

THE INDIANA ACADEMY FOR SCIENCE, MATHEMATICS, and the HUMANITIES

Linguistics Fall Semester 2020 Syllabus

Instructor: Mr. Evan Ward

BU116

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Meeting Times: MWF 11:00-11:50

Office Hours

M – 1-3pm

T – 8-10am

W – 1-3pm

R -1-3pm

F – 1-3pm

Resources: Finnegan, E. 2015. *Language: its structure and use*. (7th ed.) Cengage Learning.

A variety of scholarly articles and online resources will also be provided, all of which will be made available on the course Canvas site.

Course Description: This course serves as an introduction to linguistics, the scientific study of language. As such the course will be a survey of major linguistic subfields with guided opportunities for linguistic analysis. We will think about language *theoretically* (how does language exist in our minds? how can we model language?) as well as *practically* (how do we use language? why do we use language in particular ways and how does our use intersect with other social categories and functions?). This course is ideal for anyone interested in language(s). Linguistics as a field is also well-suited both for STEM-oriented students – we will be applying scientific methodologies to linguistic data – and for humanities-oriented students – linguistics is fundamentally about how *humans* acquire, learn, and use language. As we are all highly competent users of language whose words and varieties are equally valid and interesting, students will be encouraged to draw from their own unique experiences with language and connect content from this course to their own lives.

This course is available for dual credit, being equivalent to Ball State's ENG 320 class.

Course Prerequisite: experience learning a world language is recommended but not required.

Course Objectives:

1. Students will critically examine their beliefs about language(s).
2. Students will demonstrate awareness of the diversity of linguistic systems and speakers/signers.
3. Students will gain an overview of major linguistic subfields: phonetics & phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, pragmatics, historical linguistics, and sociolinguistics.
4. Students will learn how to analyze language and practice doing so.
5. Students will be prepared for further study in linguistics.

“The vitality of language lies in its ability to limn the actual, imagined and possible lives of its speakers, readers, writers.” – Toni Morrison, from her 1993 Nobel Prize lecture

Grading Scale

90-100%	A
88-89%	B+
83-87%	B
80-82%	B-
78-79%	C+
73-77%	C
70-72%	C-
69% or Below	D

Your Final Grade

Reading and Discussion – 30%
Homework Problem Sets – 40%
Homework Projects – 30%

Explanation of Final Grade Categories:

Reading and Discussion – a normal week will involve (i) several reading assignments and (ii) at least one discussion board assignment (accessible via our course Canvas site). For the discussion board assignments, students will write a 1-2 paragraph summary of the reading, focusing on major points and topics of special interest. In order to facilitate interaction, students will also compose at least 1 question and respond to a classmate's question. Discussion board assignments will be due by midnight on the dates indicated on discussion board assignments posted to the Canvas course site. Readings will be selected from the course textbook and from a variety of other scholarly sources (journals, books, and professional/academic websites).

Homework Problem Sets – for each textbook chapter we cover students will complete a homework problem set, which will be available on our course Canvas site. Answers will be submitted via Canvas as well.

Homework Projects – for each major topic area/unit (see course schedule below), students will complete a mini-project or engage in a linguistic experience typically involving some sort of linguistic analysis. Rubrics will be provided for each project, as the projects differ in kind and nature.

Attendance Policy:

You expected to attend all classes (whether this means online synchronously, in person, or online asynchronously by submitting work/tasks assigned). You will be considered tardy if you arrive after the beginning of class. If you are ten minutes late or more, you will be considered absent but are invited to attend the class session anyway in order not to fall behind. Sleeping during class and improper technology use may result in unexcused absences.

Use of Technology:

We will use technology and online resources quite often, so you should bring your laptop/tablet/smartphone to class. Online classes will require computer use, and adherence to all policies in the student handbook regarding academic honesty and plagiarism are expected (see section below on Academic Integrity).

Make-Up Work:

It is your responsibility to find out what announcements and assignments have been missed after an absence. **Whether excused or unexcused, you may not use an absence as a reason for being unprepared or failing to turn in work.** It is your responsibility to check in with me, your classmates, and Canvas to learn what you missed and what to prepare for next class. If your absence is excused, please notify your instructor in advance (to the degree possible). If an emergency arises, notify your instructor as soon as you can so that alternative

arrangements (if needed) may be made. **All work missed due to an unexcused absences will result in a zero grade.**

Late Work:

Late work will be accepted but will accrue -10% per day for each late assignment submitted for a maximum of 4 days. An assignment that is more than 4 days late will not be given credit. If unforeseen circumstances arise, it is your responsibility to communicate and make alternative arrangements with your instructor (if the situation presents reasonable need at your instructor's discretion).

