Introduction to the Study of Language

ENG/LIN 211-210

Summer Session I 2016

Course Developer: Dr. Andrew Byrd[[1]](#endnote-1)

Teaching Assistant/Instructor: Kelly E. Wright

* This is an online course. To access the course visit Canvas and login with your LINK BLUE username and password.
* All times listed throughout this syllabus are Eastern Standard Times (EST); please plan accordingly if you are in a different time zone.
* You will want to refer to this syllabus and course schedule frequently throughout the four-week course.

**Course Description:**

This course is designed to give you a broad introduction to the field of Linguistics, the scientific study of language. This course is divided into two parts. The first will provide you with a basic foundation in the five core components of human grammar: syntax, morphology, phonetics, phonology, and semantics. We will then build upon this knowledge in the second section, surveying a number of linguistic subfields, including historical linguistics, sociolinguistics, language acquisition, and language and the brain.

**Course Goals/Learning Outcomes:**

This course hopes to:

* Instill in you an understanding of and appreciation for the complex, systematic nature of language.
* Acquaint you with the fundamental concepts and principles of linguistic theory and prepare you for higher-level linguistics courses.
* Train you in basic techniques of linguistic analysis.
* Promote tolerance of linguistic diversity, especially of your own way of speaking!

**Required Textbook**:

*The Language Instinct*, 3rd ed., by Steven Pinker. 2007. ISBN# 0061336467. This book is also available as an e-book. Marked as “LI” in the course schedule. Additional readings may be made available on Canvas.

* **The best way to contact the instructor:**

In distance learning courses, communication occurs primarily through email: kelly.wright@uky.edu .

* **For questions related to the course material, lectures, assignments, etc.:**

Post your question to the question feature on LectureTools. It allows you to view all other student questions and instructor replies. If you have a question that has not already been asked by another student, then you may post it, which will allow all other students to see your question and the instructor response. The material we cover in this class can be difficult and many students often have the same questions.

* **For technical assistance with Canvas or LectureTools:**

For any technical problems with Canvas or LectureTools—links that won’t work, pages that won’t appear, connections that are lost, assignments that are unable to be submitted due to tech issues—please contact the Canvas Helpdesk at helpdesk@uky.edu and copy me (kelly.wright@uky.edu) on your email that explains theses technical difficulties. You may also call them at 859-218-4357. I am not a digital learning platform expert, so please do not ask me for technical assistance.

Canvas support offices at UK typically close around 4:00 pm on Friday. If you wait to complete assignments until after normal business hours and encounter tech problems, there will be no available support to help you solve them. Make sure you get the help you need well before an assignment is due.

* **For any question or issue not specifically related to the material, lecture, homework, etc.:**

 Please email me at kelly.wright@uky.edu. For all electronic correspondence (Canvas and email), I will typically reply within 24 hours to the next business day. Questions posted on LectureTools (or email correspondence received) after 5:00 pm may be answered the next business day. Waiting on a response posted or emailed after 5:00 pm does not excuse the student from completing an assignment.

**Attendance and Participation:**

The course is designed for Monday-Friday student participation. During the semester, this same course content is covered in an 16-week course, so the student taking the course in this 4 week time frame should plan on spending at least 5-6 hours each day completing the readings, viewing the lectures and taking notes, reviewing the same lectures, and completing assignments. Some students will find they need to set aside more time in order to fully understand the concepts of this course and to complete the readings.

In this online course, daily attendance will not be counted. However, you still should keep up with the required readings and assignments. It is easy to get behind, so be sure to stay on top of the course schedule. It will also be possible to work ahead, should you so choose. It is your responsibility to access all online course material in a timely manner. To help keep you on track, I have provided a Course Schedule for you to follow, and you should check the Announcements page on Canvas every Monday morning and again on a daily basis to stay on top of any changes.

As this is an online course, students are expected to have access to the internet Monday-Friday, for 5-6 hours each day. Any student who will be unable to access the internet for a given period of time during this course must notify the instructor by Friday, May 13th with the dates and reasons for disconnection. All readings, lectures, activities, and quizzes should be completed ahead of time, since no late assignments will be accepted. In special cases, your instructor may make other arrangements for your assignment completion. Vacation is not a special case.

