

EN/AN 6/4403: Introduction to Linguistics

Section 01 (TR 2:00–3:15pm); CRN: 31944 (U), 31957 (G); McCain Bldg. 180

Fall 2022

Instructor



Dr. Ander Beristain



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Office: 2515 Lee Hall



Office hours: M R 3:30–5:00pm
(or by appointment)

Course description

This course provides an introduction to the scientific study of human language. We will analyze the various branches of general linguistics (phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax) and explore interdisciplinary topics such as first, second, and heritage language acquisition, psycholinguistics, and sociolinguistics.

Course objectives

By the end of this course, students will be able to (a) define and explain fundamental terms and concepts in linguistics, (b) use those terms and concepts to analyze novel language data, (c) apply linguistic concepts to real-world issues in a variety of contexts, (d) gain a firm base for language learning and teaching and further linguistic study.

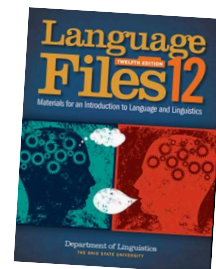
No prerequisites.

Required texts

Textbook: *Language Files* (12th edition), 2016, by The Department of Linguistics, The Ohio State University. ISBN: 9780814252703.


You are welcome to use either a **hard copy** or an **electronic version** of the textbook.

Please have your book available during class meetings, as we will use it frequently for reference and for practice exercises. The readings listed on the course schedule are to be done before class on the day they are listed.



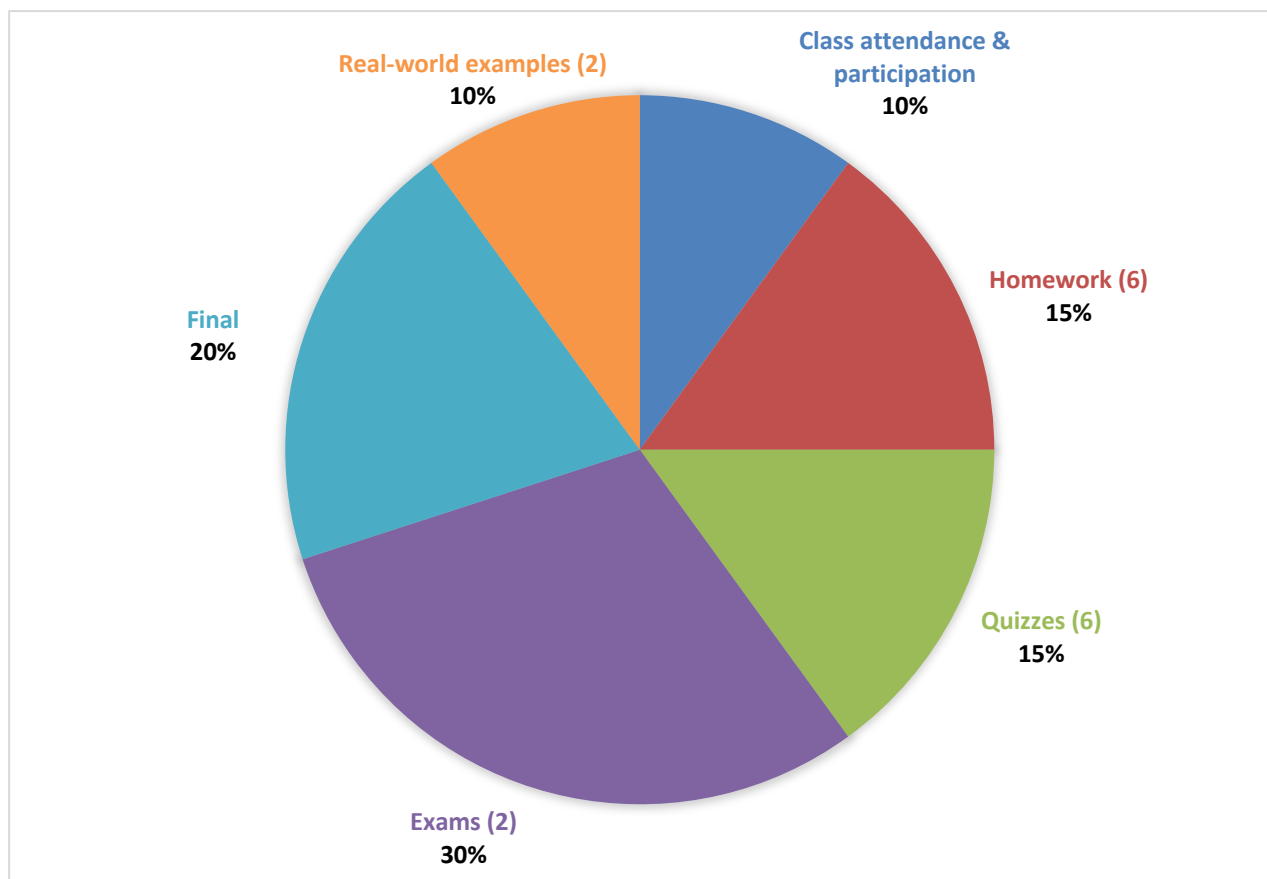
Links to supplemental materials (<https://linguistics.osu.edu/research/pubs/lang-files/links>) and sound files (<https://linguistics.osu.edu/research/pubs/lang-files/sounds>) to enhance your textbook reading are provided on the class Canvas page. The "link" and "sound" icons in the book indicate that additional materials are available for a particular topic.

