Course Description

This course is an introduction to linguistics, the study of language. The course includes sections on the study of speech sounds (phonetics), how those sounds are structured to form words (phonology), the structure of complex words (morphology), the structure of sentences (syntax), and the study of word meaning and how words combine to form propositions (semantics). We will also address common misperceptions about what language is and what it isn’t, including notions of linguistic “correctness” and how different individuals use language (sociolinguistics), how languages are related to each other and change over time (historical linguistics), and how children learn languages (language acquisition). This course draws on data from languages all around the world. You will learn how to make generalizations about linguistic data and how to use tools from formal theories of language to analyze that data.

Prerequisites

There are no prior course requirements.

Course Objectives

After successfully completing this course, you will be able to:

1. Transcribe language using the International Phonetics Alphabet
2. Describe phonological alternations using phonological rules
3. Analyze complex morphology and identify cases of allomorphy
4. Describe the structure of sentences using syntactic trees
5. Understand compositional semantics and pragmatics
6. Identify sound changes and reconstruct proto-languages
7. Describe the social functions of language and the way it is used to resist and perpetuate existing power structures
Instructor Information, Contact, Office Hours, & Communication

Course Instructor

Professor Peter Jenks

Graduate Student Instructors (GSIs)

While the instructor will interact with the whole class and will oversee all activities and grading, as well as being available to resolve any issues that may arise, the GSIs will be your main point of contact. Your GSIs are responsible for assisting you directly with your questions about assignments and course requirements, as outlined in the Assignments and Calendar. The GSIs will also facilitate ongoing discussion and interaction with you on major topics in each module.

● Phuong Khuu
● Edwin Ko

Office Hours

The course instructor and GSIs will offer virtual office hours via Zoom, a video conferencing program. These office hours allow for synchronous interaction with the instructor and GSIs and are a good opportunity to discuss your questions relevant to the course.

Day: TBD

Hours (PT): TBD

Links to the appropriate Zoom room will be available in bCourses.

Course Mail

You can also contact your GSI and instructor using bCourses emailing system, accessed via your Inbox. Make sure to check the Inbox for messages from the instructor and GSIs. You can also choose to have your bCourses mail forwarded to your personal email account or your cell phone.
Question & Answer Discussion

Please use the Piazza link to post questions relevant to the entire class. This can include questions about the course materials and topics or mechanics around assignments. The instructor and GSIs will monitor Piazza, but you should also feel free to answer questions posted by other students. This helps to create a general FAQ so that all students in the course may benefit from the exchange.

Course Materials and Technical Requirements

Required Materials

- Watch lectures, submit ‘tapback’ questions, then attend or watch the lecture discussions
- Attend section, where you will practice linguistic analysis
- Complete 6 take-home homework assignments 1 Linguistics 100 – Fall 2020 Syllabus
- Complete 5 check-in quizzes
- As a 4-6-person group, design and record 4 presentations about one language over the semester, then complete a peer assessment at the end of the course
- Complete one IPA quiz, one mid-term, and one final exam

Technical Requirements

This course is built on a Learning Management System (LMS) called Canvas and UC Berkeley’s version is called bCourses. You will need to meet these computer specifications to participate within this online platform.

Optional

bCourses allows you to record audio or video files of yourself and upload them in the course. Although doing so is not required for any of the activities, using these features will enhance your engagement in the course. If you would like to use these features, you will need to have a webcam and a microphone installed on your computer.
Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulties please alert one of the GSIs immediately. However, understand that neither the GSIs, nor the instructor can assist you with technical problems. You must call or email tech support and make sure you resolve any issues immediately.

*In your course, click on the "Help" button on the bottom left of the global navigation menu.* Be sure to document (save emails and transaction numbers) for all interactions with tech support. **Extensions and late submissions will not be accepted due to “technical difficulties.”**

Learning Activities

You are expected to fully participate in all the course activities described here.

You *won't be able to access your course material until you read and make your pledge to Academic Integrity in the bCourses site.*

You are expected to fully participate in all the course activities described here:

1) Watching all lectures and submitting tapbacks.
2) Attending and participating in section each week.
3) Participating in and completing four group projects on four aspects of a particular language and one peer assessment.
4) Completing five check-in quizzes and six assignments.
5) Completing an IPA quiz, mid-term exam and final exam.
**Attendance**

We expect you to view every lecture and attend section or view a recording of section. If you are unable to attend, it is your responsibility to cover course material on your own by reviewing lecture notes posted on bCourses and, when possible, working with a classmate. However, the only enforcement mechanism for attendance will be the lecture tapbacks.

