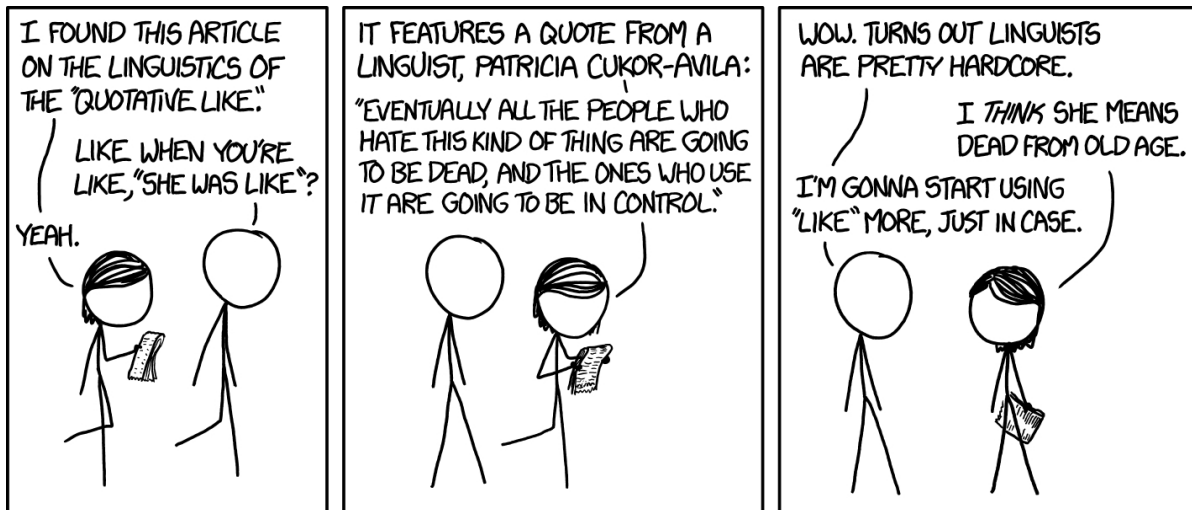


Oakland University
College of Arts and Sciences
Winter 2017

A(PPLIED) L(ANGUAGE) S(TUDIES) 176

The Humanity of Language



(<http://xkcd.com/1483/>)

1 Basic Course Info

1.1 Instructor Details

Professor: Matthew (Matt) Tucker
Office: 1018 Human Health Building
Email: matthewtucker@oakland.edu
Telephone: (248) 364-8848

Note: I'm unlikely to answer the office phone outside of business hours. The best way to contact me is via Moodle or email, but note that I cannot guarantee a response in less than 24 hours.

1.2 Course Description

An introduction to the interrelationships of language and other cultural subsystems. Linguistic knowledge, the child's acquisition of language, sound and writing systems, meaning and communication, language and social groups are among the topics discussed.

1.3 Prerequisites & Credits

Prerequisites None.

Credits 4 undergraduate credits. Satisfies the university general education requirement in the foreign language and culture knowledge exploration area.

1.4 Course Format

The course will be composed of biweekly meetings on Mondays and Wednesdays. Students will be expected to complete several online quizzes, an in-class midterm examination, and a comprehensive in-class final examination.

1.5 Course Meetings

Mondays & Wednesdays, 3:30 pm – 5:10 pm, 1050 Human Health Building.

1.6 Office Hours

Mondays & Wednesdays, 11:00 am – Noon & by appointment. Office hours start 9 January.

1.7 Linguistics Department Contact

The Linguistics Department administrative office assistant is Linda Hubarth and her office is in the Human Health Building, room 1024. She can be reached at (248) 370-2175, but she only works between 8:30–4:30 on business days. Do not expect her to be available outside of this time. She should not be contacted for routine course issues; I should be your first point of contact for this course.

1.8 Textbook

Department of Linguistics: The Ohio State University. 2016. *Language Files*. Columbus, OH: OSU Press **twelfth edition**. ISBN: 978-0-8142-5270-3.

This textbook is required for this course and you must get the twelfth edition. Older editions are not very similar to this one, so please do not get earlier editions.

The textbook should be available at the Bookstore and Outlet alphabetized under “ALS;” please contact me if that is not the case. If legitimate financial hardship prevents you from purchasing a copy of the textbook, please come speak to me outside of class.

