

Prerequisites: None.

Instructor: Hamid Ouali

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Office Hours: by appointment on Teams or Zoom

Class dates and place: 05/28- 06/22, 2024, Online WEB

GER: CD, HU

Course Description:

Language is Humans' most fundamental capacity. The field of Linguistics explores the nature of human language seeking to describe what human languages are like, how languages develop and change, and how languages are diverse.

Before you start learning about the structure of language, we will try to define what we mean by Language. You will learn about the structural diversity of human language mainly: the diverse sounds languages have and how these sounds are produced and how they are represented in the mind, the diverse words languages use and how these words are formed, the diverse principles that underlie the construction and meaning of words, phrases and sentences. You will learn about how languages change through time and will also be introduced to some social and cultural aspects of language, including the study of English dialects. By the end of the course you will gain an introductory understanding of what we "know" when we "know" a language, what language can tell us about being human, and how language is entangled in human cultures and societies.

For a listing of UWM policies relating to academic misconduct, grade appeals, complaint procedures, religious observances, and accommodation of students with disabilities and other issues, please consult the following website:

<https://uwm.edu/secu/wp-content/uploads/sites/122/2016/12/Syllabus-Links.pdf>

Text: *The Study of Language (fourth edition)*, by George Yule
Cambridge University Press
(A free copy of the book is available online.)

CANVAS: Lecture slides and other materials for this course, including videos will be available on the Canvas course Website.

Requirements: 10 quizzes on Canvas.

This is an online course. This means that everything you need for this course is found on the Canvas course website. There are deadlines for the quizzes, and it is your responsibility to be aware of these deadlines, which are found in the course schedule. The deadlines will not change, and no makeup will be given for missing quizzes. As you can understand, it's difficult for me to open closed quizzes only for a limited number of students. Please, do not miss any deadlines!

Grading Policy: The course grade is based on 10 quizzes; each quiz is 10% of the final grade. The grade scale is as follows:

A = 93-100%, A- = 90-92%, B+ = 87-89%, B = 83-86%, B- = 80-82%, C+ = 77-79%, C = 73-76%, C- = 70-72%, D+ = 67-69%, D = 63-66%, D- = 60-62%, and F 59% and under.

GER Statement: This course meets the UWM General Education Requirement of Cultural Diversity.

Learning Outcomes: students will be able to 1) “recognize and analyze intrapersonal, interpersonal, and/or sociocultural factors associated with individual behavior, collective action, or societal development”; 2) “identify and critically evaluate the function, structure and development of human collectivities, organizations, institutions, and cultures, their infrastructures and interrelationships”; 3) “recognize and contextualize human capacities for and/or techniques of creating behavior acquisition and change as viewed from both intra- and inter-cultural perspectives”; 4) “demonstrate the ability to identify, apply and effective communicate methodologies designed for conducting inquiry into human behavior, collective action, societies, or cultures;” and, 5) “critically evaluate and apply alternative theoretical frameworks that have been used to offer meaningful explanations of social phenomena”.

Assessment: Demonstrate effective communication skills and individual, social and environmental responsibility by participating in in this online class. Complete ten quizzes to demonstrate critical and creative thinking skills using higher order qualitative reasoning, as well as knowledge of and competence with human cultures and the natural world.

SCHEDULE

Lessons	Topic	Readings	Quiz deadline
Lesson 1 Syllabus & Overview	Introduction and overview What is language? What is linguistics? What is meant by Grammar?	Ch.1	
Lesson 2 Phonetics	Structural diversity: sounds. How are speech sounds made? Sounds around the world: Which sounds do languages “choose” for their phonetic inventories?	Ch.3	
Lesson 3 Phonology	Structural diversity: sounds around the world. Which sounds do languages choose for their phonetic inventories? Structural diversity: phonemes. Which sounds are distinctive in a language? How do phonemes differ from language to language?	Ch.3-Ch.4 Slides: Phonology	
Lesson 4 Morphology	Structural diversity: morphemes. How are words made up of smaller parts?	Ch.5	
Lesson 5 Morphology	Structural diversity: What kinds of morphemes do languages have?	Ch.6	

Lessons	Topic	Readings	Quiz deadline
Lesson 6 Syntax	Structural diversity: sentences; What is syntax? Structural diversity: How do sentence types differ from language to language?	Ch.7-Ch.8	
Lesson 7 Semantics & Pragmatics	Structure and Usage diversity: Semantics Pragmatics	Ch. 9 Ch.10	
Lesson 8 Language Acquisition	Developmental diversity How do children acquire language?	Ch.13	
Lesson 9 Sociolinguistics	Geographical diversity: regional dialects; How do American dialects differ? Social diversity: language and social variables.	Ch.18 Ch.19	
Lesson 10	Why do we talk?	Video Documentary	

Different videos will be shared on canvas and some quiz questions will be based on these videos.

Students have certain rights to file appeals or grievances. Documents that outlines these rights and describe the grievance procedure in the College of Letters and Science are on file in the Department of Foreign Languages and Linguistics in Curtin Hall 829. Consult this website for L&S grievance procedures: http://www.uwm.edu/letscli/pdf/grievance_procedure.pdf
If you will need accommodations in order to meet any of the requirements of this course, please contact me as soon as possible.