

Linguistics 300
Linguistic Analysis
Rice University
Fall 2021

Syllabus

Class Meetings: MWF 11:00-11:50am, First two weeks on Zoom (in-person room TBA)

Course Canvas Site: <https://canvas.rice.edu/courses/41468>

Instructor: Dr. Robert Englebretson (“Dr. E”) he/him/his
Physical Office: Herring 206
Office Hours: By Appointment on Zoom
Homework Hangout: Thurs. 2-4pm, Herring 202
E-mail: reng@rice.edu (I answer emails within 24 hours, usually sooner.)
Office Phone: 713 348-4776 (Leave a voicemail and I will return your call ASAP.)

TEACHING ASSISTANTS: Andrew Tang Annita Chang
Homework Hangout: Weds. 3-4pm (Herring 202) Weds. 4-5pm (Herring 202)
E-mail: awt4@rice.edu wc45@rice.edu

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes

This is a class in which you will solve puzzles from a diverse variety of the world’s languages. This is also a class that will introduce you to morphology and syntax from a functional-typological perspective—you will learn how people around the world put words and sentences together in the languages they speak. We will explore the similarities and differences in the morphology and syntax of the world’s languages, and we will consider how grammar is shaped by human cognition, culture, and speakers’ communicative goals.

After you take this class, you will be able to:

- ✓ Analyze data from a field language, even if you don’t speak it.
- ✓ Describe the general patterns found in the basic morphology and syntax of the world’s languages.
- ✓ Appreciate how cool and diverse languages are, and the complexity and beauty of their grammars!

Required Textbook

Payne, Thomas E. 1997. *Describing morphosyntax: a guide for field linguists*. New York: Cambridge University Press. ISBN 9780521588058

Online Course Expectations and Attendance

During the fall 2021 semester, Ling 300 is being taught fully online for at least the first two weeks due to the coronavirus. Class sessions will take place synchronously on Zoom. If/when we return to in-person instruction, I will continue to stream the class meetings on Zoom and record them. You are expected to attend synchronously on Zoom (during the first two weeks), and then in-person if you are able. If you are unable to attend class on a given day, you may 'attend' asynchronously on Canvas, where recordings of each class will be posted. For privacy reasons, these recordings are only available to students registered in the course, and they must be streamed and are not downloadable. Students are expected to arrive on time via Zoom, and to be actively engaged in the classroom. However, you are **not** required to use your video camera unless you wish to do so. During in-class discussion, be prepared to use your microphone, know how to 'mute' and 'unmute' your audio, and use the chat window and the 'raise hand' function when you have questions.

If you find that you are having technical difficulties with Zoom or Canvas, or if you are having equipment or connectivity problems that are hindering your ability to take part in the course, please get in touch with me right away so that we can find a solution. In an online course such as this, communication is crucial, and I will do what I can to help you access the resources you need.

Study Groups

I have assigned each of you to a study group based on your college, in which you will be working throughout the semester. You are not required to take part in the study group to which you were assigned (you can join a different one if you want), but I strongly urge each study group to set up a standing weekly meeting outside of class, during which you can discuss material from lecture, and work through analyzing homework puzzles together. While group participation is not a graded requirement, I highly recommend it, as it will facilitate your understanding of the material and will foster discussion and social interaction in the course. Study groups should use whatever platform(s) they find most convenient for interacting outside of class (Zoom, Slack, GroupMe, etc.) and/or meet in person.

Grade Policies

<input type="checkbox"/> Top 10 scores from 11 homework assignments	50%
<input type="checkbox"/> Language Sketch	20%
<input type="checkbox"/> Review Quiz (closed-book, closed-notes)	10%
<input type="checkbox"/> Final Exam (Take-home, open-book, open-note)	20%
TOTAL	100%

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: 99.0-100% is an A+, 90.0-90.99% is an A-, 89.0-89.99% is a B+, and so on. Students who earn less-than 60% will fail the course.

