; 77-101; 109-142; Phonetics and Phonology Slides I; Phonetics and Phonology Slides Set II Assignments: Phonetics and Phonology Quiz (Due May 29)
Week 4: May 30 - June 5	Materials to Cover: Review last week's materials as needed. Assignments: Reading Quiz 1 (Due June 5); Phonology Discussion (Due June 5) Suggested Assignments (Repeat): Sign Up for a Study with the Speech Lab (or at least Register)
Week 5: June 6-12	Materials to Cover: Morphology & Syntax I; Assignments: Morphology and Lexical Categories Quiz (Due June 12)
Week 6: June 13-19	Materials to Cover: Finegan pp. 31-63; 154-178 Assignments: Morphology Discussion (Due June 19)
Week 7: June 20-26	Materials to Cover: Morphology & Syntax II Assignments: Syntax Quiz (Due June 26)
Week 8: June 27-July 3	Materials to Cover: Finegan pp. 31-63; 154-178 Assignments: Syntax Discussion; Reading Quiz 2 (Due July 3) Suggested Assignments (Repeat): Sign Up for a Study with the Speech Lab (or at least Register)
Week 9: July 4-10	Materials to Cover: Semantics; Finegan pp. 187-224 Assignments: Semantic Roles and Lexical Relationships Quiz (Due July 10)

Week 10: July 11-17	Materials to Cover: Review last week's materials as needed. Assignments: Semantics Discussion; Reading Quiz 3 (Due July 17)
Week 11: July 18-24	Materials to Cover: Review whatever you feel like you need to. Assignments: Review Quiz (Due July 29)
Week 12 (First Part): July 25-July 29	Materials to Cover: Review whatever you feel like you need to. Assignments: Pretest (Optional); Speech Lab Write-up (Due July 29) (if not already complete)
Final Days: July 30-31	Complete the Final (Due July 31) (The Availability is Restricted to Just These Days)