

Linguistics 100
Diversity of Human Language
Summer 2021

– This is a syllabus from 2021, and is subject to change for 2022 –

Instructor: Anne Pycha, Associate Professor of Linguistics, pycha@uwm.edu

Course time & location: Asynchronous

Mode of delivery: Online via Canvas

Office hours: By appointment via Zoom

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

Description: This course provides an introduction to human language and linguistics, which is the scientific study of language.

Objectives: Upon completion of this course, students should be able to understand:

1. The social dimensions of language use, and the diversity of different languages across the world.
2. How humans use the vocal tract to produce speech sounds.
3. The basic concepts of phonology, morphology, and syntax.
4. How children acquire language, how signed languages work, what we know about the brain and language.
5. How language differs from animal communication, and what language issues arise in legal situations.

Pre-requisites: None.

Required textbook: Behrens, S.J. and Parker, J.A. (2010). *Language in the Real World: An Introduction to Linguistics*. Routledge. ISBN-13: 978-0415774673

Approximate prices as of July, 2021: \$50 buy, \$15 for one-month rental of e-book

Other readings will be posted for you on Canvas.

Required films:

\$10 to watch *The Linguists*

<https://vimeo.com/ondemand/thelinguists>

Other required films are available free of charge.

Course requirements and grading

Grading will be based on a 240 point total.

Assignment	Number given	Points	Total points	Weight
Reading check-ins	10	3 each	30	13%
Homeworks	10	8 each	80	33%
Quizzes 1, 2, 3	3	30 each	90	38%
Quiz 4	1	40 each	40	16%

Final percentages will be calculated by dividing the points the student has earned by the total points possible (=240), and assigned a final grade as follows:

A: 95-100%, A-: 90-94%, B+: 85-89%, B: 80-84%, B-: 75-79%, C+: 70-74%, C: 65-69%, C-: 60-64%, D: 55-59% or above, F: 54% or below.

“Hello” check-in

In this check-in, you will answer a few brief questions about yourself and your interest in language. The purpose is for the instructor to get to know you a little bit, and to ensure that you begin working through the course material in a timely manner. It is ungraded, but required.

Reading check-ins

You are responsible for completing reading assignments by the due date. Reading check-ins will take place at the beginning of each module, except the first and last modules. Reading check-ins are set up as quizzes in Canvas: you will be given ten minutes to answer three multiple-choice questions related to the reading assigned for that day. If you have done the reading, you should succeed on the check-ins. You must complete the reading check-in before proceeding through the rest of the module.

Homework assignments

There will be ten homework assignments, one for each module, except the first and last modules. They will consist of multiple choice and short-answer questions. The assignments are set up as “quizzes” in Canvas. You will have the opportunity to preview each “quiz” in an offline version, before submitting your final answers on the Canvas quiz. Homework assignments are due on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays.

Quizzes 1, 2, 3

Quizzes 1, 2, and 3 will be due during the course of the session. You will have one hour to complete them. They will cover material from the reading as well as class lectures, films, and activities. They will contain a combination of multiple-choice questions, and short-answer questions. These quizzes will not be cumulative; in other words, they will only cover material from the immediately preceding week. Quizzes will be due on Sundays.

Quiz 4

Quiz 4 will be due at the end of the course. You will have two hours to complete it. It will cover material from the reading as well as class lectures, films, and activities. It will contain short-answer questions. This quiz will be cumulative; it will cover material from all four weeks of the class.

Due dates

All due dates are at 11:59pm.

SCHEDULE

All readings are from the textbook, Behrens & Parker (2010), except where noted otherwise.

WEEK 1:

Opens Monday, July 26, 2021 at 12:01am

Module	Topic	Reading
1	Introduction: Why study language and linguistics? Power of language. Words and rules. Responses to creaky voice. Lecture time: About 65 minutes Tuesday, July 27, 2021: "Hello" due	
2	Diversity of languages Language families of the world Lecture time: About 108 minutes Required film: <i>The Linguists</i> (65 min), \$10: https://vimeo.com/ondemand/thelinguists Thursday, July 29, 2021: Homework 1 due	Posted on Canvas
3	Diversity of dialects Differences in dialects in the English-speaking world and elsewhere Lecture time: about 60 minutes Required film: <i>Do you speak American? Up North</i> (57 min): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NOTzkejL7ks Saturday, July 31, 2021: Homework 2 due	Chapter 1: Language variation
	Quiz 1 Sunday, August 1, 2021: Quiz 1 due Timed for 60 minutes.	

