Ling 107 — Introductory Linguistics (Honors)
University of Kansas

Instructor: Dr. Andrew McKenzie— andrew.mckenzie@ku.edu
Meetings: Tuesday and Thursday from 9:30 AM to 10:45 AM
Classroom: Blake Hall 108
Office Hours: Monday from 10 am to 11:30 am
Thursday from 1 pm to 2:30 pm
Office Location: Blake Hall 428 (see map)

COURSE OVERVIEW

Description of Course Content

Welcome to Ling 107! This course will introduce students to linguistics, the scientific study of language. It will trace the development of linguistics from its origins, following the changes in research direction that led the field from the humanities to the sciences. It will also expose students to the inner workings of linguistic structures and processes. Having done so, the course will discuss different facets of the human side of natural language, and the major questions that concern its acquisition, knowledge, and use. This course will involve an array of analytical content and exercises, exposing students to different subfields of linguistics as well as different methodologies.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, a student should be capable of independently doing the following:

- Understand the origins and nature of natural language and the grammar
- Describe and employ the systems, structures, and processes that form the grammar
- Apply analytic techniques and scientific reasoning to linguistic phenomena.
- Trace the development of inquiry in, and major questions of, the field of linguistics
- Appreciate the diversity of natural languages and the commonality of their underlying structures
- Share a sense of the breadth and depth of linguistics and its applications to the wider world

KU Core satisfaction

1. Goal 1 (Critical Thinking), Learning Outcome 1
2. Goal 3 (Breadth of Knowledge), Social Sciences
3. Goal 4 (Culture and Diversity), Learning Outcome 2 (Global)
Office Hours

I will be hosting office hours on a regular basis throughout the semester. During office hours, I keep an open door for students who would like to speak with me, and you can count on me being present (unless warned to my absence). No appointment is necessary.

Office hours are a great time to gain one-on-one facetime with an instructor to discuss what’s on your mind. If you feel confused or lost, or if you are curious about questions that come up but which we cannot address properly during class time. If you have questions or concerns about assignments or course material, or just want to chat about linguistics, you’re welcome to drop by.

What if you can’t make it to the scheduled hours? In that case, you can make an appointment with me, and we can meet then. Please do not drop by unannounced otherwise, as I shall be in the midst of some mind-consuming task and may have to shoo you away.

My office is located on the 4th floor of Blake Hall, and you can use this map to get you there. My name is by the door and you can see my lemon yellow walls through the transom.
COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Course Materials

1. No textbooks will be required
2. Readings and other materials will be posted on Blackboard and or distributed in class

Printing Fees

Each student must pay a fee of 10 USD to help defray printing costs of handouts and such. Either pay the instructor directly or bring your fee to the Linguistics main office (Blake Hall 427; see map) during business hours.

Assignments

Homeworks: 41%

1. Lab at Home: 21% These three homeworks will involve conducting particular elements of linguistic analysis.
2. Concepts and Problems: 20% These two are more traditional homeworks, requiring written responses to questions about course material.
3. Bonus Lab at Home Over Thanksgiving Break you can do an additional Lab at Home for half the value of a Lab at Home assignment.

Participation: 15%

1. Scavenger Hunt: 8% You will be tasked with finding 8 media pieces pertaining to linguistics or language, and reporting upon them to the forum, at the rate of about one every 2 weeks.
2. Daily Double: 7% Each class session, you will need to bring two questions to class, based on the class material. They can be about the reading, previous class sessions, or even questions about language that you thought might be interesting to ask about. I will read some of these out loud in class, and answer others online. If you ask what’s going to be on the test, I will tell you now: I won’t know until I make the test. You get two free passes: The first day of class, and day the midterm is due.
Exams: 44%

There will be two exams: A take-home midterm, and an in-session final.

1. **Midterm:** 20% : This will be a take-home exam, covering all subjects covered up to then.

2. **Final exam:** 24% : This exam will be ‘comprehensive’, covering all subjects covered in the course, though weighted towards the latter half.

   **Final exam period!** The final exam is scheduled for Tuesday, December 12, from 7:30 am to 10:00 am. Yes, seven thirty in the morning.

Rubrics for these assignments will be posted during the semester.

### Likely Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Syllabus, Methods, History</td>
<td>Phonetics</td>
<td>Lab at Home 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td><strong>LANGUAGE AS A SYSTEM - STRUCTURALISM</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Saussure’s groundbreaking</td>
<td>Phonology : Features, phonotactics</td>
<td>Scavenger Hunt 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Phonology : Allophones, phonemes</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Phonology: Tone, intonation, stress</td>
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<td>Lab at Home 2, SH 2</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Morphology : Inflection, Allomorphy (and the Americanists)</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>New word building : Derivation, Compounding</td>
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<td>Concepts &amp; Problems 1, SH 3</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td><strong>LANGUAGE AS A COGNITIVE OBJECT - GENERATIVE GRAMMAR</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Chomsky’s revolution</td>
<td>Syntax : Phrase structure, transformations</td>
<td>SH 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td><strong>Fall break</strong></td>
<td>Universal Grammar</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Sentence building : Universal structures and processes</td>
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<td>Midterm assigned</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Linguistic universals, typology / (Language and biology)</td>
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<td>Lab at Home 3, SH 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td><strong>LANGUAGE AND MEANING AND MIND</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Meaning : Semantics and grammar</td>
<td></td>
<td>SH 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Meaning : More semantics, pragmatics</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Language’s effect on thought (and behavior?)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Concepts &amp; Problems 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td><strong>LANGUAGE OUTSIDE THE MIND</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Register, prescriptivism</td>
<td>Thanksgiving break</td>
<td>Bonus Lab at Home, SH 7</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Dialect, prescription and social identity</td>
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<td>Scavenger Hunt 8</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Language policy and revitalization</td>
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<td><strong>FINAL EXAM - DEC 14, 7:30 AM</strong></td>
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Some of these topics may be refined as we go along, but the assignment dates will not change without prior notice.

