

Introduction to Linguistics – EN 4800 – Fall 2016 – TTH 11:00-12:15 – 305 Clark

Instructor: **Benjamin Torbert**, University of Missouri-Saint Louis
Contact: torbertb@umsl.edu, (314) 236-1259, or Facebook/Google chat
Office: **420 Lucas**, office hrs TTH 12:30-2:00 & 3:30-4:30, by appt (you are encouraged to visit)

TEXTBOOK: *Language Files* (12th Edition, 2016), Ohio State University Linguistics, ISBN 0814252702

COURSE OBJECTIVES: By the end of the course, students should be able (a) to recognize and use basic linguistic terminology, (b) to analyze the components of language, and (c) to apply linguistic concepts to the analysis of the structure of English in particular. No previous knowledge of foreign languages is required; however, those who have taken foreign languages will be well served by that experience, and the instructor will use many examples from languages other than English in order to explain linguistic concepts.

ATTENDANCE: You are allowed two unexcused absences. One point will be deducted from your final for each unexcused absence beginning with the third. The difference between excused and unexcused will be determined by the judgment of the instructor alone. Religious holidays are obviously excused.

READING ASSIGNMENTS: Reading assignments are listed on the syllabus and you should complete them **before** the class during which the assignment appears on the syllabus.

PROJECT: 15% of the grade will be based on a library project in which students report on the phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, and language-external issues surrounding a language other than English, Spanish, French, German, Japanese, or Latin. We will have a sign-up list so that no two people do the same language. Significantly more effort and execution will be expected from graduate students.

TESTS: There will be three tests and a final exam. Make-ups will only be given in the case of a documented emergency. If a scheduled test must be missed, notify me **well in advance** so that alternate arrangements can be made at the testing center.

GRADING: Project 15%; three Tests at 20% each; Final Exam 25%. Ten point scale, 0-2 -, 7-9 +.

ACADEMIC HONESTY: As in all classes at UMSL, students must adhere to University policies about cheating and plagiarism—see http://umsl.edu/studentlife/dsa/student_planner/policies/conductcode.htm

CIVILITY: UMSL lists university policies about our shared responsibilities as teachers and as students for creating a learning environment. We need you to display respect for your fellow students. Please refrain from cellphone use. See http://www.umsl.edu/studentlife/dsa/student_planner/policies/positive.htm.

ACCESS/DISABILITY: Students who have special needs must meet with the campus access office in MSC 144. If you require special accommodations, please meet with me to discuss accessibility of disability needs.

EARLY ALERT: UMSL uses an early alert system to notify students who are struggling academically. I will refer students make a D or an F on either of the first two tests to the Center for Student Success.

MYGATEWAY: I will place supplemental materials on MyGateway throughout the semester.

SCHEDULE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Schedule	Topic	Assignment
T 8/23	Preliminaries, survey of syllabus, introductions	buy the book
R 8/25	Overview, Objectives, and Arbitrariness	ix-xi, Files 1.0- 1.3
T 8/30	“Design features” of true language; Animal communication	File 1.4, 14.0-14.3
<i>Phonetics</i>		
R 9/1	Articulation & description I (consonants)	Files 2.0-2.2
T 9/6	Articulation & description II (vowels)	File 2.3
R 9/8	Articulation & description III (non-English sounds)	File 2.4
T 9/13	Articulation & description IV (suprasegmentals)	File 2.5-2.6
R 9/15	Test I – Introduction and Phonetics	
<i>Phonology and Morphology</i>		
T 9/20	Phonemes & allophones; Phonotactic constraints	Files 3.0-3.2
R 9/22	Phonological rules and implicational laws	Files 3.3-3.4
T 9/27	Phonology problems	Files 3.5-3.6
R 9/29	More phonology problems, intro to morphology	Files 4.0-4.2
T 10/4	Morphological processes & typologies	Files 4.3-4.4
R 10/6	Morphology problems	Files 4.5-4.6
T 10/11	Test II – Phonology & Morphology	
<i>Syntax, Semantics, Pragmatics</i>		
R 10/13	Intro to syntax	Files 5.0-5.4
T 10/18	Phrase structure	Files 5.5-5.6
R 10/20	Semantics	Files 6.0-6.5
T 10/25	instructor at conference – assignment online	
R 10/27	Pragmatics I	Files 7.0-7.3
T 11/1	Pragmatics II	Files 7.4-7.6
R 11/3	Test III – Syntax, Semantics & Pragmatics	
<i>Language Acquisition, Language Variation, Contact, & Change</i>		
T 11/8	Language acquisition	Files 8.0-8.6
R 11/10	Intro to language variation	Files 10.0-10.3
T 11/15	LV continued	Files 10.4-10.6
R 11/17	Language & Culture	Files 11.0-11.6
	11/22-24	Thanksgiving – No Class
T 11/29	Contact and pidgins & creoles	Files 12.0-12.8 Projects due
R 12/1	Theories of language change	Files 13.0-13.4
T 12/6	Language change continued	Files 13.5-13.8
R 12/8	Brief oral presentations	
T 12/15	10:00-noon – Final Exam	