**Sections in bCourses**

For grading purposes, each of you has been assigned to one of the course GSIs and placed within their section. Your particular GSI will grade all of your work, as well as that of your section-mates, and engage with you in the course discussions. You can see whose section you've been placed in by exploring the "Section" column within the "People" page or by examining your discussion group's title, which includes your GSI's name.

**Discussion Sections**

Section is an extremely important part of Ling 100 because it is your only chance to practice solving problem sets and “doing” linguistics. Your section will be taught by a GSI who is a Berkeley linguistics graduate student, all of whom are a highly knowledgeable professional linguist with an active research program in linguistics. They will be vital resources for you in this course, and regular section attendance is the best way for you to develop a relationship with them.

**Reading Assignments**

This course has one required textbook, *Language Files: Materials for an Introduction to Language and Linguistics (12th edition)*, by Ohio State University. The bulk of your assigned readings, as well as many homework questions come from the textbook. If you choose to use a different edition of this textbook, it is your responsibility to ensure that you are completing the correct versions (i.e. from the 11th edition) of the assigned problems for homework. I have both the 11th and 12th editions and will try to note differences.
Additional reading assignments will be made available on bCourses as
they are assigned throughout the semester.

**Lectures & Tapbacks**

Most content lectures will be online each week in three to four 10-15
minute chunks per submodule.

For each set of lectures, you will be expected to submit a short
reflection, a ‘tapback’, consisting of one reflection, one question, and a
few, short, comprehension questions. You can write as much or as little
as you want; each tapback is worth just one point, basically as a
participation mechanism as well as a mechanism which allows you to
check your understanding, graded on completion.

At the end of the week on Friday we will meet for one optional lecture
discussion. I will choose comments and questions from the tapbacks to
seed the discussion, including the names of the students who made the
comment/asked the question. Discussion will be encouraged!

**Check-in Quizzes and IPA Quiz**

Unless there is a midterm or final, each week there will be a quiz or
midterm to check your understanding of the material. Quizzes will be
available when the module opens, and due by Sunday of every week.
The quizzes can be retaken once. The IPA Quiz is worth more points than
the other quizzes because it establishes an understanding of the IPA
which is critical to the following modules.

**Discussions**

Each Friday there will be a live discussion to check your understanding of
the material and to explore it in more depth. The zoom information for
the discussion at the end of each module on the page called “Module
Discussions.” Additionally, there is a Piazza discussion forum that will be
available each week for question and answers.

**Assignments**

The course will have six problem sets or assignments, where you practice
linguistic analysis. Late submissions will not be accepted without a
legitimate documented excuse, such as a health reason, family
emergency, or job interview. Homework submissions will only be
accepted through bCourses or Gradescope, as specified in the assignment. Do not email assignments to your GSI. Homework assignments are due on Wednesdays following the relevant module.

**Group Assignments**

The course will have four group assignments, where you will research four different topics for one language over the course of the semester. You will then record presentations where you describe what you found. There is a peer assessment at the end of the semester which is equal in value to one group project.

**Midterm and Final Exam**

Your midterm and final will be timed take home exams which you will have 2 hours to complete within a 48 hour window; both will be taken online through bCourses. Your final exam will not be cumulative, the midterm and final will cover the first and second half of the course, respectively.

**Grading and Course Policies**

**Your final course grade will be calculated as follows:**

**Table 1: Final Grade Percentages**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage of Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lecture Tapbacks</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phonetics/IPA Quiz (x1)</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Check-in Quizzes (x5)</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homework Assignments (x6)</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Projects (x4)</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Project Peer Assessment</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Late Work Policy

There will be no make-up tapbacks, assignments, quizzes, or exams.

Course Policies

Promptness

All assignments have specific due dates listed in the course site and the Calendar on bCourses. You are expected to meet those listed due dates. All assignments will be submitted via bCourses, with the exception of the syntax assignment, which will be submitted via Gradescope.

Honor Code

The student community at UC Berkeley has adopted the following Honor Code: "As a member of the UC Berkeley community, I act with honesty, integrity, and respect for others." The expectation is that you will adhere to this code. Read the entire Berkeley Honor Code for more information.

Collaboration and Independence

Reviewing lecture and reading materials and studying for exams can be enjoyable and enriching things to do with fellow students. This is recommended. However, all assignments are to be completed independently and should be the result of one’s own independent work.

Along the same lines, don’t post your answers to assignments online, e.g. to Facebook groups, a shared Google doc, CourseHero, Discord, etc. Similarly, don’t draft answers collaboratively using technologies like Google Docs. In both cases you are making your own work available to other students who can copy it; letting another student copy your work is cheating. Thus, if we find that any answers are copied, both the person who shared their answers and the person who copied them will receive a zero on the assignment and may be subject to academic discipline.
Cheating

A good lifetime strategy is always to act in such a way that no one would ever imagine that you would even consider cheating. Anyone caught cheating on a quiz or the Final Exam will receive a failing grade in the course and will also be reported to the University Center for Student Conduct. The expectation is that you will be honest in the taking of quizzes and exams.

