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### LING 270S.01: Introduction to Linguistics

Rebecca Wood

*The University Of Montana*, [rebecca2.wood@umontana.edu](mailto:rebecca2.wood@umontana.edu)

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**Introduction to Linguistics**  
**LING 270**  
*The University of Montana*

Tuesday/Thursday 12:30-1:50 p.m. (LA 334)

Instructor: Dr. Rebecca Wood

Email: [rebecca2.wood@umontana.edu](mailto:rebecca2.wood@umontana.edu)

Office: Social Sciences 232

Office Hours: MW 9-10 or by appointment

Teaching Assistant: Alexis Sagen

Email: [alexis.sagen@umontana.edu](mailto:alexis.sagen@umontana.edu)

Office: Social Sciences 254A

Office Hours: TR 8-9:20 or by appointment

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**Course Description**

This course provides a basic introduction to the study of languages and linguistics. We will begin the course by examining the core areas of linguistics: *phonetics* (sounds of language), *phonology* (sound patterns), *morphology* (word structure), *syntax* (sentence structure), and *semantics* (meaning). The second half of the semester will examine broader topics within the field of linguistics, including how children acquire language, how languages change over time, and how language and culture interact. We will examine languages from around the world, as well as the English language.

**Learning Outcomes**

Upon successful completion of this course, you will:

- (a) understand basic linguistic terminology and concepts
  - (b) be able to analyze languages based on linguistic frameworks
  - (c) understand the diversity of the world's languages
  - (d) have knowledge of language acquisition, language in society, and language change over time
  - (e) have the foundation needed to take further courses in linguistics.
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**Required Readings**

Department of Linguistics, The Ohio State University (2016). *Language Files: Materials for an Introduction to Language and Linguistics*, 12<sup>th</sup> Edition. Columbus: Ohio State University Press.

- Make sure you have read the assigned chapters/articles BEFORE the class they are scheduled to be discussed. Even if you do not understand all the material you read, it is important to be familiar with the topic before we discuss it in class.
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**Moodle**

This course has an online supplement Moodle site, which can be accessed at: <http://umonline.umt.edu/> (follow the Moodle login links). Slides, handouts, readings, etc. will be posted there for downloading. Links to Student Resources and Tech Support [http://umonline.umt.edu/tech\\_support/](http://umonline.umt.edu/tech_support/) are available at the login page. Please inform me if you have any problems accessing the site.

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**Course Policies and Procedures:**

- Student Conduct Code: You are expected to be familiar with the University of Montana Student Conduct Code, which is downloadable from the [Student Conduct Code webpage](http://www.umt.edu/vpsa/policies/student_conduct.php): [http://www.umt.edu/vpsa/policies/student\\_conduct.php](http://www.umt.edu/vpsa/policies/student_conduct.php). You are also expected to be familiar with the University of Montana Academic Policies and Procedures, which can be found on the [Academic Policies and Procedures webpage](http://www.umt.edu/catalog/academics/academic-policy-procedure.php): <http://www.umt.edu/catalog/academics/academic-policy-procedure.php>.

- E-mail: Course information will be circulated by e-mail to your University of Montana e-mail address. Make sure that you check that e-mail account often. You are responsible for ensuring that you are able to receive any course information circulated by e-mail. If you have any concerns about this, please contact me immediately.
- Course Accommodations Statement (DSS): Students with disabilities may request reasonable modifications by contacting me. The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students (DSS). “Reasonable” means the University permits no fundamental alterations of academic standards or retroactive modifications. For more information, visit the [Disability Services for Students](http://life.umt.edu/dss) website at <http://life.umt.edu/dss>.

