

UPenn – Department of Linguistics

2021A: Ling 001-001 – Intro to Linguistics

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1 Practical issues

- class structure: synchronous sessions on Mondays and Wednesdays 12–1pm via zoom (link published on canvas)
- recitations by TAs:
 - Lefteris Papparounas: 201 (R 9.30-10.30am) and 202 (R 10.30-11.30am)
 - Daoxin Li: 203 (R 9.30-10.30am) and 204 (R 10.30-11.30am)
 - Alex Kalomoiros: 205 (R 9.30-10.30am) and 206 (R 10.30-11.30am)
 - Ugurcan Vurgun: 207 (F 11-noon) and 208 (F noon-1pm)
- office hours:
 - Martin Salzmann: by e-mail appointment
 - TAs: will be announced
- getting in touch/to ask questions:
 - for quick help: post your question on Piazza (integrated into Canvas): [sing up here](#); the TAs will answer your question within 24 hours
 - ask questions during recitations
 - go to the office hours

2 General course Description

A general introduction to the nature, history and use of human language, speech and writing. Topics include the biological basis of human language, and analogous systems in other creatures; relations to cognition, communication, and social organization; sounds, forms and meanings in the world's languages; the reconstruction of linguistic history and the family tree of languages; dialect variation and language standardization; language and gender; language learning by children and adults; the neurology of language and language disorders; the nature and history of writing systems. Intended for any undergraduate interested in language or its use, this course is also recommended as an introduction for students who plan to major in linguistics.

3 Topics covered (provisional)

We intend to cover at least the following areas of linguistics:

- Phonetics
- Phonology
- Morphology
- Syntax
- Semantics
- Pragmatics
- American Sign Language
- Writing Systems

Additional areas (like psycholinguistics, language variation, language change, language acquisition) may be covered if we proceed faster than expected.

4 Goals

- understand which questions about language linguists are interested in
- learn to think like a linguist

5 Materials

- We will read various chapters from Language Files 12, edited by Hope C. Dawson and Michael Phelan and published by The Ohio State University.
- Textbook chapters, lecture notes, exercises and further readings will be made available throughout the course. We will use Canvas to post class materials, recordings and grades.

6 Evaluation and grading

- no graded homework, but you are expected to regularly work on the problem sets
- 4 exams, the lowest exam score is dropped
- no make-up exams
- grade composition:
 - 90% exams
 - 10% language journal (see below)
 - Research bonus
 - * Add 1% point to your final grade for each hour of research participation via SONA (limit 3% points). Sign up [here](#)
 - * The subject pool opens on Friday, January 22, 2021. The final day for students to participate in experiments this semester is Monday, May 3, 2021
 - * more details in [this document](#)
- grading scale (minimum score after rounding); for the Pass/Fail option, 61% and above counts as Pass, below 61% as Fail.
 - A+ 97%
 - A 93%
 - A– 90%
 - B+ 87%
 - B 84%
 - B– 80%
 - C+ 77%
 - C 74%
 - C– 70%
 - D+ 67%
 - D 61%

7 Language Journal

Language is such a central part of our everyday experience that we often take it for granted. This semester, pay special attention to the language in the world around you and think about how what you hear (or see) is connected to what we learn about in class. Some suggestions (but you are not limited by these!):

- Notice whether language is used in the same or different ways across different groups of people (age groups, peer groups, etc)
- If you visit family over the holiday break, notice how the language or dialect you grew up with is different from what you hear at Penn.
- Find out whether your roommates grammar allows something that yours doesn't (e.g. 'I'm done my homework').
- Conduct your own linguistics experiment. Analyze existing data or conduct an experiment with your family or friends
- Read a research article on a linguistics topic that interests you
- Browse the language log at Penn for interesting ideas: <https://languagelog.ldc.upenn.edu/nll/>
- Attend a talk or event related to language at Penn and report on it [Find talks here](#)
- Any creative idea you have! Feel free to include diagrams, sound clips, or figures if it will help make your point.

Each student is required to submit their language journal as a .pdf via Canvas. Journals should include at least four observations (see above) and at least 800 words, worth 10 points. You will receive 1 point for each relevant observation (5 max) and up to 5 points for being insightful, creative, and linking your observations with lecture and/or readings.

The language journal is due on **April 29th**

8 Policies

- *Attendance:* There is no formal attendance policy, but attendance is highly correlated with class performance
- *Make-up exams:* Because we drop your lowest exam grade, we do not offer retakes or make-up exams. But please contact us if something extreme happens – a family or medical emergency, for example – and we can discuss some options provided you have documentation.
- *Late work:* Late work will not be accepted; exams and language journal will have to be submitted by the date announced in the syllabus/in class/on canvas/
- *Re-grade requests:* If you notice a grading error, we'll be happy to look at your exam again. Please send us your re-grade request within 1 week of receiving your graded exam
- *Academic Integrity:* We will follow the rules of the University and the Code of Academic Integrity: <https://catalog.upenn.edu/pennbook/code-of-academic-integrity/>. It is your responsibility to be familiar with these policies.
- *Support:* Asking for help is a sign of strength! We hope you'll reach out to us if you need help. We also want you to be aware of Penn's Academic & Wellness Resources: <https://www.college.upenn.edu/index.php/support>

9 Provisional schedule

01.20.2021	Intro:	
01.25.2021	Phonetics 1	<i>read chapter 2, 39–68</i>
01.27.2021	Phonetics 2	
02.01.2021	Phonology 1	<i>read chapter 3</i>
02.03.2021	Phonology 2	
02.08.2021	Phonology 3	
02.10.2021	Phonology 4	release exam 1: Feb 12th
02.15.2021	Morphology 1	<i>read chapter 4</i>
02.17.2021	Morphology 2	
02.22.2021	Morphology 3	
02.24.2021	Morphology 4	
03.01.2021	Morphology 5	
03.03.2021	Morphology 6	release exam 2: March 5th
03.08.2021	Syntax 1	
03.15.2021	Syntax 2	
03.17.2021	Syntax 3	
03.22.2021	Syntax 4	
03.24.2021	Syntax 4	
03.29.2021	Syntax 6	
03.31.2021	Syntax 7	release exam 3: April 2nd
04.05.2021	ASL (guest lecture)	
04.07.2021	Writing systems (guest lecture)	
04.14.2021	Semantics 1	
04.19.2021	Semantics 2	
04.21.2021	Pragmatics 1	
04.26.2021	Pragmatics 2	
04.28.2021	Buffer	release exam 4: April 30th
	April 29th, 2021: Language journal is due!	