**Grading:**

Course Evaluation and Grading Scale:

Activities (11): 30% (3% each)                       A 90-100%

Online quizzes (11): 30% (3% each)              B 80-89%

LectureTools: 10%                                         C 70-79%

Final exam: 30%                                            D 60-69%

                                                                      E Below 60%

 You can review your scores by going to GRADES in Canvas.

**Activities:**

After most lectures, you will be required to complete activities that are designed to further enhance your learning of the subject matter. You may access these activities under the “Assignments” tab on Canvas, through which you should also submit your completed activity sheet. Your lowest activity grade will be dropped.

**Online Quizzes:**

After most lectures, you will be required to take a *brief* online quiz. These quizzes are not designed to be difficult; rather, their purpose is to ensure that everyone is keeping up with the reading and understands the material covered in the course. Note that each quiz will close at 11:59 pm on the Saturday after the quiz has been posted. Your lowest quiz grade will be dropped.

How do Canvas Quizzes Work?

* You can see on the course schedule when you will be expected to take a quiz. They'll always be posted on the first day of that week at 12:00 AM.
* After you've started the quiz, you have **TWO HOURS** to take it. That means if you start it at 2 pm, you MUST finish it by 4 pm, even if you pause the quiz.
* For this reason, you really should review ALL materials for that day before starting the quiz.
* Your quiz grades will be posted in the Canvas grade center.

**LectureTools:**

For each topic day, you will be required to participate in a number of activities within LectureTools to gauge your understanding of the concepts discussed. Your participation grade within this course derives directly from your participation in these activities. You can access LectureTools from this link <https://my.lecturetools.com/users/login> and through Canvas under “Modules,” where you will also find a short How To guide to assist your setup.

**Late Assignments:**

Late assignments will be accepted only in the event of documented, excused inability or absences as defined by University Senate Rules V, 2.4.2 <http://www.uky.edu/StudentAffairs/Code/part2.html>

Given that an online course is very different from a “live” class, students will not need to provide documentation to the instructor of traditionally “excused” absences **unless** you experience a significant illness, major religious holiday, death of an immediate family member or member of your household, or university-sponsored trip that requires the student to be:

1. Entirely unable to complete any coursework for more than one to two business days.
2. Entirely unable to get to a computer for one hour during the four day period (Friday to Monday) when the “Weekly” Assignment should be submitted.

Appropriate documentation for the following should be sent to the instructor at kelly.wright@uky.edu as soon as possible—at least two days before the assignment is missed so that the student and instructor can make arrangements for any missed work:

* Significant Illness: letterhead with an address, fax, and phone number of a healthcare professional should be given with a statement that the student was too sick to use a computer. Regular doctor appointments are not applicable and no extensions or concessions will be granted for this reason.
* University-Sponsored Trips: Official letters from the University are required as evidence of university approval. These can be scanned and emailed to the instructor or you can contact the instructor for mailing directions.
* If there is a death in your immediate family or household, you can email the instructor a link to the obituary or mail a copy of a service program. These can be scanned and emailed to the instructor or you can contact the instructor for mailing directions.
* Problems associated with your computer, procrastination, vacation time, transportation issues, and other “life issues” are not acceptable excuses for late submission of assignments. It is your responsibility to make sure that you access and submit assignments on time.

**Final Examination Information:**

Per University guidelines, the final exam **will be proctored live on UK’s campus**, so students should make plans to take the exam in person. The exam will take place on **Tuesday, June 7th: Location TBD.**Please make plans now to be present for the exam. Exams will be graded manually, by a team of faculty from the Linguistics Program. The final exam questions will resemble those problems found in the weekly assignments. Any student who will not be able to take the exam at UK on the scheduled date must contact the instructor by **Friday, May 13th** at the latest so we can begin to work together to locate a certified proctored-exam site near your location. No online exams will be given; all exams must be taken in person, with a proctor approved by the instructor consistent with department/university guidelines.

