

Linguistics 101: Introduction to the Study of Language

TTH 6p – 9:45p, SEM-001, 30th May – 7th July

Syllabus

Instructor Information:

Name: Sarah E. Murray
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Office Hours: Tuesday, 4:30p – 5:30p, or by appointment

Course Information:

Name: Introduction to the Study of Language
Section: B6
Dates: Summer Session, 30th May – 7th July
Day/Time: Tuesday and Thursday, 6p – 9:45p
Location: Linguistics department (SEM), Room 108
Website: <http://rci.rutgers.edu/~semurray/teaching.html>

Course Description:

This course is an introduction to the study of languages (i.e. linguistics) for non-linguistics majors. We will cover all of the major sub-disciplines of linguistics, as well as discuss more general issues like the definition of ‘language’, language change, language variation, and language acquisition.

Textbook:

Language Files, Ninth Edition. Available at the University book store, and necessary for this course.

Attendance:

Summer classes are condensed, making each day relatively more valuable than it would be during the normal school year. There are only eleven meetings of this course; this makes your daily attendance crucial. However, attendance will not directly count toward your grade.

Grading:

Your grade will be determined as follows:

Quizzes	10%
Homework	30%
Mid-Term	30%
Final	30%

The aim of the homework assignments is to make you think about interesting problems related to topics being discussed in class and to try and work through them. Some of the homework problems are quite challenging; the important thing is to try and work through

them, not necessarily to get them exactly correct. The grading for the homework will reflect this.

Grading for both the homework and the quizzes will be on a 0-1-2-3 scale, as follows:

Grade	Errors
3	0 – 3 mistakes [=: ✓+]
2	4 – 7 mistakes [=: ✓]
1	≥8 mistakes [=: ✓-]
0	No effort (includes not turning the assignment in)

No make-up homework, quizzes, or exams will be given. In the event that you miss a homework, quiz, or the midterm and have a legitimate excuse (with an appropriate note to verify), your grade will be calculated using the remainder of your available percentages.

Homework:

Students will be required to turn in all homework assignments. The lowest homework grade will be dropped. Homework is due at the beginning of class and **no late homework will be accepted**. If you must miss class, you must turn the homework assignment in before the beginning of class, either in my mailbox or via email.

As there is only time for eight homework assignments, there will be three in-class assignments which will count towards this portion of your grade.

Quizzes:

These quizzes will be given at random throughout the course. They will not be difficult, but will highlight crucial points in lecture and the readings.

Exams:

Both the mid-term and the final will be mostly multiple-choice with a few short answer questions. The final will be cumulative.

Extra credit:

Extra credit may be given, at a student's request, in the form of highly challenging questions, research projects, or problem sets. Each extra credit assignment will be worth one point, and will count toward the homework portion of your grade.

Academic Integrity:

Do your own homework. It is alright to discuss a question, or to verify your answers with another person, but copying someone else's work or allowing someone to copy your work is a violation of the University's policy of Academic Integrity. If you quote any sources, you must cite them. For more information on the University's policy on Academic Integrity, please see: <http://teachx.rutgers.edu/integrity/policy.html>

(Modified) Class Schedule:

Date	Topic(s)	Readings DUE	Homework DUE
Tuesday, 30 May	Introduction; Animal Communication		
Thursday, 1 June	Animal Communication; Phonetics; Phonology	Chapters 1, 2, 3, & 4	p. 13: 2, 3, 4 p. 19: 1, 3, 4
Tuesday, 6 June	Morphology;	Chapter 5	p. 62; p. 63: 1, 2, 3, 5a-j, 6a-j p. 108: a – e p. 115-6: 1, 2 p. 124: 0.0 p. 125: 1.1, 1.2 p.126: 1.6
Thursday, 8 June	Syntax	Chapter 6	Morphology Homework
Monday, 12 June (OR Saturday, 10 June)	(More)Syntax; Typology	Distributed	Syntax Homework
Tuesday, 13 June	Semantics; Pragmatics	Chapters 7-8	Typology Homework
Thursday, 15 June	Midterm Review; Mid- Term		Semantics/Pragmatics Homework
Monday, 19 June (OR Saturday, 17 June)	Language Acquisition	Distributed	
Tuesday, 20 June	Language Variation; Language Contact; Language Change	Chapters 10, 11, & 12	Acquisition Homework
Thursday, 22 June	Computational Linguistics; Writing Systems; Final Review	Chapters 14 & 15	Language Change Homework
Tuesday, 27 June	Final Exam	Chapters 10, 11, & 12	
Thursday, 29 June	Class rescheduled for 22 June		
Tuesday, 4 July	Independence Day – No Class		
Thursday, 6 July	Class rescheduled for June 27		