

Northeastern Illinois University
Linguistics 120:L18
Language and Human Behavior
Spring 2010

Time: T 6:10-8:50pm

Room: ELC 126

Instructor: John Evar Strid, Ph. D.

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Office Hours: T 5:00-6:00 (ELC 126);

W 3:00-4:00; R 1:30-2:30

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is designed to give you an overview of the subfields of linguistics, teaching you the basics of linguistics analysis and giving you the necessary background knowledge to further study linguistics, by focusing on two major branches of linguistics: sociolinguistics and psycholinguistics. In the first half of the class, sociolinguistics, we will study topics such as regional and social variation, gender, ethnicity, dialect, idiolect, jargon, and language policy. The goal will be to be understand some common prejudices about language and how language functions in society. In the second half of the class, we will turn to Psycholinguistics, examining topics like brain and language, language acquisition, bilingualism, and language and thought. The goal will be to be understand how language functions in the brain.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Learners will:

- 1) become curious about language and human behavior
- 2) develop their abilities to observe and examine language
- 3) increase their awareness of language universals and differences
- 4) understand the relationship between language and society
- 5) develop their abilities to express their thoughts in written and spoken English

READINGS:

Clark, Virginia P., Eschholz, Paul A., Rosa, Alfred, F., and Simon, Beth L., Eds.
Language: Readings in Language and Culture, 7th Edition. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2008. (Available at Beck's Bookstore and on course reserve in Williams Library.)

Additional readings will be made available online. The text and online readings are outlined in the schedule below, with readings to be completed before class.

EVALUATION:

Midterm, covering 1 st part of course	25%
Final, covering the last part of course	25%
Idiolect Paper	25%
Homework	15%
Attendance and participation	10%

Exams: The Midterm exam and the final exam constitute the largest part of your grade. The Midterm exam will be given on or about March 2. (The precise date will be announced in class well in advance) The final will be given on May 4 during regular class time from 6:10-8:50pm.

Idiolect Paper: For the second paper for this class, you will write a profile of your idiolect –your individual ways of speaking. In preparing this paper, think about the influences that have affected the way speak today, including: region(s) where you have lived, ethnic background, social class, gender, age, and experiences. The paper should be 5-7 pages long and typewritten double-spaced. You must work alone on the paper. Papers are due on Tuesday, April 6.

Homework: For each of the major subfields of linguistics covered (Phonetics, Morphology, Syntax, and Phonology), you will complete a homework assignment involving the analysis of language to give you a greater understanding of each subfield of linguistics. The homework questions are due January 26, February 9, February 16, and April 13. Late homework will not be accepted. The lowest grade on the homework will be dropped.

CLASS POLICIES:

Attendance and Participation: This class requires attendance and participation. Missing more than one class without documentation of illness or other problems will be included in calculating your attendance and participation grade. If you miss more than three classes without a valid reason, your final grade may be lowered one letter grade. If you know that you cannot come to class on a specific day, please notify me via email. Please come to class on time. Tardiness of more than 30 minutes will be counted as a percentage for attendance.

Any student who consistently misses class should drop the course. Students who do miss a class are responsible for getting the notes from another student. Student can contact one another through Blackboard to share notes.

In addition, the classroom atmosphere is respectful of others, being free of racism and sexism. All classroom discussions should focus on content. All cell phones should be turned off and put away during class time.

Extensions: It is my policy to not accept late work or give make-up tests. Only grave illness is an acceptable reason for postponement and must be accompanied by a doctor's note. If you have a problem, alert me via email before the due date. If you do not take a test or hand in an assignment on time without contacting me in advance, you will receive a 0 on the test or assignment. Late work where you contacted me in advance will be lowered one letter grade for each class session it is late. If you have any problem, be sure and let me know as soon as possible.

Blackboard and online resources: Throughout the semester we will be using a website called Blackboard. This site is located at <http://neiu.blackboard.com/webapps/login>.