1.9 Moodle/Course Website

There is a Moodle for this course and you should already be registered. Please let me know if that is not the case. **All course content related questions should be posted in the “Class Discussion Questions” section of Moodle before emailing me.** This allows all students to benefit from a single answer from me. I will check Moodle daily and respond to questions on there before anything else. If Moodle is down, you have communications of a private/personal nature, or you are not sure where to submit something, please feel free to email me directly.

I will be attempting to use Panopto to record part or all of the course lectures. These videos should be viewed as a study aid and not a substitute to attending lectures. While I will make every effort to post the majority of the course content in video form on Moodle, I cannot guarantee that this will work or that this will capture all of the course content.

2 Course Goals

This course is an introduction to the field of linguistics. At the end of this course, students are expected to be able to:

- articulate the goals of modern linguistics and understand how linguistics is both a science and art/humanity.
- list the common subfields of linguistics and articulate their major foci.
- understand the difference between descriptive and prescriptive language study and know how to engage in descriptive language research.
- have a reasonable command of the International Phonetic Alphabet as it pertains to English.
- have a reasonable understanding of phonological variation and rule construction.
- have a reasonable understanding of the structure of complex words and sentences.
- be able to discuss issues pertaining to language learning, change, variation, and its interaction with society and culture.

3 Course Requirements

This section outlines the expectations for your participation in this course and any policies specific to these expectations. Please note that **it is your responsibility to ensure that you adhere to these requirements**. I will be happy to discuss with you (in office hours or by appointment) your standing in the course, but it is your responsibility to ensure you understand and meet all requirements.

3.1 Reading

This class will be primarily textbook-based, and as such, the reading is integral to your understanding in this course. **You will not do well in this course without doing the reading.** All readings are to be completed by the date listed in the syllabus.

Unless otherwise specified, the readings are to be from the *Language Files* textbook, which can be found in the bookstore under “ALS” or in the textbook outlet. Please bring the textbook to class with you for reference. There may be other readings from primary research articles or other books; I will distribute these as needed. All readings should be done for the day they are listed on the syllabus/course schedule.

3.2 Quizzes

There will be weekly **quizzes** on Moodle which could cover any reading assignments or in-class material. **Quizzes will be due weekly on Friday at 5:00 pm.** Quizzes will be graded 10 (pass) or 0 (fail). You will not struggle with the quizzes if you do the reading and attend class. For computation of the final grade, the lowest quiz score will be dropped.

3.3 Midterm

There will be a midterm exam on **15 February in class**. The exam will be comprehensive up to that point. Unless there is a serious medical emergency, **no make up exam will be given without prior arrangement made with me in writing (e-mail) before 8 February. No exceptions.** I will announce procedure for the exam closer to the exam date.

3.4 Final Exam

There will be a **comprehensive final exam** for this course at its conclusion. It will be held **3:30 pm – 6:30 pm, 26 April 2017**. If there are mitigating circumstances, I will allow you to arrange an electronic submission, but this must be set up with me in advance. I will have more information on exam procedure (location, scantrons, *etc.*) as we approach the exam.

3.5 Extra Credit

Forum Contributions For every thoughtful and relevant post you make to a forum on the class Moodle site you will earn one extra credit point. For every 10 points you will earn 1 extra credit percentage in the class, up to a maximum of 5% towards your total final grade. A maximum of 10 points can be earned per week. For example, if your grade total in other components of the course comes to 74, but you have 32 EC points, your grade will get bumped up to a 77.2. Posts can be questions, answers, comments, or links to relevant websites or references. In order to qualify for a point, questions must be topical. It is fine to post a question like “What page is the definition of a passive on?” but you will not receive a point for that. It is fully up to the discretion of Professor Tucker to determine which posts deserve a point. Please do not spam the forum in an attempt to earn extra credit. Participation in the forums should follow standards of academic conduct and general ‘netiquette’. Any criticism should be constructive and well-intentioned. Be respectful of your peers, do not violate anyone’s privacy, do not troll, and do not violate rule #1.

