



## **Linguistics 2110.501 – Introduction to Linguistics and the Study of Language**

Spring 2021                      Online  
Instructor:                      Evan Ashworth, Ph.D.  
Office Hours:                    MW 2pm – 3:15pm & by appointment via Zoom (password:  
8r643m)  
Email:                              Please contact me through course messages on Learn

### **Course Description**

This course presents an introduction to the study of language through the basic aspects of linguistic analysis: the sound system (phonetics and phonology), the structure of words and sentences (morphology and syntax), and the ways in which language is used to convey meaning (semantics and pragmatics). In addition, we will investigate how language is acquired and stored in the brain, and how differences in speech styles and dialects reflect different social and cultural backgrounds of individual speakers. The objective of this course is to introduce students to the basic elements of linguistic analysis as well as to increase their linguistic awareness.

### **Course Objectives**

In this class, students will:

- Examine their attitudes about language, including why they have positive or negative associations with specific accents, dialects, vocabulary, registers, and languages; and distinguish scientific observations about language from social judgments about language.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the structural diversity and structural similarities of the world's 5000+ spoken and signed languages by (1 or more of the following): drawing parallels or distinguishing between phonological segments in different languages; analyzing morphology in typologically distinct languages; analyzing syntax in typologically distinct languages; and/or identifying common functions of diverse morphosyntactic elements.
- Identify linguistic units drawn from different levels of analysis (phonemes, morphemes, words, utterances & discourse) by applying the analytic tools of linguistics to datasets drawn from different languages.
- Describe the social, psychological, geographic and historical influences that lead to language dominance or language endangerment, and that influence the spread of languages across multilingual communities.

### **Course Requirements**

|                                  |                  |
|----------------------------------|------------------|
| • 5 Activities (25 points each)  | 125 points       |
| • 4 Quizzes (20 points each)     | 80 points        |
| • 5 Discussions (10 points each) | 50 points        |
| • Final Project                  | 50 points        |
|                                  | <hr/>            |
|                                  | 305 points total |

### **Textbook**

Yule, George. (2020). *The study of language* (7<sup>th</sup> edition). New York: Cambridge University Press.

### **Academic Dishonesty**

Students are expected to maintain standards of honesty and integrity in academic matters. Any student who has been judged to have engaged in academic dishonesty in coursework may receive a reduced or failing grade for the assignment and/or the course. According to UNM policy, academic dishonesty is defined as but not limited to “dishonesty on quizzes, exams or assignments, claiming credit for work not done or done by others, hindering the academic work of other students, misrepresenting academic qualifications within or without the university; and non-disclosure or misrepresentation in filling out applications or other university records.”

### **Withdraw**

Please consult your course catalog for withdrawal and refund deadlines. Students may withdraw from a course during the first six weeks of the semester without the Dean’s approval and the withdrawal (W) will not be noted on your academic record. When students leave the University during a semester and do not complete the withdrawal process, they become liable for grades of “F” in their courses, even though they may have been passing at the time of leaving.

### **Incomplete**

A grade of “Incomplete” is given only when circumstances beyond the student’s control have prevented completion of the work of a course within the official dates of the semester or session. Students are responsible for making arrangements with the instructor for resolving an incomplete grade. If you receive an incomplete, it must be completed within one year from the published end day of the semester in which the grade was assigned. If the work is not finished in the allotted time period, the grade changes to an “F”.

### **ADA Accessibility**

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the University of New Mexico takes appropriate action to ensure that the university’s programs and services are accessible to students with disabilities. If you are in need of special accommodations due to disability, please inform the Accessibility Resource Center and the instructor within the first week of the semester so that necessary accommodations may be arranged.

## **Diversity**

This course encourages different perspectives related to such factors as gender, race, ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation, religion and other relevant cultural identities. This course seeks to foster understanding and inclusiveness related to such diverse perspectives and ways of communicating.

