

Linguistics 001: The Study of Language
Syllabus and Course Information, Spring 2021

Class Time: MW(F) 1:25-2:15 PM
Classroom: <https://psu.zoom.us/j/94559619122>
Course Webpage: Canvas (canvas.psu.edu)

Professor: Dr. Katrina Connell
Email: kzc501@psu.edu
Office Hours: After class or Email for meeting

Course Description and Objectives:

This is a non-technical introduction to the study of human language and its role in human interaction, satisfying distributional requirements in Social & Behavioral Sciences (GS), US Cultures (US) and International Cultures (IL). In this course, we will survey essential topics in the study of language with a view toward providing you with an overview of the approaches, methods, and goals of linguistics. We will examine fundamental questions like how does language work? How do human languages differ and how are they alike? Is there a critical period for learning languages? Why does language change? What is the origin of language? What is the link between language and culture? Why do people have such strong opinions about others' language use? What is the impact of language loss in human society? We will address these questions and others through readings, problems, and discussion. The goal of this course is to provide you with the evidence and the analytical methods by which you can critically evaluate your own and other people's opinions about language.

Required Textbook:

Myrick, Caroline & Wolfram, Walt. (2019) *The 5-Minute Linguist, Third Edition*. Bristol, CT. Equinox Publishing.

All additional readings will be provided on Canvas.

Course Components:

Discussion boards	10%
Practice Exercises	10%
Participation	10%
Homeworks (weekly)	30%
Projects (5)	40%

******Note: There are NO extra-credit assignments available for this course!******

Lecture Videos:

Before each class you will be asked to watch/read a short lecture posted to Canvas. These lectures will be approximately 15 min in length. Following each lecture you will have 2 additional tasks which will be a combination of short readings, practice exercises, or discussion board posts. The lectures and associated follow-up activities will be due before the live class starts each day.

Live Classes:

We will meet live on Zoom 2-3 times a week at our scheduled class time. These classes will vary in format but may include answering questions from the videos, discussing the lecture topics, new lecture material, group work, etc. Activities missed due to absence cannot usually be made up. You will have an allowance of a certain number of missed class activities.

Assignments:

Assignments will be broken down into Homeworks and Projects. Each unit will have a series of Homeworks that will help you prepare for your Unit Project at the end of each unit.

In most cases, the Unit Projects cannot be completed without completing the homeworks prior to it.

Each assignment will be available on Canvas for download and will be turned in on Canvas through the uploads available for each assignment.

Each student is expected to do their own work for the homework assignments and projects—no collaboration is permitted unless explicitly stated.

Assignment submission and late work:

- All assignments will be submitted through the given assignment on Canvas.
 - Please DO NOT email me your work
- All Homeworks and Projects are due by *midnight* on the day they are due (usually Mondays).
- Late work will be penalized 5% of the grade for every day it is late and will not be accepted more than 7 days late. If it is uploaded after the due time on the due date, it counts as 1 day late.
- **If you experience any setbacks during the semester (Covid-19 or other), please tell me. You do not have to give me all of the details, but I am here to help you succeed and learn. So please contact me if you are struggling in this course, so I can help you.**

Expectations:

For Students: It is expected that in this class you will:

- be on time to class
- be prepared (i.e., you will have watched/read the lectures, completed the practice exercises, and read the readings thoroughly enough to be able to discuss them in class)
- turn assignments in on time
- be responsible for your absences by asking for notes and making up work as needed
- have respect for your fellow students and instructor by:
 - paying attention in class
 - muting your mic when not speaking

For the Instructor: You can expect that in this class, the instructor will:

- be on time
- be prepared and organized
- not run over class time
- respond to questions and concerns promptly
- grade all assignments in a reasonable amount of time (i.e., within 2 weeks)
- not give you more work than you can handle
- will be available for office hours for you to come discuss concerns or questions with the instructor

Policies:

Mask Wearing

This class will be conducted **entirely remotely**; however, if you enter any campus building for any reason you will be expected to wear a mask and adhere to social distancing. We know from existing data that wearing a mask in public can help prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the community (Lyu & Wehby, 2020; CDC, 2020; Johns Hopkins Medicine, 2020). In accordance with PA Department of Health regulations and guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), The Pennsylvania State University has determined that everyone will be required to wear a face mask in university buildings, including classrooms. You **MUST** wear a mask **appropriately** (i.e., covering both your mouth and nose) in the buildings. Masks have been provided for students, instructors, and staff, and everyone is expected to wear one. This is to protect their health and safety as well as the health and safety of their classmates, instructor, and the university community.