Grading scale



90.0 – 100	A	4.0
80.0 – 89.9	B	3.0
70.0 – 79.9	C	2.0
60.0 – 69.9	D	1.0
0.00 – 59.9	F	0

Grading breakdown



Graduate students

Students registered for EN/AN 6403 will be assigned **extra readings** (mutually agreed upon readings that fit the students' interest(s)). They will meet with the instructor at least twice to discuss the readings and will write a final research paper (8-10 pp.) on a linguistic topic of their choice. The paper grade will be averaged equally with the Exam grades in the calculation of the test average.

Class attendance & participation (10%)

Class attendance and participation will start counting after Week 3 of class. This section is a face-to-face instructional class. Per Academic Operating Policy 12.09 (see <https://www.policies.msstate.edu/sites/www.policies.msstate.edu/files/1209.pdf>), students are expected to attend all class meetings in person. Should a student expect a university-excused absence from a class, the student should contact the course instructor of record to inform them of the absence and the reason for it. If you arrive later than 10 minutes (unless it is justified) you will be marked as absent.

You will be able to obtain **5 points per day**. The following rubric will be employed to evaluate your class participation:

5 points (if ALL of the following are true)

- Arrives for class on time.
- Participates actively both in group work and in whole-class discussions.
- Demonstrates a thorough understanding of the assigned readings.

3 point (if ANY of the following is true)

- Arrives no more than 10 minutes late for class.
- Has a passive attitude when working in groups (other group members do most of the work).
- Is only partially familiar with the key concepts in the assigned readings.
- Participation is mostly limited to personal experiences or anecdotes.

0 points (if ANY of the following is true)

- Arrives more than 10 minutes late for class.
- Works on assignments for other classes or is otherwise distracted on activities not related to the class, such as texting.
- Does not demonstrate any familiarity with the assigned readings.
- Does not volunteer or contribute to the class discussion.

Homework (15%)

There will be **six** written homework assignments assigned over the course of the semester (each one corresponding to a different area within linguistics). Details of the assignments will be announced in class and posted in Canvas.

Assignments will be turned in electronically as a **PDF** document through **Canvas**. Homework will be due **Sunday at 11:55 PM** after the unit is over. Specific deadlines are listed on the course calendar. Please do not send homework via email.

Assignments will be graded on a **ten-point scale**. Late homework will be accepted until the beginning of the next class meeting and will be marked down one point (i.e., one letter grade). I consider homework an opportunity to figure things out and to practice, so grading on homework is quite lenient. *10*: perfect; *9.5*: very good; *9*: complete, but with some errors; *8 or lower*: some major problems and/or incomplete. These grades are not parallel to what the same work would earn on a test.

You may discuss your homework with others to help each other figure out the problems, but you must list the names of the people you worked with at the top of your homework paper. Failure to acknowledge collaboration on homework counts as academic dishonesty and leaves you open to the penalties associated with violation of the MSU honor code. In assignments that require you to come up with original examples, all students should have their own examples.

