



**ENG 555: General Linguistics**  
**Fall 2012, W 4:30–7:10p, SS 311**

**Instructor:** Christian F. Hempelmann

**Office:** Hall of Languages 226

**Office Hours:**

*online* workdays 10am–10pm

*office* W 2–4pm

**Phone:** (903) 886-5291

**Fax:** (903) 886-5980

**Email:** [c.hempelmann@tamuc.edu](mailto:c.hempelmann@tamuc.edu)

aim: chempelmann, yahoo: cfhempelmann@yahoo.com



**COURSE INFORMATION**

**Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:**

*Required textbooks:*

- Brown, Steven and Salvatore Attardo. 2005. *Understanding Language Structure, Interaction, and Variation: An Introduction to Applied Linguistics and Sociolinguistics for Nonspecialists*. Ann Arbor: U Michigan P.

*Optional additional reading:*

- Further materials will be made available online.

**Course Description:**

This course is an advanced survey of applied language science with an emphasis on the relationship between the structural systems of language and the mental representation of ordinary experience. Stresses phonology, morphology and syntax.

Language as an ability and as a behavior is a large part of what makes us human. Linguistics, the study of language, is a fascinating field for this reason alone. It is also worthy of the attention of non-linguists because it is a science that has consciously developed its theories and methodologies for a scientific approach to a “soft” field of application. This class will therefore focus on the insights gained by linguistics, but also how they were gained.

**Course Objectives:**

1. Students will become familiar with basic concepts in linguistics and the way of linguistically thinking about an issue through readings from texts, in-class discussions, and exercises done as homework and in class. This objective will be measured through weekly exercises, a comprehensive mid-term test, and a final project and exam.
2. Students will become active participants in the course, not only in staying current with readings and other assignments, but also in sharing their understanding of the material as assessed by weekly exercises and contributions to in-class discussions.

## Student Learning Outcomes

1. Students will demonstrate their ability to apply foundational concepts in the main areas of linguistics as measured by written exercises, homework, a mid-term exam and a final exam and research project.
2. Students will demonstrate linguistic thinking as assessed by essay-style questions in the weekly quizzes and the application of such thinking to material in the final project and comprehensive exam.

<b>COURSE REQUIREMENTS</b>
----------------------------

## Instructional Methods, Activities, and Assessments

### *Daily Readings*

The syllabus is based on selected chapters from the affordable and comprehensive textbook. Make it your friend, it is mine, if not always an uncomplicated one. A close reading of the expected material and preparation of questions are expected and necessary for the comprehension of the course material.

### *Quizzes and Homework*

Quizzes will be held with and without prior announcement. Absence from class when the quiz is held entails that you will not receive a grade for that particular quiz. No make-ups are given. Assigned homework may or may not be graded, at my discretion. You should not drop your homework in my mailbox if you cannot attend class. Students who cannot attend class should make arrangements with me for turning in their homework (see attendance policy). There are usually more than twelve quizzes/homework assignments in a semester, graded on a zero-minus-check-plus system. Homework not turned in earns zero points. A check is earned for homework that fulfills the requirements, a plus is earned for superior performance, a minus for inferior performance.

### *Final Exam/Final Project*

Think of the quizzes and homework as assessment and learning aides. This class will cover a lot of new material, so you have to be prepared to invest significant energy to learning and understanding it. The final exam, if that will be the method of evaluation, is comprehensive, that is, you have to be able to apply the tools of linguistics we learn in the first half of the semester to the fields of application we investigate in the second half. Prepare questions for review sessions. If we will have a final research project, you will identify a topic (with my help), use research papers, and create a project that will result in a presentation and a final paper.

## Weekly Readings, Responses, and Discussions

For several of our weekly readings you are required to write a short 1-page (300-400 words) response addressing some aspect of the material that you find especially interesting. The main point is for you to think carefully about a particular issue. You can bolster the author's argument with additional information, point out shortcomings in the data or reasoning, show how the ideas don't fit with other pertinent information, raise important questions for further research, or simply describe why you found the reading intriguing (50% of course grade).

By the middle of the semester you will have identified a topic in psycholinguistics that you want to research in more detail. This research will result in a presentation in class and a 10-12pp research paper (30% of course grade).