Attendance Participation

You will be required to attend class via Zoom at our scheduled time, however I will not be tracking attendance. You are adults and are paying to be here to learn, so it is on you to be responsible for attending classes. Instead, I will track *participation* which will encompass in-class polls, activities, and discussions. These activities will be random in the lecture, will not be announced, and cannot be made up. You will have a certain allowance of missed participation points before it begins to affect your grade. More details will be provided later.

Webcam Use Policy

You will not be required to have your webcam on. I understand that you may not be attending class from ideal locations, and so I will not require you to have your webcam or mic on in class. That being said, I strongly encourage you to have your webcam on, and you may use virtual backgrounds if you would like additional privacy. Having your webcam on will keep you more engaged and make this class feel more connected. This will make it easier to focus in class and will help you learn. These classes will be very interactive and will be crucial for you to complete your project assignments that form the majority of your grade. So, for your own sake, I strongly encourage you to have your webcams on and to participate in class. If you will not be using your camera, I ask that you upload a picture to replace the black rectangle that will show up for you. Either a picture of yourself, a pet, or a place you have visited would be nice. (Let's keep our pictures/Zoom backgrounds professionally acceptable, ok? If I deem your picture inappropriate, you will be removed from the class.)

Mic Use Policy

I have the Zoom class set to mute your mic at the start of class, but you will be able to unmute your mic to contribute and ask questions at any point. I ask that when you are not speaking, please mute your mic to avoid background noise for the class. While muted, you can press and hold the SPACE BAR to speak, and then release again to mute your mic again. I encourage you to use your mic to actually speak when you can (this is a language class after all), but I will also monitor the chat window for anyone unable to use their mic during class.

Academic Misconduct

I expect all the work you do in this course to be your own unless collaboration is explicitly requested for a particular task. In addition to handing in work you yourself have done, all responses to assignments and projects must **be in your own words**. **Copying wording directly from any published work without proper citations is plagiarism**. **First violations of this will receive no credit for the responses. Subsequent violations will result in an Academic Integrity Violation write-up. If this isn't clear, please speak to me at the start of class.**

If you are unfamiliar with how to cite sources, speak to your instructor or TA. In this class we will use MLA or APA formatting, which is easily Google-able.

You should read and be familiar with the University Policy on academic integrity (Faculty Senate Policy 49-20). See <http://www.psu.edu/dept/oue/aappm/G-9.html>. Any violations of this policy will be handled in the strongest manner possible.

Grading:

Letter grades will be assigned as follows.

A	100 %	to 94.0%
A-	< 94.0 %	to 90.0%
B+	< 90.0 %	to 87.0%
B	< 87.0 %	to 84.0%
B-	< 84.0 %	to 80.0%
C+	< 80.0 %	to 77.0%
C	< 77.0 %	to 70.0%
D	< 70.0 %	to 60.0%
F	< 60.0 %	to 0.0%

Accessing the Class Zoom Meeting

You will access class through Canvas

- <https://canvas.psu.edu/>
- Click LOGIN on top-right corner and sign in using the Standard Access Account options with you PSU ID and password.
- Click Courses and find Ling 1

On the left-hand column of the course page there is a tab for Zoom. Here you will find a JOIN button for each day of class. Simply click JOIN and make sure you are logged into Zoom using your PSU account. <https://psu.zoom.us/>

Once you click join, you will be prompted to download Zoom or Open in Web Browser.

If you are able to download Zoom app, I recommend you doing so ***before*** the first day of class to make things go as smoothly as possible.

If you are not able to download software in the computer you are using, click "Run From Browser" to join the class through the browser (this option may be very small at the bottom of the page so look carefully).

Make sure you are on Wi-Fi before beginning the class, as this will likely take a lot of data if you do this on a data plan. There will also be an option to call in to the class if you are unable to connect using a computer. More details on this later.

General Accommodation Policy

I understand that life happens, and sometimes life is hard in ways that may get in the way of your studies. If you are dealing with a situation of that type, please communicate with me as much as you feel comfortable doing so I can help you figure out how best to handle your course work while also handling life.

Students with Disabilities

Students who need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the instructor to arrange an appointment as soon as possible to discuss the course format, to anticipate needs, and to explore potential accommodations. If you have a disability-related need for reasonable academic adjustments, contact the Office for Disability Services (ODS) at 814-863-1807 (V/TTY). For further information regarding ODS, please visit the Office for Disability Services website at <http://equity.psu.edu/ods/>. I rely on the Office of Disability Services for assistance in verifying the need for accommodations and developing accommodation strategies. In order to receive consideration for course accommodations, you must contact ODS and provide documentation (see the documentation guidelines at <http://equity.psu.edu/ods/guidelines/documentation-guidelines>). If the documentation supports the need for academic adjustments, ODS will provide a letter identifying appropriate academic adjustments. Please share this letter and discuss the adjustments with your instructor as early in the course as possible. You must contact ODS and request academic adjustment letters at the beginning of each semester.