Optional Reading Reports Additionally, I will occasionally post “optional readings” on Moodle which will be primary research articles or popular science discussions about Linguistics and pertaining the topic that we are discussing. If you take it upon yourself to read one of these articles and submit a 500 word summary/response of the reading (to me, electronically), I will award you up to one full course percentage point based upon the clarity of your response.

Regardless of which route you go toward earning extra credit, there is a maximum of 5% extra credit in this course. There are no exceptions to this policy.

4 Evaluation

4.1 Weighting

The following weights will be applied to each of the above components when assessing your final grade for the course:

COMPONENT	WEIGHT
Quizzes	50%
Midterm Exam	25%
Final Exam	25%

For quizzes and homework assignments, the average score for that component will be used in the weighted overall average. For each course evaluation component, I will convert your numerical mean into a percentage and then enter that into the weighted average. For example, if you get an average of 92% on the quizzes sets, then I will enter $0.92 * 0.5 \approx 0.46$ into your final grade for the problem sets component. **There will be no extra credit given in this course over and above the forum participation and reading options outlined above.**

4.2 Numeric Correspondence

The final grade will be given on the OU numeric scale, with the following correspondence to percentage scores:

3.6–4.0 (A)		3.0–3.5 (B)		2.0–2.9 (C)		1.0–1.9 (D)	
98–100	4.0	89	3.5	79	2.9	69	1.9
96–97	3.9	87–88	3.4	78	2.8	68	1.8
94–95	3.8	85–86	3.3	77	2.7	67	1.7
92–93	3.7	83–84	3.2	76	2.6	66	1.6
90–91	3.6	81–82	3.1	75	2.5	65	1.5
		80	3.0	74	2.4	64	1.4
				73	2.3	63	1.3
				72	2.2	62	1.2
				71	2.1	61	1.1
				70	2.0	60	1.0

Any grade below 60 is an F, with a numerical value of 0.

I will make every effort to (a) give you regular feedback on your performance in the course and (b) alert you if you are in danger of failing (around the drop deadline and then again after the midterm). If you are concerned about your grade or progress, you should be proactive and come see me in office hours. Final grades will not be changed unless it can be demonstrated that there was an error in determining the grade.

5 Miscellany

5.1 Absence Policy

There is no attendance policy in this class insofar as no part of your grade is dependent upon me counting your presence or absence in meetings of the course. However, **you will not do well in this class if you do not attend the meetings. Meetings may cover additional material which is not in the textbook or readings which you can be held responsible for in evaluation.** Written work for the course (problem sets, exams, *etc.*) cannot be turned in late without prior arrangement. Prior arrangements must involve a reasonable excuse for missing class. In-class quizzes cannot be made up later, but see the section on quizzes for replacement work in the event a quiz is missed.

The OU Excused Absence Policy applies in this class, but has some components which involve student responsibilities before absences are considered excused. See <https://wwwp.oakland.edu/provost/policies-and-procedures/>, but in particular:

This policy for university excused absences applies to participation as an athlete, manager or student trainer in NCAA intercollegiate competitions, or participation as a representative of Oakland University at academic events and artistic performances approved by the Provost or designee. *Practice or rehearsal for any event is not eligible for consideration as an excused absence.* [emphasis mine]

and

Students shall inform their instructors of dates they will miss class due to an excused absence prior to the date of that anticipated absence. For activities such as athletic competitions who schedules are known prior to the start of a term, students must provide their instructors during the first week of each term a written schedule showing days they expect to miss classes. For other university excused absences students must provide each instructor at the earliest possible time the dates that they will miss.

Religious observances are an excused absence but please inform me about them in advance, where possible. If you need to leave class for a short term religious reason (*e.g.*, to perform *salah*), please do so as unobtrusively as you can.

5.2 Special Needs

If you have any special academic or social needs please let me know in whichever way is comfortable for you (email, personal meeting, *etc.*). Please make every effort to do so at the beginning of the course. Academic accommodations must be registered with the Office of Disability Support Services. See their website at <https://wwwp.oakland.edu/dss/> for more information.

5.3 Add/Drop

The OU policies on Add/Drop will be followed in this course. It is the student's responsibility to adhere to these policies and to keep me informed. For reference, the following dates are relevant for this course (but are subject to change and the Office of the Registrar's dates supersede anything written here):

- **11 January:** Last day to add a class w/o instructor permission.
- **18 January:** Last day for 100% tuition refund on dropped class.
- **15 March:** Last day to withdraw.