Quizzes (15%)

A total of **six quizzes** will be distributed in class. They will cover a mixture of material from the assigned readings and material covered in class up to that moment. Quizzes will be **non-cumulative**. I think of quizzes as warm-ups for the exams. You may have a single sheet (one-sided standard letter size) of notes for the quizzes. Quizzes will be done **during the last 15-20 minutes of class**. Notes must be turned in with your quiz. Make-up quizzes will be given only in the case of a medical or family emergency or if I have preapproved an absence from class.

Exams (30%) and Final (20%)

There will be a total of **two tests** and a **final** exam throughout the semester. The material you are tested on will be taken from both class lectures and assigned readings. You are expected to take detailed notes of the class lectures and to ask questions whenever something from class or the textbook is unclear. **The exams are NOT cumulative but the final IS cumulative**. No make-up tests will be given unless there are compelling circumstances to warrant it. In this case, you must notify me in advance of the test time, or as soon as humanly possible thereafter.

Real-world examples (10%)

The real-world examples are a kind of show-and-tell of things that you have found in the real world to illustrate linguistic concepts that we have discussed in class. Beginning in the second week of class, every class meeting (except test days) will begin with a few real-world example presentations. Students will sign up for their presentation slots during the first week of class. Every student will present **two real-world examples** over the course of the semester and will turn in a one-page written discussion of each example. Presentations will be short – only a few minutes. A separate handout with details on this assignment will be posted on Canvas, and details will be discussed in class.

University policies

Disability Resource Center

MSU is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for all students. The Disability Resource Center (01 Montgomery Hall) collaborates with students who have disabilities to arrange reasonable accommodations. If you have, or think you may have, a disability, please contact drc@saffairs.msstate.edu or 662-325-3335 to arrange a confidential discussion regarding equitable access and reasonable accommodations. Disabilities may include, but are not limited to, conditions related to mental health, chronic health, attention, learning, autism, brain injury, vision, hearing, mobility, speech, or intellectual disabilities. In the case of short-term disabilities (e.g., broken arm), students and instructors can often work to minimize barriers. If additional assistance is needed, please contact the Disability Resource Center.

Student Honor Code

“As a Mississippi State University student I will conduct myself with honor and integrity at all times. I will not lie, cheat, or steal, nor will I accept the actions of those who do.”

Academic dishonesty includes cheating on tests as well as copying or otherwise plagiarizing in other assignments. The standard penalty for violation of the honor code is a grade of F for the class. For additional information, visit <https://www.honorcode.msstate.edu/policy>.

Title IX

MSU is committed to complying with Title IX, a federal law that prohibits discrimination, including violence and harassment, based on sex. This means that MSU’s educational programs and activities must be free from sex discrimination, sexual harassment, and other forms of sexual misconduct. If you or someone you know has experienced sex discrimination, sexual violence and/or harassment by any member of the University community, you are encouraged to report the conduct to MSU’s Director of Title IX/EEO Programs at 325-8124 or by e-mail to titleix@msstate.edu. Additional resources are available from the Dean of Students at <https://www.students.msstate.edu/sexual-misconduct-sexual-assault/>.

University Safety Statement

Mississippi State University values the safety of all campus community members. Students are encouraged to register for Maroon Alert texts and to download the Everbridge App. Visit the Personal Information section in Banner on your MyState portal to register. To report suspicious activity or to request a courtesy escort via Safe Walk, call University Police at 662-325-2121, or in case emergency, call 911. For more information regarding safety and to view available training including helpful videos, visit ready.msstate.edu

Student Resources

Services provided to MSU students:

<http://catalog.msstate.edu/undergraduate/studentlife/services/>

Technical Support

ITS Service Desk: <https://servicedesk.msstate.edu>

Phone: 662-325-0631 or 888-398-6394

Email: servicedesk@msstate.edu

Monday-Thursday: 7:30am-12:00am Friday: 7:30am-5:00pm Sunday: 1:00pm-12:00am

Library Resources

General library help: <https://www.library.msstate.edu/help>

Linguistics research guide: <https://guides.library.msstate.edu/linguistics>

Communication

If you experience difficulty in this course for any reason, please let me know! I understand we are all human, and that there could be something going on in your life that interferes with your performance in class. If there is anything I can do to facilitate access to class content, do not hesitate to reach out.

