

## ENGL 3371: Linguistic Science (Section 002)

Spring 2009: January 7 to April 28

### I. Basic Information

Instructor:	Dr. Min-Joo Kim
Classroom:	English/Philosophy 450
Office:	English/Philosophy 480 (East Wing of the English/Philosophy Bldg.)
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Voice-mail:	(806) 742-2500, ext. 262
Office hours:	Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:30-4:50 PM (or by appointment)

### How to get in touch with your professor:

- Send an e-mail
- Speak to her before or after class to arrange for an appointment.

### A. Course Description:

This course provides an introduction to the study of language at the undergraduate level. We will learn about the set of underlying principles of human language by analyzing the English language in detail but data from other languages will also be drawn.

We will first examine the main components of language, i.e., word forms, sounds, sentence structure and meaning, and then look at language acquisition, language change and variation. Our approach will be descriptive rather than prescriptive, which means that we will analyze what is actually spoken by people.

Class meetings will be organized around lectures but students are expected to actively participate in class discussions. There will also be hands-on lab sessions in classes as well. Students will present their research findings towards the end of the semester. More on this below.

**B. Texts:** There are **no required** textbooks. But two recommended ones are:

- Fromkin, V.A. and Rodman, R. *Introduction to Language*. 1997. Harcourt Brace. 6th edition.
- Akmajian, Adrian, Richard A. Demers, Ann K. Farmer, and Robert M. Harnish. *Linguistics: An Introduction to Language and Communication*. Fifth Ed. Cambridge, MA: MIT P, 2001.

Instead of adopting a textbook, the instructor will provide **all lecture notes, homework problem sets, exercises, and supplementary readings in advance via e-mail**. Hence students **must check TTU e-mails** on a regular basis.

### C. Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, a student should be able to do the following:

- Define linguistics and appreciate its significance in our daily lives and other academic disciplines.
- Compare human language with animal communication and appreciate its creativity and its role as a window into the human mind.
- Have some initial understanding about the human brain structure and language-related disorders.
- Identify and categorize morphemes in words and begin to describe what rules may apply to formation of words in a language.
- Identify units of sentence structure such as heads, phrases, and constituents; diagram tree structures that represent grammatical analyses; and generalize about structural patterns of newly-encountered phrases and sentences.
- Define the fields of semantics and pragmatics and name some major approaches to meaning.
- Identify units of sound and describe the features of common phonemes. Also, identify underlying rules that govern the phonological system of a language.
- Use a phonetic alphabet to transcribe words (and/or read words presented in a phonetic transcription); explain why alphabetic spelling is complicated and may not represent pronunciation; and begin to explain how phonological rules might be formulated.
- Identify factors that induce language change and variation such as gender, geographic, and socioeconomic factors. In addition, compare various varieties of a language and describe their similarities and differences in a systematic and theoretical manner.
- Raise consciousness on issues pertaining to bilingualism and formulate a linguistically-informed opinion about some basic issues in bilingual education.
- Read, summarize, and evaluate scholarly resources in linguistics.
- Cite sources following the MLA or *Linguistic Inquiry* style.

### D. Assessment Methods and Course Requirements:

- (i) Attendance and participation: 5%
  - (ii) Three exams: 3 x 20% = 60%
  - (iii) Final project proposal: 5%
  - (iv) Oral presentation on the final project: 10%
  - (v) Final research paper: 20%
- The final paper should be on a topic that is **pertinent** to the course content. Some examples are as follows:

- comparative analysis of two different dialects or languages
  - gender and language
  - linguistic prejudice and bilingualism
- The selection of the topic must submit a proposal by **April 2<sup>nd</sup>**, and have the topic **approved** by the instructor.
  - The paper should be **6-7 pages** long, **double-spaced excluding** references, and must be in **12 font size Times New Roman**. It must contain **clear section headings** and **research topic statements**.
  - The paper must cite **at least three published works**, i.e., actually published journal articles or books, not just what is available off of the Internet.
  - Papers will be evaluated based upon three criteria: **(i) originality, (ii) organization and clarity, and (iii) (substance of) content**.
  - The paper is due on the last day of classes. But students will also deliver oral presentations on their research in class at the end of the semester (see below).
  - More specific instructions for the final paper and oral presentation will be given in due course of time.

