


Linguistic Science

ENGL 3371-D02 (Fall 2015)
Texas Tech University

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Office: English & Philosophy Building, Room 312C

Class Meetings: T, 6:00pm–8:50pm, via Skype

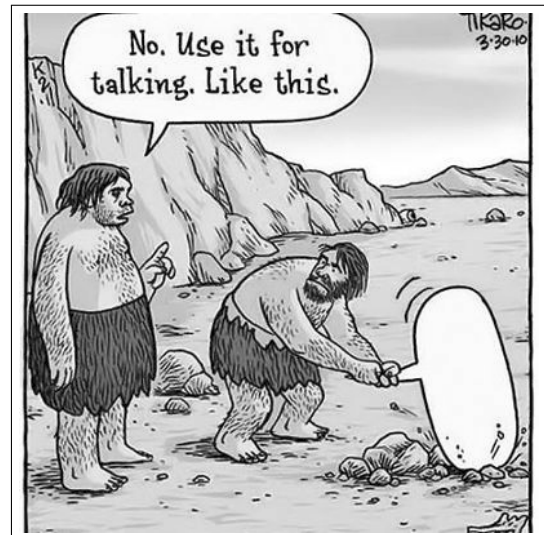
Course website: On Blackboard (<http://ttu.blackboard.edu>)

About this course

Human languages are complicated and diverse—but also highly systematic. This course provides a basic introduction to these systematic, structural properties of human language, as illuminated by modern linguistic theory. We will examine the methods employed by linguists, as well as some of the key results from this work. We will also consider some of the social, philosophical, and cognitive aspects of human language.

By the end of this course, you should be able to...

- Explain the properties that make human language unique
- Find patterns and regularities in linguistic data
- Infer from these patterns what kind of knowledge speakers of any language must have in order to produce and perceive speech sounds and to construct and comprehend words and sentences
- Understand the basics of linguistic theory and how this theory explains the basic properties of human language



This course is *not* about ‘proper’ grammar or how to learn hundreds of languages (in fact, we’ll see that *linguistics* is not about these things at all).


Course structure


Video lectures and handouts

Each week, one or more video lectures will be posted to Blackboard, along with accompanying handouts. Before each week's class meeting, it is your responsibility to view the video lectures and follow along with the handouts. This material will *not* be re-taught during our weekly Skype meetings.

Weekly Skype meeting

Each Tuesday at 6:00pm we will meet via Skype. You must be signed into Skype by that time so that we can begin without delay. (See the course Blackboard page for information about setting up a Skype account and necessary peripherals.)

Before the first Skype meeting, you must add the instructor as a Skype contact. Please send a contact request to  *abraver*, and be sure to include your full name in the message.

You should receive an invitation to join the Skype session at 6:00pm—be sure to accept the invitation. If you do not receive the invitation, or if you are running late, you may try calling the instructor at  *abraver* to be added to the group session.

Materials

Required Course Textbook

Language Files: Materials for an Introduction to Language and Linguistics, 11th Edition. Ohio State University Press. ISBN: 081425179X.

- Please be sure to get the *11th* edition (it has a big '11' in the top right corner). Other editions will *not* be usable for this course.

Other Materials

All other materials will be made available on the course Blackboard site. Please contact me immediately if you do not have access to the site.

Assignments and Grading

Homework

There will be approximately one homework assignment per unit.

Work must be typed and submitted *as a PDF* via the course Blackboard site (too many linguistic fonts go wrong in Word documents). If necessary, you may draw diagrams by hand and scan them into your document.

Collaboration is permitted on homework assignments under the following conditions:

Each person must write up and hand in their own assignment.

Any explanations or reasoning in the assignment must be written in *your own words*.

If you and another person hand in nearly identical assignments (as judged by me), I reserve the right to require you to work alone from then on.

You must clearly indicate at the top of the assignment who you collaborated with.

A guiding principle: You must always do your own work—this means that you must state things in your own words and show that you understand any ideas that you got from another source.

Small assignments

Throughout the semester you will be required to complete several additional small assignments, generally smaller in scope than the homework assignment for each unit.

Grade breakdown

Category	Percent	Numerical score	Letter grade
Homework	70%	95–100%	A+
Small assignments	20%	90–94.99%	A
Participation	10%	85–89.99%	B+
		80–84.99%	B
		75–79.99%	C+
		70–74.99%	C
		65–69.99%	D+
		60–64.99%	D
		>60%	F

Policies and expectations

Attendance and punctuality

You are expected to come to (every) class and to participate fully in class discussions. If you know you will be absent, *email me ahead of time* so we can ensure you stay caught up. Failure to attend weekly Skype meetings or insufficient participation in discussion will result in lower participation grades.