Course participation accounts for 20% of the final course grade. To receive full participation credit students must participate in discussions consistently by providing substantive comments, and stay current with all readings and assignments.

### **Grading Policy**

If you have completed all assignments by their due dates, in particular the midterm and final, and satisfied the attendance requirements, and all other requirements stated in this specific or the departmental syllabus, your grade for this course will be determined as follows:

- A ≥ 90% Final exam/project: 30 pts.
- B 89-80% Midterm: 20 pts.
- C 79-70% Quizzes/Homework: ≥30 pts.
- D 69-60% Participation/Attendance: 20 pts.
- F < 59%

### **Attendance Policy**

Students are responsible for attending class and keeping a log of their attendance. Please note that this means that no excuse will be accepted for failure to comply with the class requirements. Midterm and final may be rescheduled by prior arrangement. No rescheduling will be done for any reason after the test date. No make-up quizzes will be given or late assignments accepted. Students needing particular attention should notify the instructor during the first week. If you miss a class you are responsible to receive the information you missed or you have to be prepared for surprises.

### **Tentative Schedule**

week	textbook chapter(s)	important dates
8-27	ch. 1 intro. to class/linguistics	
9-3	ch. 1 intro. to linguistics	
9-10	ch. 2 phonology	
9-17	ch. 2 phonology	
9-24	ch. 2 morphology	
10-1	ch. 2 syntax	
10-8	ch. 3 meaning	
10-15	ch. 3 meaning	
10-22	ch. 17 hist. ling.	
10-29	ch. 4/5 socioling./lang. variation	
11-5	ch. 7 pidgins/creoles	
11-12	ch. 8 AAVE	
11-19	ch. 12 first lang. ac	10-22 Thanksgiving
11-26	ch. 12(13) first (second) lang. acqu.	
12-3	ch. 6 lang. & social groups	
12-10	ch. 10 lang. & gender	
12-3	presentations	
12-10	finals week	

Note that this schedule is purely tentative and provided as a rough idea of how we will distribute class time. Changes can and will be made.

## COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

### **Course Specific Procedures:**

#### **Academic Honesty Policy**

Texas A&M University-Commerce does not tolerate **plagiarism** and other forms of **academic dishonesty**. Conduct that violates generally accepted standards of academic honesty is defined as academic dishonesty. "Academic dishonesty" includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism (the appropriation or stealing of the ideas or words of another person and passing them off as one's own), cheating on exams or other course assignments, collusion (the unauthorized collaboration with others in preparing course assignments), and abuse (destruction, defacing, or removal) of resource material. Instructors uphold and support the highest academic standards, and students are expected to do likewise. Penalties for students guilty of academic dishonesty include disciplinary probation, suspension and expulsion (Texas A&M University-Commerce Code of Student Conduct 5.b[1, 2, 3]). Cheating, including plagiarizing papers in whole or part, will result in a grade of zero (0) on the assignment for the first offense and failure of the course for any subsequent offenses.

#### **Attendance Policy**

Because your active participation in discussions is expected, attendance is vital for success in this course. Attendance requires more than simply coming to class.

#### **Assignment Policy**

I will provide specific details during class meetings and possibly by email. Students must stay current with all readings and discussions. Students must complete and submit all assignments by their respective due dates.

#### **Late Work**

I will not accept any assignment after its due date. Assignments submitted after the due date may receive a score of zero (0).

#### **Drop a Course**

A student may drop a course by logging into his/her myLEO account and clicking on the hyperlink labeled "Drop a class" from among the choices found under the myLeo section of the Web page.

#### **Incompletes**

Incompletes (grade of "X") are granted only under rare and extraordinary circumstances.

#### **Administrative Withdrawal**

I reserve the right to drop a student from the course administratively for excessive absences or violations of student conduct codes.

### **University Specific Procedures:**

#### *ADA Statement*

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

**Office of Student Disability Resources and Services**  
**Texas A&M University-Commerce**  
**Gee Library 132**  
**Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835**  
**Fax (903) 468-8148**  
[StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu](mailto:StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu)  
[Student Disability Resources & Services](#)

*Student Conduct*

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See *Code of Student Conduct* from *Student Guide Handbook*).