

Linguistics 1: Introduction to the Study of Language

Summer 2005, #253002130

Instructor Heather Willson
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Office Hours: Mon 10:00AM – 12:00PM and by appointment

Lectures MW 1:00 – 3:05 p.m.
Public Policy 2232

Webpage <http://www.bol.ucla.edu/~hwillson/Ling1.html>

Course Description

Summary of what is known about human language; unique nature of human language, its structure, its universality, and its diversity; language in its social and cultural setting; language in relation to other aspects of human inquiry and knowledge

Contacting Me

- (1) see me before or after class with a quick question;
- (2) come to my office hours;
- (3) email me;
- (4) make an appointment

Books and Resources

Steven Pinker, *The Language Instinct*, HarperPerennial, 1994. [Perennial Classics edition, 2001]

Lecture notes: posted on the course website. **NOTE:** I will attempt to have notes posted the night prior to the pertinent lecture so that you can print them out and use them to take notes in class, but I reserve the right to revise the class notes as need arises (I don't anticipate any major changes).

Grading Policy

Quizzes: 20% (2 quizzes, 10% each)
Homework: 40% (5 assignments, lowest one will be dropped, 10% each)
Final: 40%

Quizzes: The quizzes will be short (5 – 15 minutes) and will be done in class. They may consist of multiple choice, short answer, and/or short essay questions. There will be no make-up quizzes.

Homework: Homework will be distributed on Wednesday is due at the **beginning** of class on the following Monday (see the course schedule). You may consult with other students concerning homework; if you do so, you must list the name(s) of the student(s) you worked with on your homework. However you must write up your homework individually. No late homework will be accepted. The lowest homework score will be dropped.

No academic dishonesty of any kind will be tolerated.

Extra Credit: You may receive extra credit for participating in a linguistics experiment. To participate, send an e-mail to subjects@gmail.com. Please include 1) which class you are taking and 2) what day/time you are available.

Revised Course Schedule and Readings

Week 1

- 8/8 Introduction: The language instinct *Chapter 1-2*
8/10 The relation between language and culture; the relation *Chapter 3*
between language and thought (except 64-69)
Film: *Colorless Green Ideas (Human Language Series #1)*

Week 2

- 8/15 Syntax *Chapter 4*
Homework #1 Due (skip 99-118)
8/17 Morphology *Chapters 5*

Week 3

- 8/22 Phonetics *Chapter 6*
Homework #2 Due
8/24 Phonetics cont.
Film: *American Tongues*
Quiz #1 in class

Week 4

- 8/29 Language classification and the sources of language *Chapter 8*
diversity (skim 232-241)
Film: *In Search of the First Language*
Homework #3 Due
8/31 Language and the mind *Chapter 10*
Film: *The Mind: Language* (skip 324-333)

Week 5

- 9/5 Labor Day: No Class
9/7 Language development *Chapter 9*
Film: *Acquiring the Human Language (Human Language Series #2)* (skip 287-293)
Quiz #2 in Class
Homework #4 Due

Week 6

- 9/12 Language Development/course conclusion & review
Homework #5 Due
9/14 **Final Exam— You are responsible for all the material in the readings, lectures, films, homework assignments, and quizzes.**