If during class something is not clear, asking any questions you might have. If you are not the extrovert type of student to do that, don't hesitate to come to office hours to go over class material, prepare for tests, or work on homework; I personally enjoy working with students one on one. No appointment is needed during office hours. However, if you have classes at those times, just send me an email and set up an appointment to meet at another time, either face to face or on Webex.

Course schedule (TR section)

Week	Date	Topic	Readings DUE	Assignments DUE
1	R 8/18	Course Introduction: What is language?	<i>Files 1.0, 1.1.</i>	
2	T 8/23	Phonetics: Speech sounds	<i>Files 2.0, 2.1</i>	
	R 8/25	Articulation: Consonants	<i>File 2.2</i>	
3	T 8/30	Articulation: Vowels	<i>File 2.3</i>	(Att. + Part. Start counting)
	R 9/1	Acoustic phonetics	<i>File 2.6</i>	Phonetics Quiz
4	T 9/6	Suprasegmentals & Phonetics of signed languages	<i>Files 2.5 & 2.7</i>	First GS Meeting this week
	R 9/8	Phonology: Phonemes & Allophones	<i>Files 3.0 & 3.2</i>	
	*S 9/11	--	--	Phonetics HW
5	T 9/13	Phonological rules	<i>File 3.3</i>	
	R 9/15	Solving phonological problems	<i>File 3.5</i>	Phonology Quiz
6	T 9/20	Review for Test 1		Bring questions
	R 9/22	TEST 1: Language, Phonetics, and Phonology		
	*S 9/25	--	--	Phonology HW
7	T 9/27	Morphology: Words and word formation	<i>Files 4.0 & 4.1</i>	
	R 9/29	Morphological processes and types of languages	<i>Files 4.2 & 4.3</i>	
8	T 10/4	Hierarchical structures and morphological analysis	<i>Files 4.4 & 4.5</i>	Morphology Quiz
	R 10/6	Syntax: Basic ideas of syntax and syntactic properties	<i>Files 5.1 & 5.2</i>	
	*S 10/9	--	--	Morphology HW
9	T 10/11	Syntactic constituency and categories	<i>Files 5.3 & 5.4</i>	Second GS Meeting this week

	R 10/13	Fall Break: NO CLASS		
10	T 10/18	Constructing a grammar	<i>File 5.5</i>	Syntax Quiz
	R 10/20	Review for Test 2		Mock Exam 2
	*S 10/23	--	--	Syntax HW
11	T 10/25	TEST 2: Morphology and Syntax		
	R 10/27	L1 Acquisition: Theories of language acquisition	<i>File 8.1</i>	
12	T 11/1	The acquisition of phonology, morphology and syntax	<i>Files 8.2 & 8.3</i>	
	R 11/3	Bilingual and L2 Acquisition	<i>File 8.5 & Saville-Troike Chapter 1</i>	
13	T 11/8	L2 Acquisition	<i>Saville-Troike Chapter 2</i>	Lg. Acq Quiz
	R 11/10	Heritage Lg. Acquisition	<i>Montrul Chapter</i>	
	*S 11/13	--	--	Lg. Acq HW
14	T 11/15	Psycholinguistics: Language and the brain and language disorders	<i>Files 9.1 & 9.2</i>	
	R 11/17	Language variation	<i>Files 10.0, 10.1, & 10.2</i>	
15	T 11/22	Language contact and change	<i>Files 12.1, 12.3, 12.4</i>	Variation and Contact Quiz
	R 11/24	Thanksgiving: NO CLASS		
16	T 11/29	Review for Final		Mock Exam 3
	R 12/2	Finals' Week starts: NO CLASS		
	*S 12/4	--	--	Variation and Contact HW
17	*M 12/5	Graduate students: Final Paper DUE via Canvas at 11:55 PM		
	*R 12/8 12–3 pm	FINAL EXAM: Language acquisition, variation, contact, and the brain		