

SLS 441 (77158, Fall 2014):
Language Concepts for Second Language Learning and Teaching

Instructor:	Hyunah Ahn	Office:	Moore Hall 262
Day & Time:	Tuesday & Thursday, 1:30-2:45	Hours:	Tue/Thu 3:00-4:00
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I. General Description and Aims

This course is an introduction to the study of language, with particular attention to the structure of English. It will examine the component parts of language, namely, phonetics and phonology (the sound system), morphology (the internal structure of words), syntax (the structure of phrases and sentences), and semantics and pragmatics (meaning) as well as touch on other linguistic topics (e.g. language typology, first language acquisition, etc.). While emphasis will be given to the structure of English, especially its morphosyntax, data from other languages will also be looked at. The overall goals are (a) to become familiar with the key concepts and terminology needed to describe and analyze language; (b) to gain a basic understanding of the way language works; (c) to appreciate how languages differ (and how they're the same); and (d) to help in your reading of the primary (second language acquisition) literature.

The course will be a combination of assigned readings, lectures, exercises, group discussions and small group projects. No prior knowledge of linguistics or language description is assumed.

II. Texts

Required:

1. Department of Linguistics. 2011. *Language Files: Materials for an Introduction to Language and Linguistics*, 11th edition. Columbus: Ohio State University Press. (**LF**)
2. O'Grady, William, John Archibald, Mark Aronoff & Janie Rees-Miller, eds. 2010. *Contemporary Linguistics: An Introduction*, 6th edition. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's. (**CL**)
3. Pinker, Steven. 1994 (reprinted 2007). *The Language Instinct: How the Mind Creates Language*. (available from different publishers; check Amazon (<http://www.amazon.com/>) for used copies)

Recommended:

4. Vanderweide, Teresa, William O'Grady, John Archibald, Mark Aronoff & Janie Rees-Miller. 2010. *Study Guide: Contemporary Linguistics: An Introduction*. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's.

III. Course Requirements and Assessment:

1. Regular attendance, reading and class participation (10%)
Be sure to complete the readings by the date due, so that you get the most out of the lectures.
2. Homework/Problem sets (good, satisfactory, poor) (15%)
Homework is due on the date specified; no late homework will be accepted (no credit/no feedback given to late homework)
3. Language presentation (in small groups) (15%)
This is to be an oral presentation on a language you do not know, summarizing at least one aspect of its phonetics/phonology, morphology and syntax.

4. Three tests (20% each) (60%)

5. Extra credit

You may participate in the *Linguistics Beyond the Classroom* (LBC) program for an extra 3% credit towards your final course grade. The purpose of this program is for students to get first-hand experience of experimental language research by participating in an on-going research project conducted here at UH. For more information, see <http://www.ling.hawaii.edu/LBC>. You may complete either Option 1 (research participation) or Option 2 (500-word summary of media file) as outlined on the LBC website. You must return your completed questionnaire (Option 1) or summary (Option 2) to me by **11 December** to receive credit.

Grading:

100-97%=A+; 96-93%=A; 92-90%=A-; 89-87%=B+; 86-83%=B; 82-80%=B-; 79-77%=C+; 76-73%=C; 72-70%=C-; 69-67%=D+; 66-63%=D; 62-60%=D-; < 60%=F

IV. **Tentative schdule** (subject to change):

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Reading</u>	<u>Homework</u>
<u>Week 1</u>			
26 Aug.	Introduction to course		
28 Aug.	Language: A preview	CL: pp. 1-13 LF: 1.2-1.4, 14.0-14.1 Pinker: Chapter 1	pp. 13-14: 3, 4, 6
<u>Week 2</u>			
2 Sept.	Phonetics [2 September: last day to withdraw without a 'W']	CL: pp. 15-34 LF: 2.0-2.2 Pinker: Chapter 12	pp. 55-56: 2-6 pp. 89-90: 6; p. 91; p. 93: 17
4 Sept.	Cont.	CL: pp. 34-40	pp. 56-57: 7-9, 10a-h
<u>Week 3</u>			
9 Sept.	Cont.	LF: 2.3, 2.6 Pinker: Chapter 2	pp. 93-97: 18b-z, 19b-z, 21, 34 PRAAT exercise 1
11 Sept.	Cont.	CL: pp. 40-55	pp. 57-58: 12, 15 PRAAT exercise 2
<u>Week 4</u>			
16 Sept.	Phonology	CL: pp. 59-77; 105-06 LF: 3.0-3.2	pp. 106-07: 1-3 p. 136: 9
18 Sept.	Cont.	CL: pp. 77-86 LF: 3.5 Pinker: Chapter 6	pp. 142-45: 31, 35, 40

Week 5

23 Sept. Cont. *CL*: pp. 86-104 pp. 109-12: 6, 7, 12, 14
LF: 3.3 pp. 137-38: 15-18

25 Sept. **Catch-up for weeks 1-5. Come to class with specific questions/areas to focus on.**

Week 6

30 Sept. **Test 1**

2 Oct. **Morphology** *CL*: pp. 115-27; 145-46 pp. 147-49: 1, 4, 6-8
LF: 4.0; 4.4 p. 183: 24a-h
Pinker: Chapter 5

Week 7

7 Oct. Cont. *CL*: pp. 127-35 pp. 149-51: 9, 11a-1, 14
LF: 4.1-4.2 pp. 178-79: 2, 4
Pinker: Chapter 3

9 Oct. Cont. *CL*: pp. 135-45 pp. 151-52: 17, 19
LF: 4.5 p. 185: 30; p. 189: 38

Week 8

14 Oct. **Syntax** *CL*: pp. 155-167 pp. 199-200: 2, 4, 5
LF: 5.0-5.1
Pinker: Chapter 4

16 Oct. Cont. *CL*: pp. 167-77; 194-98 pp. 200-01: 6-9
LF: 5.3-5.4 p. 234: 20

Week 9

21 Oct. Cont. *CL*: pp. 177-87 pp. 201-02: 10, 11
LF: 5.5 p. 237: 35
Pinker: Chapter 7 handout exercise

23 Oct. Cont. *CL*: pp. 187-94 p. 202: 12, 13
 [24 October: last day to
 withdraw with 'W'] handout exercise

Week 10

28 Oct. **Catch-up for weeks 6-9. Come to class with specific questions/areas to focus on.**

30 Oct. **Test 2**

Week 11

4 Nov. **Holiday** (Election Day)

6 Nov. **Language documentation**

Movie screening: *The Linguists* (2008)

Presentation discussion

pre- and post-movie exercise

