

LING 1000: Introduction to Linguistics

Instructors:

Name: Dr. [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]@pitt.edu
Office: [REDACTED]

Term: Fall 2025

Time: Monday and Wednesday,
4:30-5:45pm

Location: Cathedral of Learning 363
(In-person)

Name: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]@pitt.edu
Office: [REDACTED]

Office Hours:

Monday and Wednesday, 3-4pm (or by
appointment)

Office: [REDACTED]

Textbooks:

Dawson, H., Hernandez, A., & Shain, C. (2022). *Language files: Materials for an introduction to language and linguistics* (13th ed.). The Ohio State University Press.

Anderson, C., Bjorkman, B., Denis, D., Doner, J., Grant, M., Sanders, N., & Taniguchi, A. (2022). *Essentials of Linguistics, 2nd edition*. eCampusOntario.
<https://ecampusontario.pressbooks.pub/essentialsoflinguistics2/>

Prerequisite: None

Course Description and Objectives

Language, in all of its forms, animates our daily social interactions and offers important insights about human thought and cognition. LING 1000: Introduction to Linguistics acquaints students with the field of linguistics or the scientific study of language. The primary course objective is to survey the various aspects of language structure and language use as studied by linguists today. In doing so, you will develop analytical skills that are useful for continued coursework in linguistics as well as work in other academic or non-academic fields. We will examine the ways in which linguists analyze and describe language, what we know when we use a language, and what language reveals about human beings, society, and culture. By the end of the semester, students will have developed a foundational knowledge of the core areas of modern linguistic

inquiry (phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, and pragmatics) and familiarity with key areas of applied linguistics (including language variation, language acquisition, and historical linguistics).

Communication

You can contact Dr. [REDACTED] ([@pitt.edu](mailto:[REDACTED]@pitt.edu)) or [REDACTED] ([@pitt.edu](mailto:[REDACTED]@pitt.edu)) about any questions related to this course. You should reach out to [REDACTED] in the first instance. [REDACTED] is best reached via email, and on Slack. Please allow 1 business day for a response. If [REDACTED] has not responded by that time, please email her again! In addition, [REDACTED] will be available during business hours on Slack.

Policies

Late Work and Extensions

Work that is submitted after the deadline will be docked 5% of the grade for each 24 hours after the submission deadline. For homework assignments that need to be turned in on paper, **please email ([@pitt.edu](mailto:[REDACTED]@pitt.edu)) a photo of the whole assignment or the file ASAP** if you cannot turn it in during class, that will count as the submission time. Extensions for any reason should be requested **before the due date** along with an estimated submission date. Please do not be afraid to ask for an extension if you need one, we want everyone to succeed in this course!

Attendance

Attendance is required at each class. You'll quickly notice that the class moves quickly, so missing classes may result in falling behind. However, if you need to miss class for illness, doctor's appointments, emergencies, or another reason, please email [REDACTED] ahead of time.

Canvas and Slack

Course materials such as slides, homework assignments, quizzes, and the syllabus will be uploaded to Canvas. Please check Canvas regularly so you do not miss any of the course work. Slack will also be used for in class activities and outside of class communication. Notifications for Slack should be on so you will not miss any important updates.

Group Work

Working on homework assignments or studying for exams in groups is encouraged! However, each student must submit their own homework assignments. If you worked on an assignment with another student, please give their name when submitting the assignment.

ChatGPT and AI

Students are expected to complete all assignments without the use of generative AI tools. The use of such tools, which automatically generate written content, is strictly prohibited in this course. Any instances of work generated using generative AI will be considered a violation of academic integrity and will result in appropriate disciplinary action. It is essential that all work submitted reflects the original ideas and efforts of the individual student to uphold the academic standards of this course.

Study Lab

Take advantage of free academic assistance. [Study Lab](#) offers general academic support with instructional groups, drop-in tutoring, skills workshops, and one-on-one consultations.

Academic Integrity

Students in this course will be expected to comply with the [University of Pittsburgh's Policy on Academic Integrity](#). Any student suspected of violating this obligation for any reason during the semester will be required to participate in the procedural process, initiated at the instructor level, as outlined in the University Guidelines on Academic Integrity. This may include, but is not limited to, the confiscation of the examination of any individual suspected of violating University Policy. Furthermore, no student may bring any unauthorized materials to an exam, including dictionaries and programmable calculators.

To learn more about Academic Integrity, visit the [Academic Integrity Guide](#) for an overview of the topic. For hands-on practice, complete the [Academic Integrity Modules](#).

Disability Services

If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact both your instructor and [Disability Resources and Services](#) (DRS), 140 William Pitt Union, (412) 648-7890, drsrecep@pitt.edu, (412) 228-5347 for P3 ASL users, as early as possible in the term. DRS will verify your disability and determine reasonable accommodations for this course.

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

The University of Pittsburgh does not tolerate any form of discrimination, harassment, or retaliation based on disability, race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, genetic information,

marital status, familial status, sex, age, sexual orientation, veteran status or gender identity or other factors as stated in the University's Title IX policy. The University is committed to taking prompt action to end a hostile environment that interferes with the University's mission. For more information about policies, procedures, and practices, visit the [Civil Rights & Title IX Compliance web page](#).

I ask that everyone in the class strive to help ensure that other members of this class can learn in a supportive and respectful environment. If there are instances of the aforementioned issues, please contact the Title IX Coordinator, by calling 412-648-7860, or e-mailing titleixcoordinator@pitt.edu. Reports can also be [filed online](#). You may also choose to report this to a faculty/staff member; they are required to communicate this to the University's Office of Diversity and Inclusion. If you wish to maintain complete confidentiality, you may also contact the University Counseling Center (412-648-7930).