Accommodations for Disabilities and Special Needs:

If any disability requires course adaptations or accommodations, if emergency medical information needs to be shared with me, or if any special arrangements must be made in order to evacuate the building, please advise me at your earliest convenience.

Academic Integrity:

Honesty, trust, and personal responsibility are fundamental attributes of the Indiana Academy community. Because language should be communicative, students are encouraged to collaborate in their studying. You may make judicious use of advice from tutors and peers. However, this does not mean copying someone else's work or letting someone copy your work. It means working with a partner to gain a better understanding of the material, drill conjugations/declensions and vocabulary, read the literature together, etc. All work that you turn in – *in class or otherwise* – must be your own and completed without **any** kind of outside assistance. If you have questions about what constitutes "your own" work, please see me. **Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty will result in a grade of zero for the assignment and other penalties outlined in the Student Handbook.**

Mask and Social Distancing Policy:

Requirement - The Indiana Academy will follow Ball State University's mask policy. Effective July 1, 2020, all people on campus—including faculty, staff, students, vendors, contractors, suppliers, and visitors—should wear face masks (covering nose and mouth) while inside campus buildings. Face masks are specifically required in the following situations:

- i. When in the presence of others (indoors or outdoors) and physical distancing is difficult to maintain, such as in hallways, elevators, stairs, public spaces, and common areas;
- ii. When in a classroom or laboratory;
- iii. When using campus transportation (such as a shuttle bus);
- iv. When multiple individuals are in a University vehicle.

Students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to bring their own mask. Masks will be provided to anyone who is unable to bring a mask or their mask is damaged.

Non-compliance - If a student declines to wear a face mask as required, the student will be referred to the Director of Academic Affairs or the Director of Residential Affairs. If the situation occurs in a classroom or other academic setting, it is considered a classroom management issue, and the teacher will remind the student of the requirement and give the student a chance to comply with it prior to referring the matter to the Director of Academic Affairs or the Director of Residential Affairs. Wearing masks is crucial to preventing the spread of COVID-19 to others.

Social Distancing - Social distancing must be maintained at all times during any face-to-face meetings in order to provide for a maximally safe environment at this time. Students are expected to adhere to social distancing

guidelines (at least 6 feet between individuals) during all face-to-face class meetings. Your instructor may arrange meetings outside or in alternative locations in order to facilitate social distancing and minimize the potential spread of COVID-19 as much as possible.

Tentative Course Schedule

SUBJECT TO CHANGE, but you will be given notice in class if anything is moved

<u>Week</u>	<u>Text</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>HW/Project (due by next Mon.)</u>
Week 1	Chapter 1	Languages and Linguistics	Project 1 (Linguistic Surveys)
Week 2	Chapter 2	Lexicon and Morphology	HW Problem Set 1
Week 3	Chapter 3	Phonetics	<i>none</i>
Week 4	Chapter 4	Phonology	HW Problem Set 2
Week 5	Chapter 4	Phonology	Project 3 (Phon. Analysis)
Week 6	Chapter 5	Syntax	<i>none</i>
Week 7	Chapter 5	Syntax	HW Problem Set 3
Week 8	Chapter 6	Semantics	Project 4 (Corpus Linguistics)

Week 9	Chapter 7	Typology	Project 5 (Explore WALS)
Week 10	Chapter 8-9	Pragmatics	HW Problem Set 4
Week 11	Chapter 10	Language Variation	Project 6 (Exploring Dialects)
Week 12	Chapter 11	Language Variation	HW Problem Set 5
Week 13	Chapter 12	Historical Linguistics	Project 7
Week 14	Chapter 14	Language Acquisition	HW Problem Set 6

Weeks 15-16 →	final HW Problem Set + Project 8 + Online Meetings		

Diversity and Inclusion Policy

Ball State University aspires to be a university that attracts and retains a diverse faculty, staff, and student body. We are committed to ensuring that all members of the community are welcome, through valuing the various experiences and worldviews represented at Ball State and among those we serve. We promote a culture of respect and civil discourse as expressed in our Beneficence Pledge and through university resources found at <http://cms.bsu.edu/campuslife/multiculturalcenter>.