

Text: O'Grady, W., Archibald, J., Aronoff, M., Rees-Miller, J. (2005). *Contemporary Linguistics: An Introduction* (6th edition) ISBN-13: 978-0-312-55528-3

In this course, we will learn about the scientific study of the complex system of human language, that is *linguistics*. Many students find the ideas presented in class, at first, quite challenging because, we are all, to some degree, language experts. However, learning to think about, write about, and analyze the abstract formal structures of language (in general) and mechanisms through which language works is new to most people.

Even with this challenge, I think most of you will agree that this is a fascinating subject.

Student Learning Objectives

By the end of Linguistics 390, students should be able to:

- Define and explain what is studied in the major subfields of linguistics: *phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, language variation, language typology, language acquisition*.
- Define basic terminology within each of the subfields and illustrate the definition with examples.
- Identify major word classes, word formation and inflectional processes and illustrate them.
- Analyze words into their component parts and support your analysis with argumentation.
- Recognize the symbols of the International Phonetics Alphabet (IPA) and be able to give words that illustrate the sound that is represented by each symbol of the IPA.
- Transcribe simple words and phrases from English using the symbols of the IPA.
- Describe consonants using the articulatory features: place, manner and voicing; Describe vowels using the articulatory features.
- Identify natural classes of sounds in English or other languages using distinctive features.
- Determine phonological distribution of sounds in a language and write rules to describe these processes.
- Determine phrases and constituents of sentences using constituent structure tests.
- Write phrase structure rules and draw tree structures for sentences in English and languages other than English.
- List and illustrate some key concepts in the language acquisition of children and adults.
- Define fundamental concepts in the social uses of language, e.g., *speech variety, register, dialect, jargon, slang*.
- Describe how social and historical factors influence the use and spread of dialects and language change.
- Define and explain the relationships between the world's languages.
- Describe how use of structural and other features of language changes according to speech situation.

Course Requirements:

In-class work	10%
Homework	20%
Projects	20%
Midterm	25%
Final	25%

Important note on attendance:

LING 390 has an enrollment cap. If you try to register and the course is full, please send me an e-mail message to get onto the waitlist. In the e-mail tell me the reason you want to get into the class and why you were unable to register in time. Then be sure to be in class for the first day to see what the enrollment status is.

Any student who does not attend the first class period will **not** get into the class. If a student is registered and does not attend the first class, that student **will be dropped** and a student on the waitlist will take that student's place. This is department policy.