Plagiarism

To copy text or ideas from another source without appropriate reference is plagiarism and will result in a failing grade for your assignment and usually further disciplinary action. For additional information on plagiarism and how to avoid it, read the UC Berkeley Library Citation Page, Plagiarism Section.

Academic Integrity and Ethics

Cheating on exams and plagiarism are two common examples of dishonest, unethical behavior. Honesty and integrity are of great importance in all facets of life. They help to build a sense of self-confidence, and are key to building trust within relationships, whether personal or professional. There is no tolerance for dishonesty in the academic world, for it undermines what we are dedicated to doing - furthering knowledge for the benefit of humanity.

Incomplete Course Grade

Students who have substantially completed the course but for serious extenuating circumstances, are unable to complete the Final Exam, may request an Incomplete grade. This request must be submitted in writing to the GSI and instructor. You must provide verifiable documentation for the seriousness of the extenuating circumstances.

According to university policy, the course work completion date is:

Fall Semester: 30 days prior to the first day of instruction of the following fall semester or the instructor provided deadline, whichever is earlier
Spring Semester and Summer Sessions: 30 days prior to the first day of instruction of the following spring semester or the instructor provided deadline, whichever is earlier.

Refer to the Office of the Registrar's website for more information on the university's policy on Incomplete Grades.

**Students with Disabilities**

If you require course accommodations due to a physical, emotional, or learning disability, contact UC Berkeley's Disabled Students' Program (DSP). Notify the instructor and GSI through course email of the accommodations you would like to use. You must have a Letter of Accommodation on file with UC Berkeley to have accommodations made in the course.

UC Berkeley is committed to providing robust educational experiences for all learners. With this goal in mind, we have activated the ALLY tool for this course. You will now be able to download content in a format that best fits your learning preference. PDF, HTML, EPUB, and MP3 are now available for most content items. For more information visit the alternative formats link or watch the video entitled, "Ally First Steps Guide."

**End of Course Evaluation**

Before your course ends, please take a few minutes to participate in the course evaluation to share your opinions about the course. Information about the course evaluation will be made available in bCourses.

**Course Outline**

Below is a weekly course schedule. Each week we’ll focus on a topic that is divided into further subtopics. Listed below you’ll see the reading assignments for each week organized by subtopic. In addition to the reading assignments, each subtopic will include lectures and additional relevant media. You will also find a list of assignments due that week. All readings, lectures, additional media, and assignments are provided in the week assigned in bCourses. Check bCourses for specific assignment due dates.
Week 1: Phonetics

- Watch lectures in modules 1.1-1.4 and submit tapbacks
- Complete phonetics check-in quiz
- Complete Assignment 1 (phonetics)
- Take IPA quiz
- Watch wrap-up discussion lecture

Week 2: Phonology

- Watch lectures in modules 2.1-2.4 and submit tapbacks
- Complete phonology check-in quiz
- Complete Assignment 2 (phonology)
- Submit Group Project 1: Phonetics/phonology
- Watch wrap-up discussion lecture

Week 3: Morphology

- Watch lectures in modules 3.1-3.4 and submit tapbacks
- Complete morphology check-in quiz
- Complete Assignment 3 (morphology)
- Watch wrap-up discussion lecture

Week 4: Morpho-phonology

- Watch lectures in modules 4.1-4.4 and submit tapbacks
- Submit Group Project 2: Morphology
- Take midterm exam

Week 5: Syntax

- Watch lectures in modules 5.1-5.4 and submit tapbacks
- Complete syntax check-in quiz
- Complete Assignment 4 (syntax)
- Watch wrap-up discussion lecture

Week 6: Semantics & Pragmatics

- Watch lectures in modules 6.1-6.4 and submit tapbacks
- Complete semantics check-in quiz
- Complete Assignment 5 (semantics & pragmatics)
- Submit Group Project 3: Syntax
- Watch wrap-up discussion lecture

**Week 7: Historical linguistics**

- Watch lectures in modules 7.1-7.4 and submit tapbacks
- Complete historical linguistics check-in quiz
- Complete Assignment 6 (language change)
- Watch wrap-up discussion lecture

**Week 8: Sociolinguistics**

- Watch lectures in modules 8.1-8.4 and submit tapbacks
- Submit Group Project 4: Historical and sociolinguistics group project
- Take final exam