Homework

There are 11 homework assignments for this class, due on most Fridays as shown on the course schedule. The lowest of your 11 homework scores will be dropped, thus leaving 10 scores to be calculated into your overall course grade. Because you have one freebee, **late homework will only be accepted under extenuating circumstances related to illness or the pandemic. Please contact me if you know your assignment will be late.** Homework answers must be submitted electronically on the Canvas system before 11:00am on the day they are due. Allowed file formats are .RTF (rich text format), .DOC or .DOCX (Microsoft Word). PDFs and images are not accepted. A note about homework answers: I encourage you to work together on the homework assignments in your study groups. However, after you have figured/argued them out together, you must type up your homework answers alone, and submit them separately from the other study group members.

Language Sketch

By Monday, Sept. 27, choose a language which you are interested in learning more about, and which has online or printed reference grammars available from Fondren Library. We will discuss how to find reference grammars in class. For some ideas, look at the list in Appendix 2 of the Payne textbook, or else go browsing through the online Fondren Library catalog. If you know speakers of that language, you may consult them for language data as well. The language you choose should not be a language you have ever studied in a classroom setting. Please clear your choice of language with me by Sept. 27. More information on the specifics of this assignment will be handed out in class early in the semester. Your language sketch should consist of a 6-10 page paper giving a basic overview of the language and focusing on three areas of morphosyntax discussed in class. Support your claims with lots of data from the language. Your examples must be in romanization or IPA, and should conform to the three-line glossing conventions used in this class. Your language sketch counts as 20% of your course grade and is due before 11:55pm on December 3 (last day of classes). Language sketches turned in after the December 3 deadline will lose 10% of their grade for every day they are late.

I am accepting drafts of each of the three sections of your Language Sketch by Oct. 11 (§1), Nov. 1 (§2), and Nov. 24 (§3). You are not required to turn these in, but I strongly recommend it. If you do, I will give comments and feedback that you can incorporate into the final version (Due. Dec. 3), and it will be one less term paper for you to have to worry about writing during the very busy time at the end of the semester.

Review Quiz

On Monday, Nov. 22, there will be an online review quiz administered on Canvas, worth 10% of your course grade. The reason for this quiz is to help you prepare for the final exam, and to make sure you have mastered the basic terms and central concepts from the course. We will write the questions for this quiz together as a class beforehand, in the discussion on Fri. Nov. 19—you all get to decide what questions are on it. The quiz will consist of a total of 40 true-false, multiple-choice, and fill-in questions, and you will have 60 minutes to complete it. The quiz will focus on the definitions and terminology you have learned in course lectures and from the Payne textbook. The quiz is closed-book, closed-note, and you are not allowed to work together or to discuss it with anyone while you (or they) are taking it. Make-up quizzes will be given only under extenuating

circumstances related to illness or the pandemic, and you must make arrangements with me beforehand if you know you will be unable to take it during the scheduled time. Failure to submit the quiz will give you a score of 0 on it.

Final Exam

The final exam will consist of puzzles similar to those you will have encountered on homework assignments. The purpose of this exam is to demonstrate that you have mastered the basic skills of analysis that we will have been practicing all semester. The exam will be take-home, open-book, open-note, will be made available on Canvas on December 3, and is due no later than 11:59pm on December 14 (the last day of finals week). It is worth 20% of your overall course grade. Students who do not turn in the exam by the deadline will receive a score of 0 on it. You are not permitted to work together on the final or to discuss it in any way.

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 homework assignments or exams from previous semesters 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 the professor. Some general guidelines are:

- Do not look at notes, assignments, or exams from previous semesters.
- Do not seek solutions to homework problems or exams from outside sources, including books (other than the textbook) or the internet.
- Do not copy other (current or former) students' work. To minimize this temptation, always type up your final homework answers by yourself, and submit them separately from your study group or other students in the class.
- Cite all sources of language data used for your language sketch.
- Once you have started to work on the take-home final exam, do not discuss it with other students, until after you (and they) have turned it in.

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.