## **Title IX**

In an effort to meet obligations under Title IX, UNM faculty, Teaching Assistants, and Graduate Assistants are considered “responsible employees” by the Department of Education (see pg. 15 -<http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/qa-201404-title-ix.pdf>). This designation requires that any report of gender discrimination, which includes sexual harassment, sexual misconduct and sexual violence made to a faculty member, TA, or GA, must be reported to the Title IX Coordinator at the Office of Equal Opportunity (oeo.unm.edu). For more information on the campus policy regarding sexual misconduct, see: <https://policy.unm.edu/university-policies/2000/2740.html>

## **Tutoring**

Writing Center Tutors Online: Tutors are available through the Writing Center live in videoconference or phone, or through email (you email a paper and the tutor responds) to support you as you navigate Blackboard Learn and other platforms, make sense of writing assignments, brainstorm approaches and topics, structure appropriate to your genre, revise, edit, and figure out MLA. Tutors will support your choices and will not make them for you. To make an appointment, email [tutor@unm.edu](mailto:tutor@unm.edu). You can also email the Writing Center Director, Patricia Gillikin, with questions or help getting connected to a tutor. This link has full information on UNM-Valencia tutoring, including math and other subjects: <https://valencia.unm.edu/campus-resources/the-learning-center/learning-center.html>

## **Attendance and readings**

Attendance in this class is mandatory. Any student with 3 unexcused absences will be dropped from the class. Given that this class meets only once per week, it is extremely important that you attend each class and keep up with course readings and assignments. It will be very difficult to catch up if you fall behind! All course readings are to be completed for the following class. For example, readings listed for week 1 should be completed for week 2.

## **Communication**

Don't hesitate to contact me with any questions you may have through course messages in Learn (see “course messages” in the left-hand navigation bar in Learn for this course).

## **Grading Timeline**

All assignments will be graded within 10 days of their due date.

**Grading Scale**

|          |    |         |    |         |    |         |    |         |
|----------|----|---------|----|---------|----|---------|----|---------|
| 100%-98% | A+ | 89%-88% | B+ | 79%-78% | C+ | 69%-68% | D+ | 59% > F |
| 97%-93%  | A  | 87%-83% | B  | 77%-73% | C  | 67%-63% | D  |         |
| 92%-90%  | A- | 82%-80% | B- | 72%-70% | C- | 62%-60% | D- |         |

**Course Schedule**

| <b>Week</b> | <b>Dates</b>   | <b>Topics</b>  | <b>Readings</b>            | <b>Assignments / Quizzes Due</b> |
|-------------|----------------|--|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1           | 1/18 –<br>1/24 | Syllabus, Descriptivism vs.<br>Prescriptivism              | Ch. 7<br>(pp. 97 –<br>102) | Discussion #1                    |
| 2           | 1/25 –<br>1/31 | Animal Communication vs.<br>Human Language                 | Ch.2                       | Activity #1                      |
| 3           | 2/1 –<br>2/7   | Phonetics  | Ch. 3                      | Quiz #1                          |
| 4           | 2/8 –<br>2/14  | Phonology  | Ch. 4                      | Discussion #2                    |
| 5           | 2/15 –<br>2/21 | Morphology   | Chs. 5 &<br>6              | Activity #2                      |
| 6           | 2/22 –<br>2/28 | Syntax   | Ch. 8                      | Quiz #2                          |
| 7           | 3/1 –<br>3/7   | Semantics  | Ch. 9                      | Discussion #3                    |
| 8           | 3/8 –<br>3/14  | Pragmatics   | Chs. 10<br>& 11            | Activity #3                      |
|             | 3/15 –<br>3/21 | Spring Break!  |                            |                                  |
| 9           | 3/22 –<br>3/28 | Language and the Brain<br>(Psycholinguistics)              | Chs. 12<br>& 13            | Quiz #3                          |
| 10          | 3/29 –<br>4/4  | Written Language   | Ch. 16                     | Discussion #4                    |
| 11          | 4/5 –<br>4/11  | Language Change  | Ch. 17                     | Activity #4                      |
| 12          | 4/12 –<br>4/18 | Sociolinguistics   | Chs. 18<br>& 19            | Quiz #4                          |
| 13          | 4/19 –<br>4/25 | Language, Culture, and Cognition                           | Ch. 20                     | Discussion #5                    |
| 14          | 4/26 –<br>5/2  | Language Endangerment,<br>Preservation, and Revitalization | TBD                        | Activity #5                      |
| 15          | 5/3 –<br>5/9   | Work on Final Project                                      | TBD                        | Final Project                    |