

**Ling 300/Anth 373/Psych 470:
Introduction to Language Sciences
Section 001 MWF 11:15-12:05
Gambrell Hall, Room 302
Fall 2002**

Instructor: Lori Donath

Office Hours: Welsh Humanities Office Bldg. 320

MWF 9:30-11:00, TTh 11:00-12:00 (and by appointment).

Email: donathl@carcosa.net

**Office Phone: 777-2145 (Please note that I do not check messages
or occupy the office outside of office hours)**

Course Description

In Introduction to Language Sciences we will explore and analyze the structure of language on a number of levels, within its physiological, psychological, social and cultural contexts. The scientific study of language is divided into several areas: the study of sounds and their patterns (Phonetics and Phonology), words (Morphology), sentences (Syntax) and meanings (Semantics and Pragmatics). Linguists also study how linguistic knowledge is applied in social situations in different cultures (Sociolinguistics and Linguistic Anthropology), how language is stored and processed in the brain (Neurolinguistics/Psycholinguistics), how languages change over time (Historical or Diachronic linguistics), and how humans learn language (Language Acquisition).

Assignments

Exam 1 (15%)
Exam 2 (15%)
Final Exam (20%)
Quizzes (10%)
Language Analysis (Short Paper) (15%)
Participation: Homework, Website Questions/Comments (25%)

Required Texts

Stewart, Thomas W., Jr., and Nathan Vaillette. 2001. *Language Files: Materials for Introduction to Language and Linguistics*, 8th edition. Columbus, OH: The Ohio University Press.
Bauer, Laurie, and Peter Trudgill (eds). 1998. *Language Myths*. London: Penguin.

Attendance

When you miss class, in whole or part, you miss important information and activities, and classmates miss your contributions. If you are absent, you are responsible for learning material we cover in class and for arranging *beforehand* to submit on time any assignments due on that day. There is no penalty for arriving late to class, but chronic tardiness may result in a low participation grade, since quizzes will be given at the start of class. There will be no make-ups given in the case of missed exams, unless the student is hospitalized or incarcerated (and can document it). (Please bring blue books to your exams).

In accordance with university policy, I will drop your course grade by one letter if you miss more than 10% of our scheduled class periods (for every 5 class periods); you will fail the course if you miss more than 25% (11 class periods). If an emergency forces you to miss several class periods, contact me as soon as possible so that we can discuss your options. I will not distinguish between excused and unexcused absences; you should use your 5 free days at your own discretion, as you would use sick days in the workplace.

Grades

Homework assignments, quizzes, exams and major projects will be letter-graded. **No work will be accepted more than one week late.** *If you do not turn in a completed assignment within a week after it is due, you will receive*

an "F" for that assignment—without the opportunity to raise that grade. **The grade for late assignments will be reduced by one letter grade for each day that they are late (T/Th and weekends included). If you have a question about a grade you receive on an assignment, please make an appointment to discuss it with me.** I won't be able to address questions about individual grades during class.

Grading Scale

90-100 = A	85-89 = B+	75-79 = C+	65-69 = D+
	80-84 = B	70-74 = C	60-64 = D

Office Hours, Email, and Course Website

In order to complete the assignments for this course you will need to have a working email address—and to know how to use it, as well as how to access the course website at www.carcosa.net/donathl/ling300. (You can also follow the link from the university's Blackboard website for the course. Ask for assistance at one of the campus labs if you have trouble). Also, I may send you announcements or answer questions that come up between class periods via email and the course website. If your phone number or email address changes during the semester please notify me immediately.

Please feel free to drop by during my scheduled office hours or to make an appointment for other times. If you can't drop by, I check my email regularly, so don't hesitate to send me a message if you have questions or concerns about the class. You may also call me in the office during office hours; I am rarely in the office at other times.

Participation (questions/comments)

As part of your daily participation you are required to send me at least one question or comment before each class—based on the readings for that class. These must be posted by 9 am on the day class meets. Questions and comments received after that time are welcome and will also be posted, but will not receive credit toward the participation grade.

Extra Credit/Colloquia

You may attend Linguistics Program colloquia to earn extra credit (thereby replacing a low homework or quiz grade). These talks are usually scheduled for Friday afternoons at 3:30 p.m., and I will announce them as they arise; you can also find the schedule at www.cla.sc.edu/ling. In order to earn credit for attending a talk, you must write a 2-page summary/commentary about it, and turn it in the following class period. Mention any aspects of the talk that relate to subjects we have discussed in class, and any aspects which you did not understand fully..

Guidelines for Written Assignments

- Ask questions, if you feel you don't understand the assignment. You will be responsible for knowing about an assignment (and arranging to turn it in on time) whether you were present or not.
- Write coherently, using complete sentences/paragraphs to express your complete thoughts.
- Be systematic, be organized, and be complete in your approach to formal, analytical assignments. I cannot read your mind.
- All work completed outside of class should be word-processed, double spaced, Times 12. (You may draw diagrams by hand if necessary, however). Work should also be neatly stapled and labelled at the top with your name, the class and section, the date you are turning in the assignment, and the name of the assignment. I cannot accept any work that does not conform to these guidelines.

Note: *You may work together on your homework assignments, but if you do:*

- a. No more than two individuals may work together on an assignment.
- b. Hand in one copy of the assignment/portfolio with the two individuals' names at the top.
- c. Under no circumstances should different groups consult with each other, or copy each other's work. Identical work handed in by separate groups will be considered cheating on the part of all the groups' participants.

