

Study of Language

Instructor Jack B. Martin, 209 Tucker Hall, 221-3930, jbmart@wm.edu

Office hours TR 2-3 or by appointment

Class time and place TR 3:30-5:10, Tucker 216

The study of language has been central to both the humanities and social sciences, especially in anthropology, literature, philosophy, computer science, and cognitive psychology. This course focuses on the subdisciplines of linguistics (semantics, syntax, morphology, phonology, phonetics, language change) and connections between linguistics and other disciplines. Major themes of the course include the role of nature and nurture in language acquisition, constructs, and the relationship between language and mind.

By taking this course students should learn:

- to see beyond widely held myths about language
- to gain specific knowledge of the subfields in linguistics and prepare for other courses
- to understand traditional grammatical terminology, as well as its motivation and limits
- to see connections between linguistics and other disciplines
- to recognize the ways linguists describe, observe, and analyze language

Language is an important aspect of human behavior. As such, Study of Language is a GER 3 (Social Sciences) course.

Schedule at a glance (major assignments in italics)

	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	Week	Topics:	Readings:
			...	<u>25</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>28</u>	1	Knowledge of language	File 1
Aug.	<u>29</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>31</u>	1	2	3	4	2	Phonetics	File 3
Sept.	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	3	Animal comm.; <i>Quiz 1</i>	File 2
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	4	Phonology	File 4
	19	20	21	22	23	<u>24</u>	<u>25</u>	5	Phonology; Morphology	File 4
	<u>26</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>30</u>	1	2	6	<i>Quiz 2</i> ; Morphology	File 5
Oct.	3	4	5	6	7	8	<u>9</u>	7	Psycholing.; Visual lang.; <i>book title due</i>	File 9, 13
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	8	FALL BREAK; Syntax	File 6
	17	18	19	20	<u>21</u>	22	23	9	Syntax; <i>Quiz 3</i>	File 6
	24	<u>25</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>30</u>	10	Semantics	File 7
	<u>31</u>	1	2	3	4	5	6	11	Language variation	File 10
Nov.	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	12	Language change	File 12
	14	15	<u>16</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>18</u>	19	20	13	<i>Reports</i> ; <i>Quiz 4</i>	
	21	22	23	<u>24</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>27</u>	14	Writing systems; THANKSGIVING	File 15.2
	<u>28</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>30</u>	1	2	3	4	15	Summary, review	
Dec.	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		<i>Final exam 12/6, 1:30-4:30pm</i>	
	12	13	14	15	...					

Text *Language Files: Materials for an Introduction to Language and Linguistics.* Georgios Tserdanelis and Wai Yi Peggy Wong, eds. Ninth edition. Columbus: Ohio State University Press.

Requirements

Homework	15%	(The cumulative grade may be lowered with noticeably poor attendance.)
Quizzes	45%	
Report	5%	
Final exam	35%	

- **Homework** is generally easier than quizzes and is designed to make sure you are doing the reading, attending, and understanding concepts. Assignments are due at the beginning of class. Late assignments may be accepted up to one week late, but the grade will be lowered.
- **Quizzes** are difficult and important. Quizzes are used instead of a midterm because the information in this course builds on previous knowledge. Learn the important terms. Be able to do the problems.
- The **report** is a chance for you to connect your own interests to the course. By the Fall Break, you should find a book on a topic relating to language. Once your title is approved, read the book and write a summary and response of about three double-spaced paged. We'll discuss the books in week 13.
- The **final** will be cumulative and will concentrate on problem sets.

Keeping track of your grade

HOMEWORK	
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
A. Total/total possible:	

QUIZZES	
B. Quiz average:	

C. REPORT	
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D. FINAL EXAM	
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A x .15=	
B x .45=	
C x .05=	
D x .35=	
Sum of above (final grade):	

Grading scale:

A 93-100
A- 90-92
B+ 88-89
B 83-87
B- 80-82, etc.