**III. Course schedule (subject to change)**

Week	Date	Topic	Notes
1	1/8	Introduction & overview	
2	1/13	Morphology	
	1/15	Morphology	Homework (HW) 1
3	1/20	HW1 review	
	1/22	Morphology	HW2
4	1/27	HW review & Phonetics	
	1/29	Phonetics	HW3
5	2/3	HW review	
	2/5	<b>Exam 1</b>	
6	2/10	Exam review & Phonology	
	2/12	Phonology	HW4
7	2/17	HW review	
	2/19	Phonology finishing up & Syntax	HW5

8	2/24	HW review	
	2/26	Syntax	HW6
9	3/3	HW Review	
	3/5	Review for the test	
10	3/10	<b>Exam 2</b>	
	3/12	Semantics	HW7
11	3/17	<b>Spring break: No class</b>	
	3/19	<b>Spring break: No class</b>	
13	3/24	HW review	
	3/26	Pragmatics	HW 8
14	3/31	HW review	
	4/2	Language variation	<b>Proposal due</b>
15	4/7	Brain and language disorders	
	4/9	Language change & loose ends	
16	4/14	Review	
	4/16	<b>Exam 3</b>	
17		Student oral reports	
	4/21		
	4/23	Student oral reports	
18	4/28	Student oral reports	<b>Paper due at class</b>

### III. Course Policies

#### A. Basic course-related requirements:

- In order to earn a passing grade, a student must successfully complete all course requirements.
- Students are expected to be **present in every** class.
- **No absence** in the entire semester will **boost the entire grade** by one letter grade: e.g., a B+ becomes an A.
- In the event of missing the class, students must inform the instructor as soon as possible; otherwise, there will be serious consequences for their grades: Students with more than **5 absences without justification** will receive an **automatic F** for the course.

- Students must be **punctual** to respect other students' time, let alone their own. Being late for class more than twice will lead to lowering the course grade by one level, i.e., A becomes B+.
- Homework problems will be assigned to coordinate with lectures and discussions. Unless otherwise announced, they will not be collected or graded; we will simply go over them in class. But students **must** complete each and every homework, since it will reinforce course concepts and also prepare them for exams.
- **No make-up exam** will be administered unless it is an absolute emergency which is evidenced by proper documentation.
- Announcements will be made both in class and via e-mail. E-mail announcements will be sent to students' **TTU e-mail** account. So students **must check TTU e-mails** on a regular basis.
- Students are encouraged to set up appointments with the instructor and clear any confusion they might have as soon as possible. Constructive feedback about the course is encouraged at any time.

## B. Civility in the Classroom

- Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is **conducive to learning**.
- Appropriate student behavior (whether online, in person, or over the telephone) creates a better environment for learning and teaching.
- **No** behavior that will cause distraction or discomfort will be allowed such as talking to someone in class unless it's allowed by me or responding rudely to someone's remarks or questions.
- Inappropriate behavior in the classroom will minimally result in **a request to leave class**. It can lead to **lowering of the grade by more than one level**.
- Students are encouraged to participate actively in class but no one should dominate class discussion. Such behavior will be considered inappropriate and hence will be subject to the same set of rules applied to inappropriate behavior. See above.

## C. Academic Integrity

- This course follows the University's statement on academic integrity as in p. 82 of the *Bulletin of Texas Tech*: "It is the aim of the faculty of Texas Tech University to foster a spirit of **complete honesty** and **a high standard of integrity**."
- We will also abide by the Code of Student Conduct as laid out in the Student Affairs Handbook (<http://www.studentaffairs.ttu.edu/campuslife/handbook.pdf>).
- Failure to uphold such guidelines may result in one or more of these penalties depending on the instructor's assessment of the seriousness of the violation:
  - failing grade on an assignment or for the entire course,

- reporting to the Dean of Students,
- referral for disciplinary action to the Student Mediation Center, or other relevant disciplinary action.
- In sum, students must remember that every action has a consequence and they bear **full responsibility** for their own actions.
- This class has **no tolerance for cheating or plagiarism**.
- **What counts as cheating:**
  - dishonesty on examinations, quizzes, and written assignments,
  - illegal possession of examinations,
  - use of unauthorized notes during an examination or quiz,
  - obtaining information during an examination from the examination paper or otherwise from another student,
  - assisting others to cheat,
  - alteration of grade records,
  - illegal entry to or unauthorized presence in an office
- **What counts as plagiarism:** Using other people's work as if it were his/her own without proper acknowledgments.
- Therefore, any student will be guilty of plagiarism if he or she fails to give credit for quotations or essentially identical expressions of material taken from books, encyclopedias, magazines, the Internet, or from the themes, reports, or other writings of a fellow student or any other person
- Consequence of plagiarism will result in **an automatic F**, regardless of the reason.

#### **D. Student with Disabilities**

- Any student with disabilities who needs special arrangements to minimize the effects of their disabilities should contact the instructor as soon as possible to make any necessary accommodations.
- But students must present appropriate verification from TechAccess first.