If you decide to work alone:

Hand in your own work. These are graded assignments. Therefore, handing in identical work will be considered cheating.

Academic Honesty

You are bound by the university's policies on academic honesty, which bar you from presenting another person's work or ideas as your own, allowing someone to write an assignment or part of an assignment for you, accepting aid/aiding someone else during quizzes/exams, or failing to properly acknowledge source materials. In addition, I expect you to refrain from buying, selling, uploading, downloading, giving or accepting test/quiz answers or essays. The university takes violations of these policies seriously; penalties include failing the course and possible expulsion from the university.

Our Schedule

The following schedule lists most reading assignments and due dates, but does not list quizzes and other short in-class and homework assignments. It is subject to change to meet our needs. I will expect you to read the pages assigned for each class session, as well as the course website discussion, each day *before* coming to class.

Week 1: Introductions

- **F 8/23:** *Introductions; syllabus review. For homework read the units assigned for Monday's discussion; remember to post at least one question/comment about the readings (and anything else!) by 9am Mon.*

WEEK 2: Introduction

- **M 8/26:** Introduction LangFiles 1.1-1.3, 13.1-13.2
- **W 8/28:** Animal communication LangFiles 2.1-2.3
- **F 8/30:** Phonetics LangFiles 3.1; Myth 5

WEEK 3: Phonetics

- **M 9/2:** **NO CLASS—Labor Day**
- **W 9/4:** English segmentals LangFiles 3.2-3.5
- **F 9/6:** Other speech sounds LangFiles 3.6-3.7; Myth 18

WEEK 4: Phonology

- **M 9/9:** Phonology: phonemes and rules LangFiles 4.1-4.2
- **W 9/11:** Phonology LangFiles 4.3-4.4
- **F 9/13:** Phonology LangFiles 4.3-4.4

WEEK 5: Morphology

- **M 9/16:** Phonotactics and implicational laws LangFiles 4.5-4.6
- **W 9/18:** Words and morphemes LangFiles 5.1-5.2
- **F 9/20:** Word structure and morphological process LangFiles 5.3-5.4

WEEK 6: Morphology

- **M 9/23:** Morphological analysis LangFiles 5.5-5.6; Myth 7
- **W 9/25:** **Exam 1** (See Appendix B on taking exams)
- **F 9/27:** Syntactic structure LangFiles 6.1-6.3

WEEK 7: Syntax

- **M 9/30:** Syntactic categories/subcategories LangFiles 6.3-6.4; Myth 12
- **W 10/2:** Rules and transformations LangFiles 6.5-6.7; Myth 10
- **F 10/4:** Semantics and theories of meaning LangFiles 7.1-7.2

WEEK 8: Semantics/Pragmatics

- **M 10/7:** Lexical and compositional semantics LangFiles 7.3-7.5; Myth 4 and 14
- **W 10/9:** Pragmatics: speech acts LangFiles 8.1
- **F 10/11:** Entailment/implicature LangFiles 8.2

WEEK 9: Semantics/Pragmatics (cont.)

- **M 10/14: NO CLASS—FALL BREAK**
- **W 10/16:** Rules of conversation LangFiles 8.3-8.4
- **F 10/18:** Discourse and socio-cultural context LangFiles 15.2, article handout

WEEK 10: Psycholinguistics

- **M 10/21:** Language and the brain LangFiles 9.1
- **W 10/23:** Language and the brain LangFiles 9.1
- **F 10/25: Exam 2**

WEEK 11: Language Acquisition

- **M 10/28:** Language acquisition LangFiles 9.2-9.5
- **W 10/30:** Language acquisition LangFiles 9.2-9.5
- **F 11/1:** Language processing LangFiles 9.6-9.7

WEEK 12: Language Variation

- **M 11/4:** Language variation LangFiles 10.1-10.2 Myth 20
- **W 11/6:** Parameters of variation LangFiles 10.3-10.8; Myth 6 and 13
- **F 11/8:** Analysis of variation LangFiles 10.9-10.10; Myth 17

WEEK 13: Language Contact

- **M 11/11:** Language contact LangFiles 11.1
- **W 11/13:** Pidgins and creoles LangFiles 11.2-11.3
- **F 11/15:** Borrowings into English, case studies LangFiles 11.4-11.5

WEEK 14: Historical Linguistics

- **M 11/18:** Language change ***Analysis Due*** LangFiles 12.1-12.2; Myth 2
- **W 11/20:** Sound change and reconstruction LangFiles 12.3-12.5
- **F 11/22:** Morphological, syntactic, semantic chg LangFiles 12.6-12.9; Myth 1

WEEK 15: Historical Linguistics (cont.)

- **M 11/25:** Change in English and Germanic LangFiles 12.10-12.12; Myth 9 and 21
- **W 11/27: NO CLASS: THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY**
- **F 11/29: NO CLASS: THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY**

WEEK 16: Language and Computers

- **M 12/2:** Language and computers LangFiles 14.1-14.2
- **W 12/4:** Language and computers LangFiles 14.3-14.4
- **F 12/6: Final Exam Review**

FINAL EXAM: Tuesday, Dec. 10, 2:00 pm.