

**ENGL 3372 “Introduction to Linguistics” (3 credit hrs)/Course syllabus
Section 01 (CRN# 20029): MWF 11:00–11:50, Room: Evans 315**

Spring 2018

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Office hours: MWF 12:00–1:00 and by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES:

This course is a general introduction to English linguistics. It covers areas such as the sounds and sound structure of English, the structure of words and sentences, meaning, language use in context, language and the brain, dialect and register variation, and the place and history of English among the languages of the world. The approach taken is descriptive (not prescriptive).

The purpose of this course is to enhance your awareness of the nature of human language in general and your understanding of the structure and use of English in particular. Through learning the basics of linguistic analysis, the goal is to achieve a better understanding of how language—such an integral part of our lives—functions: what we can do with language, and what language can do to us.

The course consists of readings (a textbook, *Language Files*, 12th edition), lectures, discussions, homework exercises, three tests, an in-class midterm examination, a transcription assignment, and an in-class final examination. After successfully completing this course, you will be able to

- understand how human language differs from other animal communication systems;
- describe how speech sounds are produced and grouped into significant units;
- identify the meaning components of words;
- use both morphological and syntactic criteria to identify lexical categories;
- analyze the structure of English phrases and sentences;
- understand meaning relations between words and the relationship between syntactic structure and sentence meaning;
- identify the role of context for the interpretation of utterances;
- discuss how children acquire language;
- explain the basics of the organization of language in the brain;
- understand how language varies from time to time, speaker to speaker, and situation to situation;
- discuss language as part of human culture;
- give examples of language change triggered by language contact;
- locate English as an Indo-European, West Germanic language among the languages of the world;
- demarcate the four main periods in the history of the English language;
- name some practical applications of the theoretical study of language.

PREREQUISITES: ENGL 1301, 1302, and 2332 or 2333.

REQUIRED TEXT:

Dawson, Hope C., and Michael Phelan (eds.). 2016. *Language Files: Materials for an Introduction to Language and Linguistics*. 12th ed. Columbus: Ohio State University Press. ISBN 978-0-8142-5270-3. (Make sure you obtain the book during the first week of classes.)

REQUIREMENTS/ATTENDANCE:

Bring your textbook to class (we will often go over exercises in the book) and attend regularly. For administrative purposes, you need to sign in when you attend class, but there is no participation requirement, except on test days. However, your regular attendance will greatly enhance your chances of doing well. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to find out from your peers what you missed and to obtain any materials that might have been distributed during your absence.

You should not miss any tests, but if you must (because of an illness or another acceptable excuse such as death in the family), there is one make-up day at the end of the semester (Friday, May 4, starting at 12:00 p.m.). You will have to make up all missed tests during that day. There is one small “extra credit” assignment (worth up to 2 percent of the course grade). The tests and the midterm will be graded promptly and returned to you in class.

GRADING:	90–100 (A)	EVALUATION:	Tests (3 x 10%)	30 %
	80–89 (B)		In-class midterm	30 %
	70–79 (C)		Transcription	
	60–69 (D)		assignment*	10 %
	0–59 (F)		In-class final	30 %
			Response to a video (extra points)	2 %

(The format of the tests is multiple choice and/or short answers.)

(*You will receive separate instructions for the transcription assignment.)

SYLLABUS (The syllabus is subject to change.)

READINGS

W 1/17	University closed/Classes canceled	
F 1/19	Distribution of the syllabus. What is linguistics? For homework: read files 1 and 17 Knowledge of language	Files 1
M 1/22	Knowledge of language, cont. Applications of linguistics	Files 1 Files 17
W 1/24	Human language and other animal communication systems	Files 14
F 1/26	Design features of language	Files 1, 14
M 1/29	Phonetics begins IPA. The vocal tract	Files 2.0–2.1
W 1/31	Phonetics: Consonants	Files 2.2
F 2/2	Selected exercises: Consonants	File 2.8
M 2/5	Phonetics: Vowels	File 2.3
W 2/7	Phonetics cont. Suprasegmentals Selected exercises	File 2.4 File 2.5 File 2.8
F 2/9	Phonology Phonemes and allophones	Files 3.0–3.2
M 2/12	Phonology cont.	Files 3.3–3.5
W 2/14	Selected exercises	File 3.6
F 2/16	Test 1	Files 1–3, 14, 17
M 2/19	Morphology begins	File 4.0–4.1
W 2/21	Morphology	File 4.2–4.4
F 2/23	Morphology Selected exercises	Files 4.5–4.6
M 2/26	Syntax begins	File 5.0–5.2