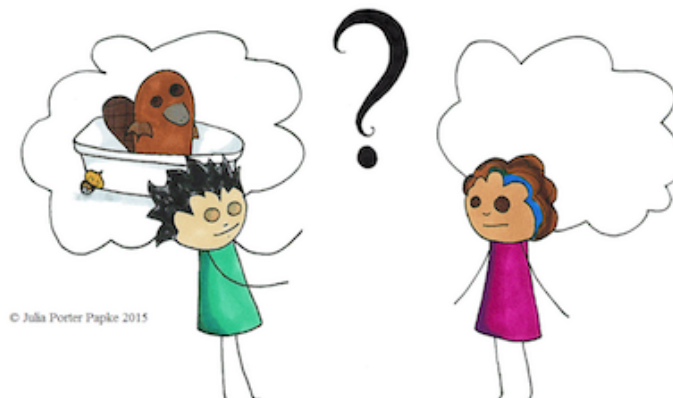
## Course Requirements

- Participation includes attendance, assigned readings, practice exercises, answering/asking questions in-class, etc. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class. If you arrive late, it will be your responsibility to notify me after class.
- Assignments will be posted after class on Tuesdays and will be due at the beginning of the following class, unless otherwise noted (see schedule for specific dates). Reminders: a typed hard copy of this assignment must be submitted (double-sided strongly preferred). Hand-written assignments will not be accepted. Please bring keep a copy of your submitted work, as we will go over the answers in class. *No late assignments will be accepted.*
- Exams will consist of multiple-choice, true/false, fill in the blank, and short answer questions. There will be a total of four exams during the semester. The fourth exam (Final) is cumulative and optional, as it may replace your lowest exam. There will be no make-up exams unless there is an excused absence.
- Plagiarism is an offence and is not tolerated. You are welcome (and encouraged!) to work together with classmates, but you **must** write up your submitted work (i.e., homework and assignments) **on your own**.

Participation	10%
Assignments (6 x 5% each)	30%
Exam 1	20%
Exam 2	20%
Exam 3	20%

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

Final Exam (cumulative) is optional and replaces your lowest exam.



**Course Schedule** (subject to change)

Wk	Topic	Reading	Due
1 T Jan. 24 R Jan. 26	Introduction	Language Files: Ch. 1	Introductory Questionnaire January 26
2 T Jan. 31 R Feb. 2	Phonetics	Language Files: Ch. 2	Assignment 1: Phonetics February 2
3 T Feb. 7 R Feb. 9	Phonology/Review	Language Files: Ch. 3	Assignment 2: Phonology February 9
4 T Feb. 14 R Feb. 16	<b>Exam 1</b> Morphology	Language Files: Ch. 4	
5 T Feb. 21 R Feb. 23	Morphology Syntax	Language Files: Ch. 4 & 5	Assignment 3: Morphology February 23
6 T Feb. 28 R Mar. 2	Syntax Semantics	Language Files: Ch. 5 & 6	Assignment 4: Syntax March 2
7 T Mar. 7 R Mar. 9	Pragmatics/Review <b>Exam 2</b>	Language Files: Ch. 6 & 7	
8 T Mar. 14 R Mar. 16	Language Acquisition Language and the Brain	Language Files: Ch. 8 & 9	
9 T Mar. 20-24	<b>SPRING BREAK – NO CLASSES</b>	-	
10 T Mar. 28 R Mar. 30	Language Change	Language Files: Ch. 13	
11 T Apr. 4 R Apr. 6	Language Variation Writing Systems	Language Files: Ch. 10 & 15	Assignment 5: Variation & Change April 6
12 T Apr. 11 R Apr. 13	Language and Culture	Language Files: Ch. 11	
13 T Apr. 18 R Apr. 20	Language and Culture	Language Files: Ch. 11	
14 T Apr. 25 R Apr. 27	Language Contact <b>Exam 3</b>	Language Files: Ch. 12	
15 T May 2 R May 4	The Linguist Lg Endangerment/Summary	Movie	Assignment 6: Lg Endangerment May 4
16 R May 11	<b>1:10PM-3:10PM</b>	<b>Exam 4</b>	