Your NEIUport NetID and password is also your BB login username and password. For more information on Blackboard and how to access the class' site, go to: <http://www.neiu.edu/~ctl/>.

Each week, readings and handouts will be posted on Blackboard and you may download them, print them out, and bring them to class as needed. You do not need to own a computer to use Blackboard because the university has computers available to you on campus.

We will use Blackboard in three ways: 1) You will be making copies of readings and handouts and bringing them to class; 2) We will be sending e-mail messages to each other through Blackboard. (Please note: In the subject line of your e-mail messages please write Linguistics 120 and write your name. Then write the subject of your message. This will help me know your email is not spam; 3) We will be using Discussion Board.

The course is podcast at <http://web.mac.com/jever/iWeb/Site/Welcome.html>.

Academic integrity: The attempt of any student to present as his or her own work that which he or she has not produced is regarded by the faculty and administration as a serious offense. Students are considered to have cheated if they copy the work of another during an examination or turn in a paper or assignments written, in whole or part, by someone else. Students are guilty of plagiarism, intentional or not, if they copy from books, magazines, Internet, or other sources without identifying and acknowledging those sources or if they paraphrase ideas from such sources without acknowledging them.

Class Schedule

CER = Clark, Escholz, and Rosa

OL = On-line text

Week 1	January 12	<i>Introduction to Language/Morphology</i> Daniels –CER pp. 3-19 Bolton –CER pp. 21-32 Language Files 5.1-5.2 –OL pp.134-139
Week 2	January 19	<i>Language Standards/Phonetics</i> Lippi-Green -OL pp. 41-62 Language Files 3.0-2 –OL pp. 34-46
Week 3	January 26	<i>Speech Communities/ Language variation</i> Roberts –CER pp. 373-381 Morphology HW Due (Lang. File 5.2)
Week 4	February 2	<i>Language variation</i> Wolfram/Schilling-Estes –CER pp. 398-408
Week 5	February 9	<i>AVVE/Syntax</i> Rickford –CER pp. 414-422 Oakland School Board –CER pp. 410-412 Pullum –OL pp. 321-322 Yule -OL pp. 89-99 Phonetics Homework Due
Week 6	February 16	<i>Official Languages & Bilingual Education</i> Rodríguez –OL pp. 266-275 Pullum –OL pp 111- 119

		Peregoy & Boyle –CER pp. 828-853 Mujica –OL pp. 1-5 Syntax Homework Due
Week 7	February 23	<i>Gender differences</i> Johnson –CER pp. 517-528 Tannen –CER pp. 531-543
Week 8	March 2	Midterm Exam
Week 9	March 9	<i>Language and the Brain</i> Heny –CER pp. 567-587 Kemp and Smith –CER pp. 591-610
Week 10	March 16	<i>First Language Acquisition/Phonology</i> Moskowitz –CER pp. 613-638 Lenneberg –CER pp. 640-642 Miller & Galdea –CER pp. 643-650 Language Files 4.0 –OL pp. 88-96
Week 11	March 23	Spring Break
Week 12	March 30	<i>Second Language Acquisition</i> Bialystok and Hakuta –OL pp. 1-10 Fromkin et al. –CER pp. 652-667
	April 2	LAST DAY TO DROP
Week 13	April 6	<i>Bilingualism</i> Ober and Gjerlow –OL pp. 122-140
Week 14	April 13	IDIOLECT PAPER DUE <i>Language and Thought/ Language & sexism</i> Crystal –OL pp. 629-633 Lakoff & Johnson –CER pp. 458-465 Lord –CER pp. 480-486
Week 15	April 20	Phonology Homework Due <i>Euphemism and Taboo</i> Brothers –OL pp. 375-378 Rawson –OL pp. 491-500
Week 16	April 27	<i>Propaganda and Advertising</i> MacDonald –OL pp. 23-34 Birk and Birk –OL pp. 4-11 Thompson –OL pp. 1-4 Clay –OL pp. 1-2
Week 17	May 4 6:10-8:50pm	FINAL EXAM