**Minimum Technology Requirements:**

You will also need Java, Chrome or Firefox, Flash, Adobe Acrobat Reader and QuickTime movie player. Students and faculty can download Microsoft Office Suite (including Word and PowerPoint) and other software packages *for free* from <https://download.uky.edu/> .

If you experience technical difficulties contact the Customer Service Center at 859-218- HELP (4357) or by e-mail at helpdesk@uky.edu. Please also inform the course instructor if you are having technical difficulties lasting more than 1 day. Please note, however, no late assignments are accepted—for this reason, you should always plan on completing and submitting assignments well in advance (the day before, when possible).

**Policy on Academic Accommodations:**

If you have a documented disability that requires academic accommodations in this course, please make your request to the University Disability Resource Center   <http://www.uky.edu/StudentAffairs/DisabilityResourceCenter/index.html>

The center will require current disability documentation. When accommodations are approved, the Center will provide you with a Letter of Accommodation which details the recommended accommodations. In order to receive accommodations in this course, you must provide me with a Letter of Accommodation from the Disability Resource Center (DRC) on the 4th Floor of the Multidisciplinary Science Building on the corner of Rose Street and Huguelet Drive. You may reach them at 859-257-2754 or at <http://www.uky.edu/StudentAffairs/DisabilityResourceCenter/contact.html>

Per DRC guidelines, students requesting accommodations must submit their written documentation from the DRD office to the instructor seven (7) days before the due date of first assignment or exam for which the student wishes to receive accommodations. If you have such a letter or anticipate such a letter, please email me immediately (by Thursday, May 12th if possible) so that we can arrange a way for you to submit your documentation as soon as possible.

**Academic Integrity, Cheating and Plagiarism:**

Plagiarism and cheating are serious academic offenses. The following is an excerpt taken from the "Students Rights and Responsibilities Handbook, University of Kentucky" regarding cheating:

"Cheating is defined by its general usage. It includes, but is not limited to, the wrongful giving, taking, or presenting any information or material by a student with the intent of aiding himself/herself or another on any academic work which is considered in any way in the determination of the final grade."

The following is an excerpt taken from the "Students Rights and Responsibilities Handbook, University of Kentucky" regarding plagiarism:

"All academic work, written or otherwise, submitted by students to their instructors or other academic supervisors, is expected to be the result of their own thought, research, or self-expression. When students submit work purporting to be their own, but which in any way borrows ideas, organization, wording or anything else from another source without appropriate acknowledgment of the fact, the students are guilty of plagiarism. Plagiarism includes reproducing someone else's work........ If the words of someone else are used, the student MUST put quotation marks around the passage in question and add an appropriate indication of its origin. Making simple changes while leaving the organization, content and phraseology intact is plagiaristic."

Charges of an academic offense will be made against any student who cheats or commits plagiarism. Penalties for such an offense will be assessed according to University Regulations regarding Academic Offenses. The most severe penalties include suspension or dismissal from the University.

NOTE\* In addition to the circumstances listed above, the following activities are considered evidence of cheating:

1. Any communication with another person, student or otherwise, during an examination or during any completion of a graded assignment.
2. Looking at another students’ work during an examination, or allowing another student to look at your work.
3. Collaborating with another student on an examination and/or submitting an assignment that is similar in wording or sentence construction to the work of another student in the course, unless the assignment has been identified as a group assignment.

Appropriate Online Behavior:

* Students are expected to maintain civility and decorum in all language used on Canvas and LectureTools and in email correspondence. Language should demonstrate respect for your fellow students and the instructor.
* Students are expected to regularly log in daily (Monday-Friday) to the course and to demonstrate an attitude that seeks to take full advantage of the educational opportunity. All students are expected to be prepared to work and actively engage in learning. The student is responsible for their own learning.
* Virtual communication and discussion "in cyberspace" occur in a social environment where normal rules of social interaction apply. The remoteness of the recipients is no excuse to behave in an antisocial manner and post unacceptable messages. Unacceptable messages include those that harass, intimidate, threaten, belittle, ridicule, express hatred or desire for, or aggression toward others. Let us be mindful to avoid words that imply that some groups of people are less worthy than others; this is a course in Linguistics after all. Any such posts should be reported to the instructor immediately.
* Discussion board and other electronic communication for this course should relate only to the course subject matter, generally respond to the posted threads, and always seek to further the aims of that particular discussion forum or chat session (e.g. stay on topic). Contributions to discussion boards and synchronous chat are the intellectual property of the authors.
* Students who quote another person in class projects, publications or even in remarks made on the discussion board should always acknowledge the source of that quote (e.g. do not plagiarize your classmates).
* Do not copy private messages to another person without the author's explicit permission.

**Distance Learning Library Services:**

Extra library readings and research are not a requirement for this course. Should you need to access to library materials, however, the following may be helpful: (http://www.uky.edu/Libraries/DLLS)

* Carla Cantagallo, DL Librarian, Email: dlservice@email.uky.edu
* Local phone number: 859. 257.0500, ext. 2171;
* Long-distance phone number: (800) 828-0439 (option #6)

**Dropping the Course/Course Withdrawal:**

Any student wishing to drop the course after the first day of class (May 10th) will need to contact the Student Records Division at the UK Office of the Registrar, 257-3382.

**Course Schedule:**

Please read this section carefully, and multiple times if necessary. Be sure to print it and have a copy on hand. It is designed to give you a framework for how each week will progress. Typically, one unit is covered per week. More details on specific daily tasks will be posted every Monday morning during the 4-week course, and other announcements or modifications might be posted on other days. It is ESSENTIAL that you check the announcements daily.

* Each set of lectures and activities will be located on LectureTools, identifiable by the day. For example, the “Language as an Instinct” lecture posted under the date 5/10 on LectureTools will have all the video lectures you will need to watch for the first week of class, as well as any LectureTools questions and activities that you need to answer.
* The activities and quizzes should be completed in the order listed on this course schedule.

The course schedule is here to help you stay on track. However, there is some flexibility in when you choose to watch the lectures and take the assignments. But remember that all activities, LectureTools questions, and quizzes must be submitted by Saturday evening at 11:59 PM, roughly one week after they are posted online. After this time, you will not have another opportunity to make them up if they are missed. Give yourself plenty of time to complete all of these assignments and do the reading and watch the lectures.

Please note that this general outline of a typical week is subject to change by the instructor; for this reason, it is very important that you read the Announcements page every Monday morning and then again on a daily basis through Fridays.

As a general outline, the course will proceed as follows:

(LI = Language Instinct)

Daily Schedule

**Daily Schedule**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Week** | **Date** | **Topic** | **Activity** | **Homework** |
| 1 | 5/10 | Languages as an Instinct |   | LI 1-3, 12*Quiz 1* |
| 5/11 | Syntax | Mad Libs | LI 4*Quiz 2* |
| 5/12 | Morphology | Turkish & Esperanto | LI 5*Quiz 3* |
| 2 | 5/16 | Phonetics | Transcription | LI 6*Quiz 4* |
| 5/17 | Phonology | Writing Systems | *Quiz 5* |
| 5/18 | Semantics |  | LI 7 |
| 3 | 5/23 | Typology | WALS | LI 8*Quiz 6* |
| 5/24 | Language Change | The Comparative Method | *Quiz 7* |
| 5/25 | Language & Society, Day 1 | Dialects | *Quiz 8* |
| 5/26 | Language & Society, Day 2 | Pidgins & Creoles | *Quiz 9* |
| 4 | 5/30 | Language Acquisition | Babies & Engrish | LI 9*Quiz 10* |
| 5/31 | Language and the Brain | Aphasias & Sign Language | LI 10*Quiz 11* |
| 6/1 | Animal Language | Dolphins & More | LI 11 |
| 6/2 | Review for Exam |  | LI 13 |

1. Kelly Wright was the primary instructor for this course, but the assignment structures, descriptions, course materials, and policies are the intellectual property of Dr. Andrew Byrd. [↑](#endnote-ref-1)