Counseling and Psychological Services

Many students at Penn State face personal challenges or have psychological needs that may interfere with their academic progress, social development, or emotional well-being. The university offers a variety of confidential services to help you through difficult times, including individual and group counseling, crisis intervention, consultations, online chats, and mental health screenings. These services are provided by staff who welcome all students and embrace a philosophy respectful of clients' cultural and religious backgrounds, and sensitive to differences in race, ability, gender identity and sexual orientation.

Counseling and Psychological Services at University Park (CAPS)
(<http://studentaffairs.psu.edu/counseling/>): 814-863-0395

Penn State Crisis Line (24 hours/7 days/week): 877-229-6400
Crisis Text Line (24 hours/7 days/week): Text LIONS to 741741

Bias Motivated Incidents

Penn State University has adopted a "Protocol for Responding to Bias Motivated Incidents" (<http://equity.psu.edu/reportbias/reports/protocol-for-responding-to-bias-motivated-incidents>) that is grounded in the policy that the "University is committed to creating an educational environment which is free from intolerance directed toward individuals or groups and strives to create and maintain an environment that fosters respect for others." That policy is embedded within an institution traditionally committed to academic freedom (<https://guru.psu.edu/policies/OHR/hr64.html>).

Bias motivated incidents include conduct that is defined in University Policy AD 91: Discrimination and Harassment, and Related Inappropriate Conduct (<https://guru.psu.edu/policies/ad91.html>). Students, faculty, or staff who experience or witness a possible bias motivated incident are urged to report the incident immediately by doing one of the following:

- * Submit a report via the Report Bias webpage (<http://equity.psu.edu/reportbias/>)
- * Contact one of the following offices:
 - University Police Services, University Park: 814-863-1111
 - Multicultural Resource Center, Diversity Advocate for Students: 814-865-1773
 - Office of the Vice Provost for Educational Equity: 814-865-5906
 - Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs: 814-865-0909
 - Affirmative Action Office: 814-863-0471

- * Dialing 911 in cases where physical injury has occurred or is imminent.

Course Schedule* subject to change

The full course schedule is assignments is in Canvas. You can access this through the Modules Tab to see the flow of events for each module of the course, or in the Assignments Tab. Required readings are listed in each Unit Overview as well as in each Lesson Overview.

Date	Topic
Wednesday, January 20, 2021	Course Introduction
Friday, January 22, 2021	
Monday, January 25, 2021	What is Language? (and what is not?)
Wednesday, January 27, 2021	
Friday, January 29, 2021	
Monday, February 1, 2021	Origins of Language
Wednesday, February 3, 2021	
Friday, February 5, 2021	
Monday, February 8, 2021	Language Change
Wednesday, February 10, 2021	
Friday, February 12, 2021	
Monday, February 15, 2021	Linguistics in the Wild - The Mummy Speaks!
Wednesday, February 17, 2021	Sound of Language
Friday, February 19, 2021	
Monday, February 22, 2021	
Wednesday, February 24, 2021	Word Formation and Semantics
Friday, February 26, 2021	
Monday, March 1, 2021	
Wednesday, March 3, 2021	Language Structure
Friday, March 5, 2021	
Monday, March 8, 2021	
Wednesday, March 10, 2021	Written Language
Friday, March 12, 2021	
Monday, March 15, 2021	
Wednesday, March 17, 2021	Dialects and Language Variation
Friday, March 19, 2021	
Monday, March 22, 2021	
Wednesday, March 24, 2021	Language and Culture
Friday, February 26, 2021	
Monday, March 29, 2021	
Wednesday, March 31, 2021	Language and Thought
Friday, April 2, 2021	
Monday, April 5, 2021	
Friday, April 9, 2021	First Language Acquisition
Monday, April 12, 2021	
Wednesday, April 14, 2021	
Friday, April 16, 2021	Second Language Acquisition
Monday, April 19, 2021	
Wednesday, April 21, 2021	
Friday, April 23, 2021	Psycholinguistics
Monday, April 26, 2021	
Wednesday, April 28, 2021	
Friday, April 30, 2021	Linguistics in the Wild - Experimental Linguistics