W 2/28	Syntax	Files 5.3–5.4
F 3/2	Syntax Selected exercises	File 5.4 File 5.6
M 3/5	Test 2	Files 4, 5.1–5.4, 5.6 (partially)
W 3/7	Syntax cont.	5.5
F 3/9	Syntax cont. Selected exercises	5.6
M 3/12	<i>Spring break</i>	
W 3/14	<i>Spring break</i>	
F 3/16	<i>Spring break</i>	
M 3/19	Catch-up day Review for the midterm	
W 3/21	In-class midterm	Files 1–5, 14, 17
F 3/23	Semantics begins	File 6.0
M 3/26	Semantics	Files 6.1–6.3
W 3/28	Semantics cont. Selected exercises	Files 6.4–6.5
F 3/30	<i>Good Friday</i>	<i>No class</i>
M 4/2	Pragmatics	Files 7.0–7.4
W 4/4	Pragmatics cont.	Files 7.5–7.6
F 4/6	Language acquisition <i>Last day to drop with a Q</i>	Files 8
M 4/9	Language acquisition: Selected exercises Psycholinguistics: Disorders	File 8.6 Files 9
W 4/11	Psycholinguistics: Processing	Files 9
F 4/13	Test 3	Files 6–9

M 4/16	Introduction to language variation (video) Homework assignment activity assigned (=voluntary response to the video; due on April 20)	
W 4/18	Language variation begins: Identifying dialects Dialect and register Transcription assignment introduced	Files 10.0–10.2
F 4/20	Language variation Selected exercises Response to the video due (voluntary)	Files 10.3–10.6
M 4/23	Language and culture	Files 11
W 4/25	Language contact	Files 12
F 4/27	Synchronic vs. diachronic variation	File 13.0
M 4/30	History of English	File 13.1–13.5
W 5/2	History of English	Files 13.6
F 5/4	Review for final Transcription assignment due as hardcopy in class; corresponding sound file due by 6 p.m.	Files 6–13.6
W 5/9	In-class final exam, 12–2 p.m.	Files 6-13.6, lectures, handouts, exercises, discussions, etc.

(Grades will be filed by Monday, May 14, by 12:00 p.m.)

Also, nota bene:

Academic dishonesty.

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials. For a complete listing of the university policy, see the Student Handbook. If you cheat during tests (quizzes or exams) (e.g., from the notes, from books, from your peers' papers, or any other way, you will receive an automatic F for that test.

Americans with Disabilities Act. It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance are expected to visit with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) located in the Lee Drain North Annex (next to the Farrington Building). They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired. SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If a student has a disability that may affect adversely her/his work in this class, then the student is encouraged to register with the SHSU Services for Students with Disabilities and to talk with the instructor about how best to deal with the situation. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: no accommodation can be made until the student registers with the Services for Students with Disabilities. Here is the SSD contact information: voice mail 936-294-3512; TDD 936-294-3786; e-mail disability@shsu.edu; web <http://www.shsu.edu/dept/disability/contact-us.html>.

Religious Holidays. Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence. "Religious holy day" means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20, Tax Code.

Visitors in the Classroom. Unannounced visitors to class must present a current, official SHSU identification card to be permitted into the classroom. They must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor's discretion whether or not the visitor will be allowed to remain in the classroom. This policy is not intended to discourage the occasional visiting of classes by responsible persons. Obviously, however, the visiting of a particular class should be occasional and not regular, and it should in no way constitute interference with registered members of the class or the educational process.

Instructor Evaluations. Students will be invited to complete a course/instructor evaluation toward the end of the semester.

Study Tips. Come to see the instructor immediately when you have questions. Utilize the services of the Academic Success Center. Ask for tutors who are knowledgeable in linguistics.

Classroom Rules of Conduct. The Code of Student Conduct and Discipline is found at the following link, starting on page 34:

<http://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/StudentGuidelines2013-2016.pdf>

For ENGL 3372, you may enter the classroom a few minutes late if you do it quietly and unobtrusively.

Traffic during class is to be avoided. Should you need to leave during class for an important appointment, please notify the instructor before class starts. Cellular phones and other typical disturbances need to be turned off/silent, and they must be out of sight. Should your phone ring during class, you must pick up the call; the class will then proceed to analyze your phone conversation for its sociolinguistic and pragmatic aspects. Texting during class is disallowed; if you do so, you must leave.