

LINGUISTICS 306

Instructor: Clifton Pye, 420 Blake, 864-3450

Office Hours: M 1:30-3:20 or by appointment

Textbook: *Contemporary Linguistics* by William O'Grady, Michael Dobrovolsky and Mark Aronoff

The central concern of linguistics is the scientific study of language. The ability to use language is the fundamental cognitive ability that separates humans from all other living creatures. As speakers of a language, students have immediate access to primary linguistic data and can test linguistic theories for themselves. This allows students to engage in the scientific study of language data from the beginning without elaborate 'collecting' expeditions. This course will acquaint students with many aspects of language, including language structure, language universals, language acquisition, the social and historical consequences of language use, and the physical and psychological bases of human language. The course will highlight a few key findings in each of these areas as well as cover some issues that remain controversial. Students should leave the course with an understanding of why the study of language is crucial to a modern, monolingual society.

ASSIGNMENTS:

- A. Weekly readings
- B. Regular weekly assignments

MARKS:

- A. There will be three papers required for the course. Each paper during the term is worth 20% of the final mark. The Final paper is worth 30% of the final mark. Students will also write a one-page abstract for the final paper. This abstract will be worth 10% of the final grade.
- B. Students will also be required to make two presentations to the class. Students will present the issues they are investigating in their second and third (final) papers. The class presentations will each be worth 5% of the final grade.
- C. There will be ten weekly assignments worth a total of 10% of the final mark. The assignments will be graded pass/fail. 2 points will be taken off the term mark for each incomplete or late assignment. Late assignments will be accepted up to one week after the due date. 5 points will be taken off the term mark for each missing weekly assignment. Absenteeism is not an acceptable excuse.
- D. Classroom participation is expected and will be taken into consideration for the final mark. The latter may be adjusted up to 10 points in either direction.

READING ASSIGNMENTS:

Dates given are when reading is assigned. The reading assignments are designed to complement the class lectures for that week. Therefore, it is to your advantage to complete the reading by the given date. Exercises assigned during a given week will be due at the beginning of class the following week.

Date	Topic	Reading	Exercises
Jan. 16	Introduction	Pp. 1-12	
Jan. 21	Phonetics	Pp. 13-53	1,2,9,10
Jan. 28	Phonology	Pp. 54-88	6,7,8,9
Feb. 11	Morphology	Pp. 89-125	1,7,8
Feb. 25	Syntax	Pp. 126-168	2,3,7,9
Mar. 17	Semantics	Pp. 169-188	1,4,5,6
Mar. 24	Historical Linguistics	Pp. 189-222	2,5,11
Mar. 31	Brain and Language	Pp. 253-268	
Apr. 7	Language Acquisition	Pp. 269-298	
Apr. 21	Pidgins and Creoles	Pp. 326-357	
Apr. 23	Writing Systems	Pp. 358-382	

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS:

	Due	% of grade
First Paper	Feb. 13th	20%
Second Paper	Feb. 27th	20%
Class Presentation	Feb. 27th	5%
Abstract	March 19th	10%
Class Presentation	April 30th	5%
Final Paper	May 8th	30%