

Linguistics/Anthropology 200
Introduction to the Scientific Study of Language
Rice University
Fall 2016

Syllabus

Class Meetings: Tues., Thurs. 9:25-10:40am, Herring 100

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Office: Herring 206
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Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes

This foundation course serves as an introduction to language and linguistics. We will begin by examining social interaction and the structure of conversation (Conversation Analysis); the principles that account for how language works in actual use (pragmatics); how words are related to each other and what word meaning reveals about the mind (lexical and cognitive semantics). . We will then move on to an analysis of language form at all levels: the physiology of speech sounds and the vocal tract (articulatory phonetics); how speech sounds are organized systematically (phonology); how words are built up from smaller parts (morphology); and how words are arranged in sentences (syntax). Next we will study language variation, the complex relationship between language and society, the principled and systematic ways in which languages change over time, and how languages are acquired by children. We will conclude the course with a discussion of endangered languages and fieldwork, followed by brief sketches of specific languages, in order to demonstrate how the tools of linguistics are applied in documenting and describing a field language. Throughout the semester we will highlight the interdisciplinary nature of linguistics, especially as it relates to anthropology, sociology, and cognitive science.

Upon completion of this course, students will have learned the basic concepts, vocabulary, and analytic techniques of linguistics. Students will have gained experience with hands-on data analysis from English and a number of other languages. Students will have gained the ability to critically assess claims and popular misconceptions about language, and will be able to approach language issues in society from a systematic and empirical perspective. Students will have a basic understanding of how linguistics is relevant to other disciplines and careers. Successful completion of this course will enable students to enroll in other linguistics courses if interested in pursuing more in-depth study.

Course Canvas Site

This course uses Canvas, Rice's new online learning management system: <https://canvas.rice.edu/courses/463> You are required to access this site to complete the weekly online course modules, to download handouts to bring to class, and to take the online midterms and final exam. The site also contains links to a number of useful resources about language and linguistics. Please familiarize yourself with the Canvas course page, and contact your college computer associates or the helpdesk in Mudd Hall if you get stuck or need additional assistance.

Required Textbook

Genetti, Carol (ed). 2014. *How Languages Work*. Cambridge University Press
ISBN: 9780521174688

The textbook is available at the Rice Campus Bookstore or your favorite online seller. I have also placed a copy at the Fondren Library reserves desk for limited 2-hour loan. Since many of the concepts in Linguistics 200 may be new to you, you will find that you will do your best in this course if you do the reading assigned for each class beforehand.

Absence Policies and Lectures

We are all adults here, and I am not going to take attendance. Skip class at your own risk! Lectures will parallel the readings and will include supplementary material not found in the textbook. You are responsible for all material covered in the textbook as well as material presented in class. Lecture slides will be made available online, but these will generally only provide a rough outline of the day's class. If you have to miss class, please arrange to borrow notes from a friend, and feel free to come to my office hours. Regular class attendance and active participation is essential for mastery of the material and will be reflected by your overall course grade.

Grade Policies

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| ❑ Successful completion of 11 Canvas Course Modules (2% each, Fridays 5pm) | 22% |
| ❑ Midterm Exam #1 (Sept. 13) | 20% |
| ❑ Midterm Exam #2 (Oct. 25) | 25% |
| ❑ Final Exam (during Registrar-scheduled date/time, TBA) | 33% |

TOTAL	100%
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Course letter grades will be assigned as follows:

0-59.99%	60-69.99%	70-79.99%	80-89.99%	90-100%
F	D	C	B	A

Designations of plus and minus will be given to grades ranging within 1 percentage point of the cutoff. For example: 99-100% is an A+; 91-98.99% is an A; 90-90.99% is an A-, 89-89.99% is a B+, and so on. Students who earn less than 60% will fail the course.

Canvas Course Modules (due Fridays by 5pm)

There are 11 course modules for this class, available on the Canvas course page. Each module consists of a short supplementary reading, video, survey, and/or other material relevant to the current in-class topic. Each module also contains a quiz, to allow you to assess your learning of the material from the textbook and lectures. The quizzes are open-note, open-book, and you may discuss them with other students. You will receive instant feedback on your answers, and you can take the quiz as many times as you like before the due-date, in order to achieve a perfect score. To receive credit for completion of a module, you must submit the quiz by 5pm on the Friday of the week in which the module is due. Completion of each module counts as 2% of your total course grade. (Modules are ungraded; simply completing the module gives you 2%, no matter what your actual quiz score is.) Please take these seriously! Their purpose is to help you assess your mastery of the material for each unit, to give you things to think about outside of class, and to help you prepare for exams.

Midterm Exams

There are two midterm exams for this course. Both midterms will be administered online via Canvas during regular class time (9:25-10:40am). Midterm #1 will take place on Tuesday, Sept. 13, is worth 20% of your course grade, and covers all material up to that point (introduction, conversation, pragmatics, and semantics). Midterm #2 will take place on Tuesday, October 25, is worth 25% of your course grade, and covers all material since the first midterm (phonetics, phonology, morphology, word-classes, and syntax). Both midterms are closed-book, closed-note, and you are not allowed to work together or to discuss the exam with anyone while you (or they) are taking it. Make-up exams will be given only under extreme extenuating circumstances, and you must make arrangements with me beforehand. If you miss a midterm and do not clear it with me ahead of time, you will receive a score of 0 on it.

