Language and Linguistics: APLN-500 (Call # 10102)  
Fall 2006

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Office hours: Wednesday, 2:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Course meets: Monday 05:30–08:00PM, Main Campus, Communication Sciences Building (SP), Room 230.

Course website: http://www.purl.org/NET/af
The updated syllabus, assignments, slides, etc. will be posted there; check it regularly!

Highly recommended: Study Guide that accompanies Contemporary Linguistics.
Additional readings will be assigned during the semester.

Course goals: We will attempt to answer questions like the following ones:

- What is Language?
- What is a language?
- Is language unique to humans?
- Why are there so many languages?
- Why is there so much variation even in one language?
- Is any one language or dialect superior to others?
- What is involved in knowing and using a language?
- How do children learn a language?
- Why is it so hard to avoid having a strong accent in a foreign language?
- How do languages change?
- Can linguistics be used to fight spam?
The course will attempt to do the following things:

- make you more aware of your own beliefs and attitudes concerning languages;
- show you how diverse human languages are, and yet how fundamentally similar they are in many ways;
- acquaint you with a representative sample of most of the fields within the study of language;
- show you some of the techniques used in analysis of language;
- acquaint you with the basic concepts necessary for possible further studies in linguistics.

The examples used in this course will be taken from various languages, although primarily from English. However, the focus of the course is not on any specific language or languages; rather, it is on properties common to all languages and on ways in which languages may differ.

Course requirements:
The basic requirement is active participation in class. There will be roughly one homework per week, to ensure the material covered in class is mastered. The midterm exam will consist of the material covered in the first half of the class, and the final will cover the contents discussed in the second half of the class.
Grading: Grades will be based on classroom discussion, homeworks, a midterm exam, and the final examination, using the following scheme:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Homeworks</td>
<td>40% (10% @ 4% each)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>30%</td>
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</table>

- I encourage group work on the homework assignments, but each of you should write out your own answers. Note that group work means that everyone in the group contributes and fully understands what you turn in—where in doubt, I may ask you individually to explain to me in person what you turned in.

- Grading scale (scores in percentages):

  - A+ 93–100
  - A 90–92
  - A− 89–86
  - B+ 87–89
  - B 86–82
  - B− 83–78
  - C+ 77–79
  - C 76–72
  - C− 71–69
  - D+ 67–69
  - D 66–60
  - E 0–59

Make-up Policy: If you know you won’t be able to make a deadline or exam, please see me before you miss the deadline or exam.

Schedule: The latest version of the schedule is always available from our web page. Links to the homework sheets and overheads used in class are posted on the course web site after class.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assignments due</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>Ch. 1, HW1</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Phonetics</td>
<td>Ch. 2, HW1-due, HW2</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>25</td>
<td>Phonology</td>
<td>Ch. 3</td>
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<td>October</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Morphology (Eileen Fitzpatrick)</td>
<td>Ch. 4</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Syntax</td>
<td>Ch. 5</td>
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<td></td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Semantics/Pragmatics</td>
<td>Ch. 6</td>
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<td></td>
<td>23</td>
<td>Midterm</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Psycholinguistics</td>
<td>Ch. 13</td>
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<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Psycholinguistics</td>
<td>Ch. 13 (cont.)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>13</td>
<td>First Language Acquisition</td>
<td>Ch. 11</td>
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<td></td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Second Language Acquisition</td>
<td>Ch. 12</td>
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<td>27</td>
<td>Historical Linguistics</td>
<td>Ch. 7</td>
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<td>December</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Language Variation and Language Contact</td>
<td>Ch. 15</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Language and Computers</td>
<td>Ch. 18</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Final</td>
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Disclaimer: This syllabus is subject to change. All important changes will be made in writing (email), with ample time for adjustment.