5.4 Academic Integrity

Cheating, plagiarism, and/or any other form of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. The following is a *non-exhaustive* list of examples of unacceptable conduct for this course:

- copying an assignment, quiz, or exam from another student, with or without that student's knowledge.
- collaborating on assignments without providing the names of collaborators on the written submission.
- using material from *any* other source (slides, handouts, books, articles, video lectures, *etc.*) in homeworks, exams, or written assignments without proper citation.

Violations of the academic integrity policy for this class will result in **dismissal from and failure of** the course for all students involved. Violations will also be reported to the Office of the Dean of Students.

5.5 Civility Policy

The faculty of the Linguistics Department regards classroom civility as crucial to a beneficial learning environment. The conduct of both students and professors should contribute to a respectful, engaged, and productive classroom culture. All class members are responsible for maintaining and protecting an ethic of civility. Accordingly, the following guidelines for appropriate conduct have been established for all Department classes.

Once class has begun, turn off cell phone and pagers, and refrain from side conversations and interpersonal remarks. Address personal and/or other non-course related problems to your professor before or after class or during office hours. Avoid noisy rustling of snack food containers. Casual comings and goings are not acceptable; if you need to miss a class, come late or leave early, inform your professor in advance. In any case, if you arrive late or must leave early, do so as unobtrusively as possible, *e.g.*, sit near a door to the room. Familiarize yourself with the course syllabus and requirements, due dates for assignments, and test dates. It is your responsibility to complete requirements on time.

Your cooperation in maintaining and protecting an ethic of civility is appreciated.

6 Tentative Schedule

(Subject to and likely to change. The current schedule will always be on Moodle.)

MONTH	DATE	LECTURE TOPIC	READING(S)	QUIZ DUE
<i>Topic #1: What is Language?</i>				
January	4	Intro to the {Course, Linguistics}		Quiz #1
	9	Language Design & Knowledge	File 1.0–1.5	
	11	Animal Communication	File 14.0–14.3	Quiz #2
	16	No Class — MLK Day		
<i>Topic #2: The Classification of Speech Sounds</i>				
	18	Representing speech sounds, consonants	File 2.0–2.2	Quiz #3
	23	Vowels, beyond English	File 2.3–2.4	
	25	Suprasegmentals, acoustics, etc.	File 2.5–2.7	Quiz #4
	30	Phonetics Wrap-Up	TBA	
<i>Topic #3: The Patterns of Speech Sounds</i>				
February	1	Constraints & accenets, phonemes & allophones, phonological rules	File 3.0–3.3	Quiz #5
	6	Implicational laws, phonology practice	File 3.4–3.5	
<i>Topic #4: Variation and Dialects</i>				
	8	Variation: kinds	File 10.0–10.2	Quiz #6
	13	Factors influencing variation, identity	File 10.3–10.5	
	15	Midterm Exam		
	20-22	No Class — Winter Recess		
	27	Midterm Recap, American Dialects		
March	1	Language, culture, & society	File 11	Quiz #7
<i>Topic #5: The Structure of Words</i>				
	6	Morphology overview, types of languages	File 4.0–4.3	
	8	Structure & morphological analysis	File 4.4–4.5	Quiz #8
	13	Practice with morphological analysis		
<i>Topic #6: The Structure of Sentences</i>				
	15	Properties & constituency	File 5.0–5.3	Quiz #9
	20	Categories, grammar, practice	File 5.4–5.5	
	22	Practice with syntax and categories		Quiz #10
<i>Topic #7: Acquisition & Learning</i>				
	27	What is acquisition? phonological acquisition	File 8.0–8.2	
	29	Syntactic acquisition, bilingualism	File 8.3–8.5	Quiz #11
<i>Topic #8: Meaning</i>				
April	3	LFinishing stages of acquisition & bilingualism	File 6	
	5	Finishing acquisition, start of semantics	File 7	Quiz #12
	10	Finishing semantics, intro to pragmatics		
	12	Finishing pragmatics, wrap-up of unit		
<i>Topic #10: Miscellany</i>				
	17	Applications of Linguistics, Final Review		

Final exam 3:30 pm – 6:30 pm, 26 April 2017