

# LING/PSY 201 *Introduction to Linguistics*

## Summer 2017

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INSTRUCTOR: Jonathan Geary  
EMAIL: [jonathangeary@email.arizona.edu](mailto:jonathangeary@email.arizona.edu)  
OFFICE: Douglass 305

OFFICE HOURS: I will be available for in-person and virtual (via Skype) appointments throughout the session. Please email me to schedule an appointment.

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### Course Description:

Audience: This course is cross-listed in Linguistics and Psychology. It is intended for students entering the field of linguistics or related disciplines (e.g. psychology, philosophy, speech and hearing sciences), as well as for those who are merely curious. The primary theme we will explore is the nature of language; we will take language apart and examine all its pieces (e.g. sounds, morphemes, words) in order to see how it works. Language is composed of many intricately threaded sub-structures, which we will explore together. In so doing, you will gain a deeper understanding of and appreciation of language.

Objectives: At the end of the term, successful students will be able to:

1. formulate clear questions about the structure, nature, and use of language, and give sophisticated answers to such questions;
2. identify phonemes, allophones, morphemes, and syntactic and semantic structures in a variety of languages;
3. read and write using the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA);
4. conduct linguistic analyses of various types (e.g. phonological, syntactic);
5. describe the variables by which different languages/dialects can be categorized;
6. write a concise, coherent, and academically acceptable investigation, argument, or proposal relating to course themes.

**Lectures, Readings, and Videos:** *\*Unless otherwise noted, all lectures, readings, and videos are required.* The lectures will be video podcasts on Panopto, which you can access by clicking on the 'Content' tab on the course site in D2L ([d2l.arizona.edu](http://d2l.arizona.edu)). All content will be organized by unit and will be posted under the 'Content' tab on the D2L site. The Panopto interface allows you to take notes inside the video while synced with the slides; I strongly encourage you to take advantage of this feature. Taking your own notes will help you to gain mastery over the course material.

**Note:** This is a 3-credit course, which means that it has the same requirements and content as a full semester course. Each semester lasts 15 weeks, but we have to squeeze everything into 5 weeks of classes. You should expect to spend 2 hours per day listening to the lectures, watching any videos, and doing daily activities. The readings, quizzes, and assignments are out-of-class material, so you should budget additional time for those. Total, you should expect to spend at least 20 hours a week on this course. If you cannot devote that much time to the class, then please consider carefully whether you should remain in the course.

**Textbook:** There is no required textbook. All required readings will be posted on D2L.

**Grading:** