

LINGUISTICS 1

INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF LANGUAGE

(ONLINE)

(January, 17 – March, 28, 2009)

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Course Description

This course is an electronic version of Linguistics 1 “Introduction to the Study of Language”, taught using the Internet and email. This is a balanced survey of what is known about human language, with particular emphasis placed on American English. We will discuss the structure of human language including articulation and interaction of speech sounds (phonetics and phonology), word formation and sources of new words (morphology), structure of sentences (syntax), meaning (semantics and pragmatics), social aspects of language (sociolinguistics), the origin of English and related languages (historical linguistics), language acquisition by children, and the neural foundations of language. This course may be taken as an introduction to the scientific study of language, and will also provide a useful background for higher-level courses in linguistics. The course grade will be calculated as follows:

Quizzes:	36%
Homework Assignments:	54%
Participation in Online Discussions:	10%

Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for this course other than an Internet access and an email account. Please download a font for the International Phonetic Alphabet (= IPA) to your computer. IPA fonts are available for free download at <http://scripts.sil.org>.

Textbook and Course Materials

Finegan, Edward. *Language: Its Structure and Use*. 5th ed. Boston, MA: Wadsworth. [Required]

Pinker, Steven. *The Language Instinct* (any edition). [Optional/Recommended]

Additional materials will be posted on Blackboard.

Course Outline

Week	Dates	Topics	Readings	Quizzes	Homework
1	1/17 – 1/23	Words and Their Parts.	Chapter 2		Homework 1
2	1/24 – 1/30	The Sounds of Languages.	Chapter 3		Homework 2
3	1/31 – 2/6	Sound Systems of Language.	Chapter 4	Quiz 1	Homework 3
4	2/7 – 2/13	The Structure of Sentences.	Chapter 5	Quiz 2	Homework 4
5	2/14 – 2/20	The Study of Meaning.	Chapter 6	Quiz 3	Homework 5
6	2/21 – 2/27	Writing Systems.	Chapter 12	Quiz 4	Homework 6
7	2/28 – 3/6	Language Change.	Chapter 13		Homework 7
8	3/7 – 3/13	Language Acquisition.	Chapter 15		Homework 8
9	3/14 – 3/20	Language and the Brain.	(Blackboard)	Quiz 5	Homework 9
10	3/21 – 3/28	Language and Thought.	(Blackboard)	Quiz 6	