

Ling 170D: Introduction to Linguistics

Syllabus – Fall 2021

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Course information

Class time: TR 10:00AM–11:20AM Office hours (in person or via [Zoom](#)):
Classroom: Somers Family Hall 251 TR 12:00PM–1:00PM and by appointment

Required text

Language Files, 12th Edition (2016). The Ohio State University Press. ISBN [978-0814252703](#).

Course description

Language is one of the fundamental capacities of the human species, and there are many interesting and meaningful ways in which it can be studied. This course explores the core components of linguistic theory: speech sounds (phonetics and phonology), word formation (morphology), sentence structure (syntax), and meaning (semantics). It also provides an overview of interdisciplinary ideas and research on how language is acquired and processed, its relation to the mind-brain and to society, and the question of whether the essential properties of language can be replicated outside the human mind (specifically, in chimpanzees or computer programs).

Assessment and grading

Quizzes (80% of final grade)

There will be eight (roughly bi-weekly) quizzes during the semester. The quizzes will focus on recent readings and lectures but will also include topics covered earlier in the course. These will count for 80% of your final grade. The days on which the quizzes will take place are listed in the schedule on the next page.

Participation (20% of final grade)

The remaining 20% of your final grade will be based on participation and completion of group assignments in class. Days of the group assignments will not be announced in advance, with the exception of the final presentation. You may miss at most one group assignment (other than the final presentation) and still get full credit for participation. On the last day of class (December 9th) we will do student-led discussions of Chapters 14–16 of *Language Files*. More information will be given in class closer to the date of the assignment.

Grading scale

97%–100%	A+	77%–79%	C+	0–59%	F
93%–96%	A	73%–76%	C		
90%–92%	A–	70%–72%	C–		
87%–89%	B+	67%–69%	D+		
83%–86%	B	63%–66%	D		
80%–82%	B–	60%–62%	D–		

Electronics policy

Electronics (i.e., laptops, tablets, smart phones, vel sim.) are regularly permitted in class for the following uses:

- Taking notes.
- To access an electronic version of the textbook on days when we use the textbook in class.
- To access the internet during in-class assignments.

NB: The use of electronics for taking notes is subject to be revoked if the student is found using these items for any purpose other than those listed above (e.g., social media, web browsing, etc. etc.).

Disability policy: In the case of qualifying disability needs, relevant use of electronics or other provisions will be permitted in accordance with university policy (see p.4 below).

Reading and quiz schedule

WEEK 1	INTRODUCTION	WEEK 9	ACQUISITION AND PSYCHOLINGUISTICS
Aug 31	Welcome	Oct 26	Files 8.0–8.5 (33 pages)
Sept 2	Files 1.0–1.5 (32 pages)	Oct 28	Files 9.0–9.3 (25 pages)
WEEK 2	PHONETICS	WEEK 10	PSYCHOLINGUISTICS
Sept 7	Files 2.0–2.4 (29 pages)	Nov 2	Files 9.4–9.7 (22 pages)
Sept 9	Files 2.5–2.7 (26 pages)	Nov 4	Quiz 5: Acquisition and psycholinguistics
WEEK 3	PHONOLOGY	WEEK 11	VARIATION AND CULTURE
Sept 14	Quiz 1: Phonetics	Nov 9	Files 10.0–10.5 (34 pages)
Sept 16	Files 3.0–3.3 (22 pages)	Nov 11	Files 11.0–11.5 (27 pages)
WEEK 4	PHONOLOGY AND MORPHOLOGY	WEEK 12	LANGUAGE CONTACT
Sept 21	Files 3.4–3.5, 4.0–4.2 (28 pages)	Nov 16	Quiz 6: Variation and Culture
Sept 23	Files 4.3–4.5 (13 pages)	Nov 18	Files 12.0–12.7 (28 pages)
WEEK 5	SYNTAX	WEEK 13	LANGUAGE CONTACT
Sept 28	Quiz 2: Phonology and morphology	Nov 23	Quiz 7: Language contact
Sept 30	Files 5.0–5.3 (18 pages)	Nov 25	THANKSGIVING BREAK – NO CLASS
WEEK 6	SYNTAX	WEEK 14	LANGUAGE CHANGE
Oct 5	Files 5.4–5.5 (16 pages)	Nov 30	Files 13.0–13.4 (20 pages)
Oct 7	Quiz 3: Syntax	Dec 2	Files 13.5–13.7 (14 pages)
WEEK 7	SEMANTICS	WEEK 15	GROUP PRESENTATIONS (20 MIN. EACH)
Oct 12	FALL BREAK – NO CLASS	Dec 7	Quiz 8: Language change
Oct 14	Files 6.0–6.4 (20 pages)	Dec 9	Ch. 14. Animal communication (17 pages)
WEEK 8	PRAGMATICS		Ch. 15. Writing systems (22 pages)
Oct 19	Files 7.0–7.5 (30 pages)		Ch. 16. Computational linguistics (23 pages)
Oct 21	Quiz 4: Semantics and pragmatics		

COVID-19 health and safety protocols

Exceptions to course attendance policies, expectations, and requirements because of a COVID-19 diagnosis, symptoms consistent with COVID-19, or exposure to a person with a confirmed or suspected COVID-19 diagnosis that requires quarantine or isolation will be made in collaboration between the student and instructor. In these cases, please notify your instructor as soon as possible to discuss appropriate accommodations.

