



湖北工業大學
HUBEI UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

Course Title	Introduction to Linguistic Theory
Course Code	LING 2111
Semester	Summer 2026
Course Length	4 Weeks, 60 Contact Hours
Credits	4
Instructor	TBA
Office	TBA
Email	TBA
Prerequisite	N/A

Course Description:

This course is a general introduction to the study of language. It includes an overview of foundational principles of linguistic theory and structure and introduces some of the core areas of linguistics research: phonetics and phonology (the sound system), morphology (the structure of words), syntax (the structure of phrases and sentences), semantics (how words relate to meaning), pragmatics (how meanings are generally situational). We will also study the analytical methods that have been developed in these subfields and apply them to linguistic data.

Course Goals:

Students who successfully complete this course will demonstrate competency in the following general education core goals:

- **Critical thinking skills** – Students will engage in creative and/or innovative thinking, and/or inquiry, analysis, evaluation, synthesis of information, organizing concepts, and constructing solutions.
- **Communication skills** – Students will demonstrate effective written, oral, and visual communication.
- **Teamwork** – Students will demonstrate the ability to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal and consider different points of view.
- **Social responsibility** – Students will demonstrate intercultural competency and civic knowledge by engaging effectively in local, regional, national, and global communities.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- apply competently the knowledge of phonetics and phonology (i) to carry out analysis of phonetic data and (ii) to derive sound patterns and to formulate phonological rules in languages;

- describe the nature of human language, its universality and diversity;
- perform basic linguistic analysis of language data to solve language and communication-related problems;
- apply basic concepts of linguistics in areas such as phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics;
- apply linguistic theories and concepts to explain how language is learned and generalize about the language pattern in social contexts;
- observe and discuss language phenomena from various perspectives.

Textbooks:

Dawson, Hope C., Antonio Hernandez, and Cory Shain, Editors. *Language Files: Materials for an Introduction to Language and Linguistics*, 13th Edition. Ohio State University Press, 2022.

Course Requirements:

Quizzes

Periodic quizzes will assess comprehension of core concepts and assigned readings. Quizzes will consist of multiple-choice and short-answer questions. The lowest quiz score will be dropped.

Homework Assignments

Five homework assignments will provide students with opportunities to apply analytical techniques to linguistic data.

Midterm Exam

The midterm will test material covered in the first half of the course, including phonetics, phonological patterns, and basic morphology. The exam will consist of transcription exercises, problem-solving tasks, and short essays.

Final Exam

The cumulative final exam will evaluate students' understanding of linguistic structures and analytical methods. Students will demonstrate their grasp of linguistic concepts and theories and their ability to apply them to linguistic data analysis. The exam format will include phonetic transcription, phonological analysis, morphological problem sets, problem-solving, labeling, short answer, and multiple-choice questions.

Reflective Self-Assessment

A short-written assignment requiring students to reflect on their learning progress and areas for improvement. This is due at the end of the term.

Assessments: Activity	Percent Contribution
Quizzes	15%
Homework Assignments	30%
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	30%
Reflective Self-Assessment	5%

Grading:

Final grades will be based on the sum of all possible course points as noted above.

Grade	Percentage of available points
A	94-100
A-	90-93
B+	87-89
B	84-86
B-	80-83
C+	77-79
C	74-76
C-	70-73
D	64-69
D-	60-63
F	0-59

Course Schedule:

The schedule of activities is subject to change at the reasonable discretion of the instructor. Minor changes will be announced in class, major ones provided in writing.

LING 2111 Schedule		
Lecture	Topic	Readings
L1	Syllabus Overview Preview of Language Study Grammar and Linguistic Competence	Chapter 1
L2	Phonetics: The Sounds of Language Phonetic Transcription	Chapter 2
L3	The Sound-Producing System Sound Classes	Chapter 2
L4	Consonant Articulation Manners of Articulation	Chapter 2
L5	Vowels Speech Sounds of the World's Languages	Chapter 2
L6	Suprasegmentals Speech Production	Chapter 2
L7	Acoustic Phonetics	Chapter 2
L8	The Phonetics of Signed Languages Other Vowels and Consonants HW 1 due	Chapter 2
L9	Phonology: Contrasts and Patterns Segments	Chapter 3
L10	Syllables Features	Chapter 3
L11	Phonemes and Allophones	Chapter 3
L12	Derivations and Rules Solving Phonology Problems HW 2 due	Chapter 3
L13	Midterm Exam	---
L14	Morphology: The Analysis of Word Structure Words and Word Formation: The Nature of the Lexicon	Chapter 4
L15	Morphological Processes Derivation Compounding	Chapter 4

L16	Inflection Other Morphological Phenomena Morphophonemics HW 3 due	Chapter 4
L17	Syntax: The Analysis of Sentence Structure Categories and Structure	Chapter 5
L18	Complement Options Move	Chapter 5
L19	Universal Grammar and Parametric Variation Some Additional Structures HW 4 due	Chapter 5
L20	Semantics: The Analysis of Meaning The Conceptual System	Chapter 6
L21	Lexical Semantics: The Meanings of Words	Chapter 6
L22	Syntax and Sentence Interpretation Other Factors in Sentence Interpretation HW 5 due	Chapter 6
L23	Pragmatics What is Pragmatics?	Chapter 7
L24	Language in Context Rules of Conversation	Chapter 7
L25	Speech Acts Presupposition Reflective Self-Assessment due Final Exam	Chapter 7 ---

Accommodation Statement

Academic accommodations may be made for any student who notifies the instructor of the need for an accommodation. It is imperative that you take the initiative to bring such needs to the instructor's attention, as he/she is not legally permitted to inquire. Students who may require assistance in emergency evacuations should contact the instructor as to the most appropriate procedures to follow.

Academic Integrity Statement

Each student is expected to maintain the highest standards of honesty and integrity in academic and professional matters. The University reserves the right to take disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal, against any student who is found guilty of academic dishonesty or otherwise fails to meet the standards. Any student judged to have engaged in academic dishonesty in coursework may receive a reduced or failing grade for the work in question and/or for the course.

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, dishonesty in quizzes, tests, or assignments; claiming credit for work not done or done by others; hindering the academic work of other students; misrepresenting academic or professional qualifications within or without the University; and nondisclosure or misrepresentation in filling out applications or other University records.

Other Items:

Attendance and Expectations

All students are required to attend every class, except in cases of illness, serious family concerns, or other major problems. We expect that students will arrive on time, be prepared to listen and participate as appropriate, and stay for the duration of a meeting rather than drift in or out casually. In short, we anticipate that students will show professors and fellow students maximum consideration by minimizing the disturbances that cause interruptions in the learning process. This means that punctuality is a must, that cellular phones be turned off, and that courtesy is the guiding principle in all exchanges among students and faculty. You will be responsible for the materials and ideas presented in the lecture.

Assignment Due Dates

All written assignments must be turned in at the time specified. Late assignments will not be accepted unless prior information has been obtained from the instructor. If you believe you have extenuating circumstances, please contact the instructor as soon as possible.

Make-Up Work

The instructor will not provide students with class information or make-up assignments/quizzes/exams missed due to an unexcused absence. Absences will be excused and assignments/quizzes/exams may be made up only with written documentation of an authorized absence. Every effort should be made to avoid scheduling appointments during class. An excused student is responsible for requesting any missed information from the instructor and setting up any necessary appointments outside of class.

Access, Special Needs and Disabilities

Please notify the instructor at the start of the semester if you have any documented disabilities, a medical issue, or any special circumstances that require attention, and the school will be happy to assist.