

# Introduction to Linguistics



LING20100

Fall 2014

**Instructor:** Wenfeng Li  
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**Office:** BRNG B290  
**Office Hours:** Monday & Wednesday 2:00-3:00 pm  
**Lectures:** MWF 3:30-4:20 pm, **REC112**

## Course materials:

Fromkin, V.A., Rodman, R., & Hyams, N. 2014. An introduction to language (10th ed.). Boston: Wadsworth, Cengage Learning. [FRH]. (on reserve at HSSE Library; purchase of the textbook **NOT** required)

## Supplementary:

Dubinsky, Stanley & Chris Holcomb. 2011. *Understanding Language Through Humor*, 1st ed. United Kingdom: Cambridge University Press.

## Course objectives

This introductory course on linguistics aims to help you develop critical thinking with respect to a wide range of linguistic phenomena, and problem-solving skills necessary for analyzing such phenomena. During the 16-week period, you will learn fundamental concepts of linguistics in the areas of phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, pragmatics, sociolinguistics, etc. With the training in this course, you will be able to proceed to more advanced linguistic courses. If you choose not to take another linguistics-related course, it is hoped that the training of this course will make it possible for you to better understand appreciate complexity and diversity of human languages.

## Useful websites

Typing IPA symbols: <http://ipa.typeit.org/>  
Phonetics-the sounds of American English (with Flash animation):  
<http://www.uiowa.edu/~acadtech/phonetics/english/english.html>

## Assessment:

### Attendance

5% / 50 points

Attendance is mandatory and you need to sign the attendance sheet at the beginning of each class.

You may have no more than six unexcused absences during the semester. If you miss seven or more than seven classes, you will lose 20 points; if you miss eight classes, you will lose 30

points; if you missed more than eight classes, you will lose 50 points.

#### Participation/ Class Presentation+Essay

4% / 40 points (20+20)

You are expected to participate in all class discussions. To ensure your participation, you will read 8 Articles (see Blackboard) and choose to present one of the 8 articles in a group of 2 members. Your group is responsible for presenting the article chosen and coming up with at least 2 questions for discussion, on the day the article is scheduled/due. The presentation and discussion should be limited to **15 minutes** in total. The class presentation will be evaluated at the group level and take up 20 points.

In addition, each individual will write a short (350-500 words) essay (worth 20 points) about any Article **except the one that is presented by the group you are in.** The essay should be written on your own and in your own words, and must demonstrate your critical thinking about the issue(s) discussed in the reading, i.e. argue for/against the author's conclusion(s) and provide concrete examples in support of your position. It is not a formal paper and you do not need to do any outside research. You can use your own experiences or anything else you think is relevant to support your argument, but you must develop your argument(s) in depth and in a structured manner. Try to formulate a thesis or pose a question, and then suggest a possible answer. You do not have to use technical vocabulary but do refer to what you're learning in our class, if you can. You may turn in a typed hard-copy of your Essay at the beginning of the class period it is due (see Schedule) or e-mail it to [li830@purdue.edu](mailto:li830@purdue.edu) before the beginning of class on the due date.

#### Homework (8)

20% / 200 points (25 points each)

The homework assignments will be posted on Blackboard, in the Assignment folder. For each homework assignment, you must write up your answers in your own words. You are encouraged to work with other students, but you need to provide the names of the ones you work with. **Only hard-copies will be accepted (no e-mail submissions).**

#### Written Assignments (2)

16% / 160 points (80 points each)

In addition to the HWs, you will turn in two longer written assignments during the semester. The WAs will also be posted on Blackboard, in the Assignment folder. The WAs include a set of problems similar to those on the HWs. You may discuss your WAs with other students but if you do, you must write your own answers and provide the names of anyone you work with. **Again, only hard-copies will be accepted (no e-mail submissions).**

#### Phonetics Quiz (15 min in-class)

10% / 100 points

#### Midterm Exam (in-class)

20% / 200 points

The Midterm Exam will cover chapters 1-2, 5-6 (**FRH**) and you will have one class period to complete it. You will be allowed to have ½ a page (4'x 5") of your own handwritten notes on the test.

### Final Exam

25% / 250 points

Details to be announced later in the semester.

### **Extra credit**

There will be a couple of extra credit assignments throughout the semester. Details will be announced later in the semester.

### **Grading policy**

|                    |               |
|--------------------|---------------|
| A+ = 950 and above | C+ = 650-699  |
| A = 900-949        | C = 600-649   |
| A- = 850-899       | C- = 550-599  |
| B+ = 800-849       | D+ = 500-549  |
| B= 750-799         | D = 450 – 499 |
| B- = 700-749       | D- = 400-449  |
|                    | F = below 400 |

\*The instructor reserves the right to adjust this grading scale but only in a direction that would benefit students. In the event of a major campus emergency, course requirements, deadlines and grading percentages are subject to changes that may be necessitated by a revised semester calendar or other circumstances beyond the instructor's control.

### **Class policies:**

- Please turn off your cell phone before coming to class.
- Generally, no food is allowed in the classroom but beverages are OK.
- Only hard-copies of assignments will be accepted. If possible, please type up your answers; otherwise, make sure that your handwriting is neat and easy to read.
- If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to talk to me during our office hours or by scheduling an appointment. You may also e-mail me anytime.
- **Regarding exams, no make-ups will be allowed unless you hand in a properly documented excuse from an independently verifiable, authoritative source to justify your absence. Depending on circumstances, you should notify me at least 24 hours in advance of the scheduled time and date of the exam.**

**Note:** In the event of a campus emergency or other unforeseeable circumstances, course requirements, deadlines and grading percentages are subject to change. I will notify you as soon as possible if this happens, and you may always contact me by e-mail.