Final Exam

The final exam (worth 33% of your overall course grade) is cumulative and covers all course material from the semester. It will be online on canvas, closed-book, closed-note, during the exam time scheduled by the Registrar's office for this course (TBA). You will have three hours to complete the exam. Students who miss the final or fail to turn it in will receive a score of 0 on the exam. Students are not permitted to work together or discuss the exam in any way until after it has been turned in.

Technology Policy

Since all exams and assignments in this course will be completed online, you will need regular access to a reliable computer and stable internet connection.

The use of mobile devices and computers is permitted in the classroom for course-related purposes only, such as taking notes and accessing materials on Canvas. All personal uses of technology (such as texting, social media, shopping, watching videos, working on assignments for other classes, etc.) are not permitted, as they are bothersome to those sitting around you. If another student is distracting or disturbing you by inappropriate use of technology in the classroom, please politely ask them to stop, or let me know and I will address the problem.

Rice Honor Code

In this course, all students will be held to the standards of the Rice Honor Code, a code that you pledged to honor when you matriculated at this institution. If you are unfamiliar with the details of this code and how it is administered, you should consult the Honor System Handbook at <http://honor.rice.edu/honor-system-handbook/>. This handbook outlines the University's expectations for the integrity of your academic work, the procedures for resolving alleged violations of those expectations, and the rights and responsibilities of students and faculty members throughout the process.

Appropriating someone else's work and portraying it as your own is cheating. Obtaining answers to exams from previous semesters is cheating. Working with anyone else on exams is cheating. Falsifying data or experimental results is cheating. (The foregoing is not intended to be a complete list.) If you are suspected of cheating, you will be referred to the Honor Council. If you are unsure about whether a specific action is cheating, please ask me. Some general guidelines are:

- Do not seek solutions to exams from outside sources, including books or the internet.
- Do not copy other (current or former) students' work
- Once you have started to work on your midterms or final exam, do not discuss it with other students, until after you (and they) have turned it in and the exam period has ended.

Students with Disabilities

If you have a documented disability or other condition that may affect academic performance you should: 1) make sure this documentation is on file with Disability Support Services (Allen Center, Room 111 / adarice@rice.edu / x5841) to determine the accommodations you need; and 2) talk with me to discuss your accommodation needs.

Course Outline

* The following schedule may change slightly as the semester progresses. Any changes will be communicated in class and published in the Announcements section on the course Canvas site.

DATE	TOPIC	READING	ASSIGNMENT
WEEK 1	Introduction		Module #1
8/23	Introduction	Ch. 1	
8/25	Conversation	None	
WEEK 2	Interaction		Module #2
8/30	Conversation	Ch. 8	
9/1	Pragmatics #2	Ch. 8	
WEEK 3	Meaning		Module #3
9/6	Semantics	Ch. 7	
9/8	Semantics #2	Ch. 7	
WEEK 4	Speech Sounds		Midterm #1
9/13	Midterm #1	None	
9/15	Phonetics	Ch. 2	

WEEK 5	Speech Sounds		Module #4
9/20	Phonetics #2	Ch. 2	
9/22	Phonetics #3	Ch. 2	
WEEK 6	Sound Patterns		Module #5
9/27	Phonology	Ch. 3	
9/29	Phonology #2	Ch. 3	
WEEK 7	Word Structure		Module #6
10/4	Morphology	Ch. 4	
10/6	Morphology #2	Ch. 4	
WEEK 8	Sentence Structure		None
10/11	No Class (Midterm Recess)	None	
10/13	Word Classes	Ch. 5	
WEEK 9	Sentence Structure		Module #7
10/18	Syntax	Ch. 6	
10/20	Syntax #2	Ch. 6	
WEEK 10	Language & Society		Midterm #2
10/25	Midterm #2		
10/27	Sociolinguistics	Ch. 11	
WEEK 11	Language & Society		Module #8
11/1	Sociolinguistics #2	Ch. 11	
11/3	Sociolinguistics #3	Ch. 11	
WEEK 12	Language Change		Module #9
11/8	Historical Linguistics	Ch. 12	
11/10	Historical Linguistics #2	Ch. 12	
WEEK 13	Language Change & Typology		Module #10
11/15	Language Contact	Ch. 13	
11/17	Universals & Typology	None	
WEEK 14	Child Language Acquisition		None
11/22	Child Language Acquisition	Ch. 14	
11/24	No Class (Thanksgiving)	None	
WEEK 15	Language Endangerment & Revitalization		Module #11
11/29	Endangered Languages	TBA	
12/1	Language Documentation & Description	TBA	
FINAL WEEK			Final Exam
Online final during Registrar-scheduled exam time			