Title IX Responsible Employee Notification

Rice encourages any student who has experienced an incident of harassment, pregnancy discrimination or gender discrimination, or relationship, sexual, or other forms of interpersonal violence to seek support from The SAFE Office.

At Rice University, unlawful discrimination in any form, including sexual misconduct, is prohibited under Rice Policy on Harassment and Sexual Harassment (Policy 830) and the Student Code of Conduct. As the instructor and a responsible employee, I am required by Title IX to disclose all incidents of non-consensual interpersonal behaviors to the Title IX Coordinator on campus. Although responsible employees are required to make this notification, it is the student's choice to pursue a formal complaint. The goal is to make sure that students are aware of the range of options available and have access to the resources when in need. For more information, please visit safe.rice.edu, titleix.rice.edu, or email titleixsupport@rice.edu.

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 (Payne)	Assignment
WEEK 1			
8/25	Introduction	Ch. 0-1 (pp. 1-19)	
8/27	Morphology Overview #1	Ch. 2 (pp. 20-31)	
WEEK 2			
8/30	Fieldwork "Friday" / Discussion		
9/1	Morphology Overview #2	Ch. 2 (pp. 20-31)	
9/3	Noun Morphology	Ch. 5 (pp. 92-110)	
WEEK 3			
9/6	No Class! (Labor Day)		
9/8	Noun Morphology #2	Ch. 5 (pp. 92-110)	
9/10	Ling at the Library / Discussion		HW #1 Due
WEEK 4			
9/13	Verb Morphology	Ch. 9 (pp. 223-260)	
9/15	Verb Morphology #2	Ch. 9 (pp. 223-260)	
9/17	Fieldwork Friday / Discussion		HW #2 Due
WEEK 5			
9/20	Word Classes	Ch. 3 (pp. 32-70)	
9/22	Word Classes #2	Ch. 3 (pp. 32-70)	
9/24	Clause Structure		HW #3 Due
WEEK 6			
9/27	Clause Structure #2	None	Language Sketch language (via email)
9/29	Word Order	Ch. 4 (pp. 71-91)	
10/1	Discussion		HW #4 Due
WEEK 7			
10/4	Grammatical Relations/Alignment	pp. 129-144	
10/6	Grammatical Relations/Alignment #2	pp. 129-144	
10/8	Discussion		HW #5 Due
WEEK 8			
10/11	No Class (Midterm Recess)		Language Sketch §1 (optional)
10/13	Split Alignment Systems	pp. 144-168	

10/15	Recipients	None	
WEEK 9			
10/18	Voice and Valence	Ch. 8 (pp. 169-222)	
10/20	Voice and Valence #2	Ch. 8 (pp. 169-222)	
10/22	Discussion		HW #6 Due
WEEK 10			
10/25	ELPP (Existentials, Locatives, Predicate Nominals, Possessives)	Ch. 6 (pp. 111-128)	
10/27	ELPP #2	Ch. 6 (pp. 111-128)	
10/29	Discussion		HW #7 Due
WEEK 11			
11/1	Questions	pp. 294-305	Language Sketch §2 (optional)
11/3	Questions #2	pp. 294-305	
11/5	Discussion		HW #8 Due
WEEK 12			
11/8	Negation	pp. 282-294	
11/10	Imperatives	pp. 282-294	
11/12	Discussion		HW #9 Due
WEEK 13			
11/15	Relative Clauses	pp. 325-336	
11/17	Relative Clauses #2	pp. 325-336	
11/19	Discussion		HW #10 Due
WEEK 14			
11/22	Review Quiz (on Canvas)		Online Quiz
11/24	No Class (Thanksgiving Recess)		Language Sketch §3 (optional)
11/26	No Class (Thanksgiving Recess)		
WEEK 15			
11/29	Complements	pp. 306-316	
12/1	Causatives	pp. 175-186	
12/3	Discussion		HW #11 Due Language Sketch Due

FINALS WEEK

Tues. 12/14 Take-Home Final Due on Canvas by 5:00pm.