WEEK 2:

Opens Sunday, August 1, 2021 at 12:01am

Module	Topic	Reading
4	Physical events of speech Vocal tract anatomy. Learn to transcribe using symbols of the International Phonetic Association. Lecture time: About 61 minutes Tuesday, August 3, 2021: Homework 3 due	Chapter 3: Teaching pronunciation
5	Grammar of sounds: Phonology Patterns of consonants, vowels, and syllables. Lecture time: About 75 minutes Thursday, August 5: Homework 4 due	Re-read Chapter 3: Teaching pronunciation
6	Words: structure and change Morphological components of words. Historical change of language over time. Lecture time: About 34 minutes Required film: <i>History of the English Language 5: English in America</i> (51 min) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0snSkxf0Vws Saturday, August 7: Homework 5 due	Chapter 4: Lexicography
	Quiz 2 Sunday, August 8, 2021: Quiz 2 due Timed for 60 minutes	

WEEK 3:

Opens Sunday, August 8, 2021 at 12:01am

Module	Topic	Reading
7	Syntactic structure of sentences Grammar of sentences. Tests for constituency. Types of constituents. Lecture time: About 35 minutes Tuesday, August 10: Homework 6 due	Posted on Canvas
8	Acquiring language as a child How children acquire language. Lecture time: About 60 minutes Film: <i>Why do we talk?</i> (58 min) https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x40jnnd Thursday, August 12: Homework 7 due	Chapter 11: First language acquisition
9	Do animals have language? Bees. Primates. Birds. Lecture time: About 31 minutes Required film: <i>Could we speak the language of dolphins?</i> (14 min) https://www.ted.com/talks/denise_herzing_could_we_speak_the_language_of_dolphins Saturday, August 14, 2021: Homework 8 due	Chapter 13: Animal communication
	Quiz 3 Sunday, August 15, 2021: Quiz 3 due Timed for 60 minutes	

WEEK 4:

Opens Sunday, August 15, 2021 at 12:01am

- 10 **Signed languages**
What does it mean to speak with the hands and face, instead of the vocal tract?
Lecture time: About 24 minutes
Required film: *ASL is not English* (5 min, 30 sec)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=thqCHq4ckuc>
Required film: *The music of sign language* (15 min.)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Euof4PnjDk>
Tuesday August 17, 2021: Homework 9 due
- 11 **The brain and language**
Techniques for investigating the brain and language.
Lecture time: about 37 minutes
Required film: *Enabling fluent speech in non-fluent aphasia* (15 min)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cy6S7aMmUYo>
Thursday August 19, 2021: Homework 10 due
- 12 **Linguistics and the Law**
Language as forensic evidence. Linguistic bias in courtrooms.
Lecture time: About 31 minutes
- Chapter 12:
American Sign Language
- Chapter 16:
Neurolinguistics and Psycholinguistics
- Chapter 10:
Forensic linguistics
- Quiz 4**
Sunday, August 22, 2021: Quiz 4 due
Timed for 2 hours

Additional policies

UWM Policies and Procedures

In this course, we will abide by the UWM policies and procedures as described in the following document.

http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/news_events/upload/Syllabus-Links.pdf

Students with disabilities

Students with disabilities should notify the instructor immediately so that we can make appropriate accommodations. We will follow university procedures as described in the following web page.

<http://www4.uwm.edu/arc>

Religious observances

Students who plan to observe religious holidays should notify the instructor immediately so that we can make appropriate accommodations. We will follow university procedures as described in the following web page.

<http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S1.5.htm>

Students called to active military duty

Students who are called to active military duty should notify the instructor immediately so that we can make appropriate accommodations. We will follow university procedures as described in the following documents.

Students:

http://www4.uwm.edu/current_students/military_call_up.cfm

Employees:

<http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S40.htm>

Incompletes

A notation of "incomplete" may be given in lieu of a final grade to a student who has carried a subject successfully until the end of a semester but who, because of illness or other unusual and substantiated cause beyond the student's control, has been unable to take or complete the final examination or to complete some limited amount of term work.

https://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S_31_INCOMPLETE_GRADES.pdf

Discriminatory conduct (such as sexual harassment)

Discriminatory conduct will not be tolerated by the University. It poisons the work and learning environment of the University and threatens the careers, educational experience, and well-being of students, faculty, and staff.

https://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S_47_Discriminatory_Conduct_Policy.pdf

Academic misconduct

Cheating on exams or plagiarism are violations of the academic honor code and carry severe sanctions, including failing a course or even suspension or dismissal from the University.

<http://uwm.edu/academicaffairs/facultystaff/policies/academic-misconduct/>

Complaint procedures.

Students may direct complaints to the head of the academic unit or department in which the complaint occurs. If the complaint allegedly violates a specific university policy, it may be directed to the head of the department or academic unit in which the complaint occurred or to the appropriate university office responsible for enforcing the policy.

https://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S_47_Discriminatory_Policy.pdf

Grade appeal procedures

A student may appeal a grade on the grounds that it is based on a capricious or arbitrary decision of the course instructor. Such an appeal shall follow the established procedures adopted by the department, college, or school in which the course resides or in the case of graduate students, the Graduate School. These procedures are available in writing from the respective department chairperson or the Academic Dean of the College/School.

<http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S28.htm>