University policy (OP 34.19) requires that no penalty be imposed upon students who are absent from class because of religious observances, and allows for students to make up the work missed

because of such absence. To exercise this right, students must inform the instructor in writing *prior to the absence*.

Late work

Assignments must be submitted on time—this is at the start of our weekly Skype meeting, unless otherwise specified. *Assignments turned in after the deadline will receive zero points*. There is no partial credit for late work.

Extraordinary circumstances

Life is complicated—illnesses and injuries happen. If these or other life events are interfering with your ability to meet course requirements, please *let me know as soon as possible*.

Email

Course-related announcements will be made over email. These messages will be sent to your TTU address, which you should check at least daily. Failure to check your TTU email will not excuse you from any requirements assigned via email.

Please include the course number in the subject line of any emails you send me (as well as an actual subject). If you are sending from an account other than your TTU address, please include your full name in the message body.

Academic integrity

Cheating and plagiarism will be treated very seriously. As a general policy, all such cases will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct with a recommendation for the fullest sanctions, as well as automatic failure for the course. It is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with TTU's statement on academic integrity, which is available at <http://www.depts.ttu.edu/studentconduct/academicinteg.php>, and related policies in the Student Handbook (especially in Part II, Section B, Subsection 1), which is available at <http://www.depts.ttu.edu/dos/handbook/>.

If you have any questions, please consult the instructor, a dean, or the University's academic integrity policy.

Accommodations for students with disabilities

Any student who, because of a disability, may require special arrangements in order to meet the course requirements, should contact the instructor as soon possible to make the necessary arrangements. Students must present appropriate verification from Student Disability Services during the instructor's office hours. Please note that instructors are not allowed to provide classroom accommodation to a student until appropriate verification from Student Disability Services has been provided. For additional information, please contact Student Disability Services office in 335 West Hall or call (806) 742-2405.

It is your responsibility to provide your instructor with a Letter of Accomodation (LOA) within the first week of class, or within one week of receiving the LOA, so please send me your LOA as soon as possible. The LOA becomes effective only after it is signed by the instructor, and is not retroactive.

How to succeed in this class

- Show up and participate in our weekly Skype meetings
- Keep up with the video lectures and handouts
- Turn in homework on time—it’s worth quite a bit of your grade!
- Get help before you fall behind
- Avoid academic dishonesty

Schedule

This schedule is subject to change. Please pay attention for announcements in class and via email.

III HW due

IR Reading due

Introduction

M 8/27 Technology setup
Syllabus
What is linguistics

M 9/3 NO CLASS - LABOR DAY

M 9/10 Design features of language
Modality
Animal communication

•LF 1.0–1.5

•LF 17.0–17.2, 17.4–17.6

•LF 14.0–14.3

Phonetics

M	9/17	What is phonetics? The vocal tract Consonants of English Vowels of English	. * ·LF 2.0–2.3	HW 1 (Intro)
M	9/24	Sounds not in English Suprasegmental features Acoustic phonetics Transcription	·LF 2.4–2.6	

Phonology

M	10/1	What is phonology? Phonotactic constraints Phonemes and allophones Phonological rules and processes	. * ·LF 3.0–3.3	HW 2 (Phonology)
M	10/8	Syllables Tackling phonological puzzles	·LF 3.5	

Morphology

M	10/15	What is morphology? How do words work? Morphemes Morphological processes	. * ·LF 4.0–4.2	HW 3 (Phonology)
M	10/22	Morphological systems Hierarchical structure of words	·LF 4.3–4.5	

Syntax

M	10/29	What is syntax? Syntactic properties Constituency Syntactic categories	. * ·LF 5.0–5.4	HW 4 (Mo
M	11/5	Building phrases Ambiguity	·LF 5.5	
M	11/12	Special topic (TBD)	. *	HW 5 (Syn

Semantics

M	11/19	What is semantics? Lexical semantics The truth Compositional semantics Assertion and presupposition Scope relations	·LF 6.0–6.4	
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Language and culture

M	11/26	What is language and culture? Linguistic anthropology Language and thought Language and power Politeness	·LF 11.0–11.4	
M	12/3	Final exam review	. *	HW 6 (Sen
M	12/10		. *	Final exam