While on campus, it is imperative that students follow all public health guidelines established to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission within our community. The full set of University protocols can be found at <https://covid19.wustl.edu/health-safety/>. This includes:

- **Completing a self-screening using the [WashU COVID-19 Screening app](#) every day before coming to campus or leaving your residence hall room.** If you do not receive a green check and pass the screening, you are not permitted to come to campus or leave your residence hall room. You must contact the COVID Call Center (314-362-5056) or the Habif Health and Wellness Center (314 935-6666) immediately. **Note:** In addition to the symptoms listed in the screening tool, everyone also should pay attention to symptoms that are new or different for you, including things like headache and congestion, particularly in combination with diarrhea. These can also be signs of COVID-19. **Call the COVID Call Center or Habif to report these symptoms.**
- **Complying with universal masking.** All individuals on campus must wear disposable masks or cloth face coverings while occupying indoor public settings, including: multi-person offices, hallways, stairwells, elevators, meeting rooms, classrooms and restrooms. Masks are encouraged but not required for outdoor activities, particularly at large events or in crowded settings. Students with disabilities for whom masked instructors or classmates create a communication barrier are encouraged to contact Disability Resources (www.disability.wustl.edu) or talk to their instructor for assistance in determining reasonable adjustments. Adjustments may involve amplification devices, captioning, or clear masks but will not allow for the disregard of mask policies.
- **Maintaining physical distancing as needed.** While distancing requirements have been removed for vaccinated students, those who are not fully vaccinated are strongly encouraged, for their own health, to maintain a distance of 6 ft from others in the classroom. If you are not able to be vaccinated or have conditions that may put you at increased risk of failed immunity and classroom activities would bring you in frequent proximity to other students, contact your instructor to discuss alternatives.
- **Practicing healthy personal hygiene,** including frequent handwashing with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds and/or using hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.

University-Wide Policies

Reporting Sexual Harassment

If a student discusses or discloses an instance of sexual assault, sex discrimination, sexual harassment, dating violence, domestic violence or stalking, or if a faculty member otherwise observes or becomes aware of such an allegation, the faculty member will keep the information as private as possible, but as a faculty member of Washington University, they are required to immediately report it to the Department Chair or Dean or directly to Ms. Cynthia Copeland, the University's Associate Title IX Coordinator, at (314) 935-3411, cmcopeland@wustl.edu. Additionally, you can report incidents or complaints to the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards or by contacting WUPD at (314) 935-5555 or your local law enforcement agency. See: [Title IX](#)

Reasonable Accommodations for Disabled Students

Washington University in St. Louis supports the rights of enrolled students to a full and equal educational opportunity and, in compliance with federal, state, and local requirements, is committed to reasonable accommodations for individuals with documented disabilities. Disabled students for whom accommodations may be necessary must be registered with, and provide their instructors official notification through, WUSTL's Disability Resources (www.disability.wustl.edu). Once established, responsibility for disability-related accommodations and access is shared by DR, faculty, and the student. Please contact Disability Resources at 314.935.5970 or disabilityresources@wustl.edu.

Statement on Military Service Leave

Washington University recognizes that students serving in the U.S. Armed Forces and their family members may encounter situations where military service forces them to withdraw from a course of study, sometimes with little notice. Students may contact the Office of Military and Veteran Services at (314) 935-2609 or veterans@wustl.edu and their academic dean for guidance and assistance. See: <https://veterans.wustl.edu/policies/policy-for-military-students/>.

Preferred Names and Gender Inclusive Pronouns

In order to affirm each person's gender identity and lived experiences, it is important that we ask and check in with others about pronouns. This simple effort can make a profound difference in a person's experience of safety, respect, and support. See: <https://students.wustl.edu/gender-pronouns-information/>, <https://registrar.wustl.edu/student-records/ssn-name-changes/preferred-name/>.

Emergency Preparedness

Before an emergency, familiarize yourself with the building(s) that you frequent. Know the layout, including exit locations, stairwells and the Emergency Assembly Point (EAP). Review the "Quick Guide for Emergencies" that is found near the door in many classrooms for specific emergency information and instructions. For additional Information and EAP maps, visit emergency.wustl.edu. To ensure that you receive emergency notifications, make sure your information and cell phone number is updated in SIS, and/or download. The WUSTL app and enable notifications.

To report an emergency:

Danforth Campus:	(314) 935-5555
School of Medicine Campus:	(314) 362-4357
North/West/South and Off Campus:	911 then (314) 935-5555

Academic Integrity

Effective learning, teaching and research all depend upon the ability of members of the academic community to trust one another and to trust the integrity of work that is submitted for academic credit or conducted in the wider arena of scholarly research. Such an atmosphere of mutual trust fosters the free exchange of ideas and enables all members of the community to achieve their highest potential.

In all academic work, the ideas and contributions of others must be appropriately acknowledged and work that is presented as original must be, in fact, original. Faculty, students and administrative staff all share the responsibility of ensuring the honesty and fairness of the intellectual environment at Washington University in St. Louis.

For additional details on the university-wide Undergraduate Academic Integrity policy, please see: <https://wustl.edu/about/compliance-policies/academic-policies/undergraduate-student-academic-integrity-policy/>.

Resources for Students

Disability Resources

At Washington University we strive to make the academic experience accessible and inclusive. If you anticipate or experience barriers based on disability, please contact Disability Resources at 314.935.5970, disabilityresources@wustl.edu, or visit our website for information about requesting academic accommodations. See: <https://students.wustl.edu/disability-resources/>.

Confidential Resources for Instances of Sexual Assault, Sex Discrimination, Sexual Harassment, Dating Violence, Domestic Violence, or Stalking

The University is committed to offering reasonable academic accommodations (e.g. a no-contact order, course changes) to students who are victims of relationship or sexual violence, regardless of whether they seek criminal or disciplinary action. If a student needs to explore options for medical care, protections, or reporting, or would like to receive individual counseling services, there are free, confidential support resources and professional counseling services available through the Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention (RSVP) Center. If you need to request such accommodations, please contact RSVP to schedule an appointment with a confidential and licensed counselor. Although information shared with counselors is confidential, requests for accommodations will be coordinated with the appropriate University administrators and faculty. The RSVP Center is located in Seigle Hall, Suite 435, and can be reached at resvpcenter@wustl.edu or (314) 935-3445. For after-hours emergency response services, call (314) 935-6666 or (314) 935-5555 and ask to speak with an RSVP Counselor on call. See: [RSVP Center](#).

Bias Report and Support System (BRSS)

The University has a process through which students, faculty, staff, and community members who have experienced or witnessed incidents of bias, prejudice, or discrimination against a student can report their experiences to the University's Bias Report and Support System (BRSS) team. To report an instance of bias, visit <https://students.wustl.edu/bias-report-support-system/>.

Mental Health Services

Mental Health Services' professional staff members work with students to resolve personal and interpersonal difficulties, many of which can affect a student's academic experience. These include conflicts with or worry about friends or family, concerns about eating or drinking patterns, and feelings of anxiety, depression, and thoughts of suicide. See: <https://students.wustl.edu/mental-health-services/>. Additionally, see the mental health services offered through the RSVP Center listed above.

WashU Cares

[WashU Cares](#), specializes in connecting students to mental health, medical, financial and academic resources by using supportive case management. We seek to empower students to be successful through life's challenges and to have ownership of their experiences. Our services are designed to support Danforth Campus students. If you feel concerned about a student who may need help connecting to resources, we accept referrals from all students, faculty, and staff. If you are concerned about a student, you can file a report here: <https://washucares.wustl.edu> and a WashU Cares Case Manager will reach out to you to get more information about your concern.

The Writing Center

The Writing Center, located in Olin Library, offers free one-on-one writing tutorials to WashU students, as well as workshops designed to help students become better writers. The Writing Center staff can assist by providing feedback on the strength of an argument, clarity, and organization. Contact them at 935-4981 or writing@wustl.edu. Visit them at: <https://writingcenter.wustl.edu/>.

Engineering Communications Center

The Engineering Communications Center offers students in the McKelvey School of Engineering one-on-one help with oral presentations, writing assignments, and other communications projects. They are located in Urbauer Hall, Rm. 104. To schedule an appointment, please email the ECC faculty at ecc@seas.wustl.edu.

The Learning Center

The Learning Center works collaboratively with University partners to provide undergraduate students key resources, like academic peer mentoring, to enhance their academic progress. Contact them at <https://ctl.wustl.edu/learningcenter/> to find out what support they may offer for your classes.

Center for Diversity and Inclusion (CDI)

The Center for Diversity and Inclusion (CDI) supports and advocates for undergraduate, graduate, and professional school students from underrepresented and/or marginalized populations, collaborates with campus and community partners, and promotes dialogue and social change to cultivate and foster a supportive campus climate for students of all backgrounds, cultures, and identities. Visit: <https://diversityinclusion.wustl.edu/>.

Gephardt Institute

State and local elections can have direct and immediate impacts on our communities and will be happening here in St. Louis and around the country this year. Make sure you stay current on upcoming elections at all levels by registering as a voter, requesting an absentee ballot, or getting election day reminders. You can do all this at <https://wustl.turbovote.org/> for any of the 50 states and Washington D.C.. If you are ineligible to vote, you can still participate by referring your friends who are eligible to the TurboVote link and by engaging with your peers about local issues. If you have any questions about the voting process in the United States, please visit: <http://washuvotes.wustl.edu>.