**Grading Policy**

Grades will be assigned according to a 20-point scale. There will be no curve or rounding: The grade you receive is the one you earn. I grade sharply, but this 20-point scale allows more room for the mistakes of learning than the standard 100-point scale.

The points can be converted to a letter grade via the table below. The number is the lower end of the grade’s range. Pursuant to University of Kansas policy, the grades show the following attributes (translated at right to what I consider to meet those attributes):

1. A = outstanding quality
2. B = high quality
3. C = acceptable quality
4. D = quality less than acceptable
5. F = quality too low to receive credit

\[
\begin{array}{cccccccc}
(A+) & A & A- & B+ & B & B- & C+ & C & C- \\
20 & 18 & 16 & 15 & 14 & 13 & 12 & 11 & 10 \\
D+ & D & D- & F & & & & & &
\end{array}
\]

[ fully masters material ]
[ much mastery, with a few slips ]
[ gets it, but hasn’t mastered it ]
[ doesn’t really get it ]
[ fails to show basic understanding ]

**Keeping track**

I will return assignments with grades on them. At least once every two weeks, barring unforeseen interruptions, I will update your scores on blackboard. You can add up your score as we go along, weighted according to the scale above. The total of possible points throughout the semester is 2000, which you can easily convert to the 20-point scale.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>( Wt \times 20 )</th>
<th>( Num \times Wt \times 20 )</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Daily Double</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>0.25</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scavenger Hunt</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lab at Home</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>420</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concepts &amp; Problems</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>400</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid-term</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>480</td>
<td>480</td>
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</table>
**Grade Contestation**

If you feel that the grade you received was not the one you earned, please let me know as soon as possible so we can discuss it.

**Late work**

I will not accept late work without grounds for excuse. These grounds are identical to those for excused absences (see the Attendance policy), with one addendum:

N.B: Last-minute technical difficulties frequently hamper the timely submission of assignments. Therefore, I will not consider such circumstances as unforeseen for the purposes of proper excuse. It is up to you to ensure that your printer is working, your files are not corrupted, that you have made external back-ups of your work, and so forth. I am in no position to cast the first stone about finishing seconds before a deadline. However, with the thrill of triumphant rush comes the threat of utter disaster. In fairness to everyone else in the class, the deadlines must be respected.

Also, note that I do give ‘partial’ credit. That is, any work turned in will earn some points, so half-done work turned in on time is better for your grade than something complete that is late, which will get zero points even if it is staggeringly perfect in every other way.

**OTHER ASSIGNMENT POLICIES**

**Working together**

Collaboration is allowed on homeworks, lab reports, and in-class exercises (unless specified), but be sure to list the names of your collaborators. Collaboration is **not** allowed on the exams.

**Outside research**

You may conduct outside research for your homeworks. Treat it as you would if you were collaborating with a classmate—cite your sources. Failure to do so will be interpreted as plagiarism, which is a form of academic dishonesty. Copy-and-paste jobs are not only easy to spot versions of plagiarism, but they are just plain lazy. If you can’t at least paraphrase, you’re better off not doing anything.
ATTENDANCE POLICY

Taking attendance

I will not take attendance. However, absence will ensure the missing of a large amount of course material and practice with analysis. These cannot be made up without proper excuse (see below), and I will not teach the whole course over during office hours.

Grounds for proper excuse

Grounds for proper excuse include illness, medical treatment, urgent issues concerning your dependents, unforeseen circumstances (flat tire, jury duty, zombie apocalypse, etc.), funerals, major religious holidays, or university-related activities. Foreknowledge engenders sympathy in such matters, so even if you expect to be excused, be sure to let me know as soon as you know you will miss a course. With any absence, I may ask for verifiable documentation.

Note that technical difficulties are not grounds for proper excuse (see Late work).

IMPORTANT NOTIFICATIONS

Disability Accommodations

The Academic Achievement & Access Center (AAAC) coordinates accommodations and services for all KU students who are eligible. If you have a disability for which you wish to request accommodations and have not contacted the AAAC, please do so as soon as possible. Their office is located in 22 Strong Hall; their phone number is 785-864-4064 (V/TTY).

Information about their services can be found at disability.ku.edu. Please contact me privately in regard to your needs in this course.

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty is a completely unacceptable mode of conduct and will not be tolerated in any form. All persons involved in academic dishonesty will be dealt with in accordance with the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences policy on academic misconduct, which may result in failure of the course, suspension, or even expulsion from the university.

Electronic communication

I will send all e-mail concerning this course to your ku.edu address. If you want to use a different e-mail address, set your ku.edu address to forward e-mail from me or from Blackboard to the
address you use to ensure you don’t miss important e-mails.

**Amendment Disclaimer**

This syllabus is subject to change depending on extenuating circumstances or class interest.