LINGUISTICS COURSE DESCRIPTIONS – Spring 2021

COURSES OPEN TO ALL STUDENTS

**Ling 101: Human Language**
Rebecca Shields
MW 12:05-12:55 + 1 weekly discussion, remote synchronous

In this class we investigate the inner workings of human language. Humans across the world use language to communicate, and they acquire this complex communication system effortlessly and rapidly as very young children. How is human language structured, and how does it work? We will learn about the fascinating diversity of human languages across the globe, and also about the intriguing commonalities that all languages share. The course includes a basic introduction to the study of phonetics and phonology (speech sounds), as well as morphology and syntax (word and sentence structures). We will also consider related questions such as: How do humans acquire language as children? What are signed languages, and how are they different from spoken languages? Students will get hands-on experience analyzing linguistic data from a diverse set of languages and dialects in the small-group discussion section.

*The course is appropriate for both majors and non-majors and is open to anyone with an interest in language science. No prerequisites.*

**Anthropology 430: Language and Culture**
Professor Enriquez
Tues & Thurs 4:00-5:15p.m, remote synchronous

What is language? How does language shape the way we interact with others and think about ourselves? Through addressing these questions, this course introduces students to linguistic anthropology, which examines the inextricable links between language and culture. Whether you speak multiple languages or just one, this course will likely change how you use and understand language.

COURSES FOR STUDENTS WITH SOME LINGUISTICS BACKGROUND

**Eng 320: Linguistic Theory and Child Language**
Professor Jacee Cho
TR 2:30-3:45, remote synchronous

This course provides an introduction to the linguistic study of child language within the generative theory. According to this theory, humans are born with genetically determined linguistic knowledge called Universal Grammar, which guides children in learning language.
Students will learn basic concepts of the generative theory and learn to apply them to the study of child language. Topics include universal linguistic principles that govern children’s acquisition of syntax and semantics and cross-linguistic influence in children acquiring more than one language from birth or early childhood. We will discuss empirical research studies testing the Universal Grammar theory of language acquisition.

There is no required textbook. All reading materials will be available electronically on the course website.

**Ling 373: Data Science and Statistics for Linguists**  
Professor Eric Raimy  
MWF 11:00-11:50, remote synchronous

The course will provide a survey and introduction to tools available for linguists to collect, organize and analyze primary data of many sorts. We will cover and learn to use tools for transcription (ELAN), for data organization & manipulation (Excel & R), for text editing (BBEdit), for survey creation (Qualtrics), for data visualization, statistics & record keeping (RStudio, RMarkdown, GraphViz), and for using scripts for data manipulation (Python, ssh). We will work with data from interviews, surveys, and other sources from many subfields of linguistics (i.e. sociophonetics, syntax, phonology, etc.).

*Open to students (both undergraduate and graduate) with prior linguistics experience.*

**Ling 322: Morphology**  
Professor Ryan Henke  
Online asynchronous

In this course we discuss various morphological phenomena and approaches to morphological issues, using examples from various languages. This course is designed to 1) Provide students with necessary knowledge and skills of morphological analysis; 2) Introduce morphological terms and major morphological phenomena; and 3) Demonstrate how morphology interacts with phonology and syntax.

*An introductory course in linguistics such as Ling 101/301 is assumed.*

**English 413: English words: grammar, culture, mind**  
Professor Anja Wanner  
TR 11:00-12:15, remote synchronous

This course looks at English words from different linguistic perspectives: As objects of grammar, words follow certain rules of combination (you wouldn't say 'these dog'), but they also have internal structure. For example, a word like 'hopefulness' is fine, while 'hopenessful' does not exist. From a psycholinguistic perspective we examine how children learn these formal properties as well as the meaning of words. We also study how words are stored in the mind.
and what one can learn from situations in which one cannot access the mental dictionary properly (for example, when one feels a word is on 'the tip of one's tongue'). From a sociolinguistic perspective, this course looks at historical and current influences on English vocabulary, including the role of dictionaries and spelling as a source of standardization. Previous knowledge of linguistics useful, but not required.

**Ling 373: Archival-Based Language Reclamation**  
Professor Monica Macaulay  
MW 2:00-3:15, remote synchronous

*This course is the senior capstone course for linguistics majors (i.e., it can be taken instead of Ling 426/427). It is open to senior linguistics majors only; email Becky at rashields@wisc.edu for permission to enroll.*

This course will introduce linguistics majors to the use of archival materials in language revitalization and reclamation, using Menominee as a case study. The course will cover the basics of language endangerment, the history of study of the Menominee language, the decolonization of archives, and the basics of Menominee grammar. They will do hands-on investigation into Menominee archival materials, and a term project based on their original research.

**COURSES FOR STUDENTS WITH SPECIFIC LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY**

**Span 630 Topics in Hispanic Linguistics: Second Language Spanish Phonetics and Phonology**  
Professor Rajiv Rao

*The course will be taught in English and readings will be in English. Intermediate Spanish proficiency is recommended. Open to both advanced undergraduates and graduate students. Contact Prof. Rao with any questions.*

This course examines the second language (L2) acquisition of the Spanish sound system from a broad perspective. After contextualizing the field through a range of articulatory, acoustic, and auditory concepts, as well as an overview of speech learning models, we will focus on linguistic and extralinguistic variables that have been shown to influence specific subsets of Spanish sounds (e.g., vowels, stop consonants, rhotics, laterals, fricatives) in a variety of L2 learning contexts; for example, traditional university language classes, study abroad programs, and contact situations with indigenous languages of the Americas. While variation across the studies covered is expected due to the different first languages of speakers, we will see that the overarching principles discussed early in the course are applicable across the board.
ASIAN 358 Language in Japanese Society
Professor Junko Mori
Prerequisite: Asialang 104

Exploration of dynamic relationships between the language and the social structure in Japan. Study of films, TV programs, and conversations as well as research articles. Basic knowledge of Japanese is assumed, but the instruction is in English.

ASIAN 431 Chinese Linguistics I
Professor H. Zhang
Prerequisite: Asialang 202

Provides an overview of the Chinese language from historical and contemporary perspectives. It will focus on phonetics and phonology (the sound system), dialectology, and orthography (the writing system). The mastery of the knowledge learned in this course is essential for further study in Chinese linguistics. Since the study of Chinese linguistics is often abstract and counterintuitive, you can expect to sharpen your critical and analytical thinking skills throughout this course.

See our [Upcoming Courses](#) page for the full list of linguistics courses offered across campus!