Gender Inclusive Language Statement

Language is gender-inclusive and non-sexist when we use words that affirm and respect how people describe, express, and experience their gender. Gender-inclusive/non-sexist language acknowledges people of all genders (for example, first year student versus freshman, chair versus chairman, humankind versus mankind, everyone versus ladies and gentlemen, etc.). It also affirms non-binary gender identifications, and recognizes both gender identity and expression. Identities including trans, intersex, and genderqueer reflect personal descriptions, expressions, and experiences. Just as sexist language excludes women's experiences, gendered language excludes the experiences of individuals whose identities may not fit the gender binary, and/or who may not identify with the sex they were assigned at birth. Students, faculty, and staff have the right to control their own identity and to be referred to by the name and pronouns with which they identify. People also have the right to maintain their privacy regarding information they do not wish to share about their identities, including gender identity and pronouns.

Your Wellbeing Matters!

College can be an exciting and challenging time for students. Taking time to maintain your well-being and seek appropriate support can help you achieve your goals and lead a fulfilling life. It can be helpful to remember that we all benefit from assistance and guidance at times, and there are many resources available to support your well-being while you are at Pitt. You are encouraged to visit [Thrive@Pitt](#) to learn more about well-being and the many campus resources available to help you thrive.

If you or anyone you know experiences overwhelming academic stress, persistent difficult feelings and/or challenging life events, you are strongly encouraged to seek support. In addition to reaching out to friends and loved ones, consider connecting with a faculty member you trust for assistance connecting to helpful resources.

The [University Counseling Center](#) is also here for you. You can call 412-648-7930 at any time to connect with a clinician. If you or someone you know is feeling suicidal, please call the

University Counseling Center at any time at 412-648-7930. You can also contact Resolve Crisis Network at 888-796-8226. If the situation is life threatening, call Pitt Police at 412-624-2121 or dial 911.

Course Requirements

- Participation and Attendance – 15% of grade
- Reading Quizzes – 15% of grade
- Homework Assignments – 40% of grade
- Midterm Exam – 15% of grade
- Final exam – 15% of grade

Participation: Your participation grade will be based on regular attendance in class, and also active participation in class activities and discussions. This is a fast moving class, so attendance and participation are crucial to keeping up with the content. Absences may be granted with prior notice.

Reading Quizzes: Each unit beyond the introductory week will have a short reading quiz due on the first or second day at the beginning of class based on the textbook reading assigned for that unit. These will be on Canvas, and two attempts will be allowed. One reading quiz grade will be dropped.

Homework assignments: There will be six problem sets based on the units covered in class and in the reading. A substantial amount of your grade comes from these assignments, so please take your time with these. Each assignment will be due at the beginning of class the date specified in the syllabus. Assignments will be due **on paper**, in class. Students are responsible for printing their own assignments. ([Learn more about printing here!](#)) Group work is encouraged, though each student will be expected to complete their own assignment. (See Group Work policy above)

Midterm exams: There will be one in class, written, midterm exam. This exam will cover all content from class up to that point. The exam will feature multiple choice and short answer questions.

Final exam: There will also be an in person, written, final exam. This will be similar to the midterm exam, except longer and cumulative. It will cover all material taught in this course, including material on the midterm exam.

Grade scale:

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

Course Schedule (subject to change)

LF = Language Files; EoL = Essentials of Linguistics; AA = Dr. [REDACTED]; BB = [REDACTED] (TA)

	Date	Topic	Reading	Instructor	Assignments
Week 1	8/25	Syllabus + Introductions		Both	
	8/27	What is language and linguistics?	LF 1.1, 1.2	AA	
Week 2	9/1	Labor Day – No Class			
	9/3	Language Myths	EoL 1.3-1.6	BB	
Week 3	9/8	Phonetics	LF 2.0-2.3, 2.5	BB	RQ 1
	9/10			BB	
Week 4	9/15		EoL 3.7-3.8	BB	
	9/17	Phonology	LF 3.0-3.3	BB	Phonetics HW Due
Week 5	9/22		LF 3.4-3.5	BB	RQ 2
	9/24			BB	
Week 6	9/29	No Class	LF 4.0-4.4		RQ3
	10/1	Morphology	LF 4.5	AA	Phonology HW Due
Week 7	10/6			AA	
	10/8	Syntax	LF 5.0-5.2	AA	Morphology HW Due
Week 8	10/13		LF 5.3-5.5	AA	RQ 4
	10/15			AA	Syntax HW Due
Week 9	10/20	Midterm Review			
	10/22	Midterm			
Week 10	10/27	Semantics	LF 6.0-6.4	AA	RQ 5
	10/29			AA	
Week 11	11/3	Pragmatics	EoL 8.1-8.5	BB	Semantics HW Due
	11/5	No Class	EoL 8.6-8.8		RQ 6 – Due Fri 11/7
Week 12	11/10	Language Acquisition	EoL 11.1-11.10	AA	RQ 7
	11/12			AA	
Week 13	11/17	Sociolinguistics	LF 10.0-10.5	BB	RQ8
	11/19			BB	Prag/Socio HW Due
Week 14	11/24	Thanksgiving Break – no class			
	11/26				

	Date	Topic	Reading	Instructor	Assignments
Week 15	12/1	Psycholinguistics	LF 9.0-9.1, 9.4	AA	
	12/3	Final Review		Both	
Week 16	12/8	Final Exam Monday Dec 8th, 2-3:50pm			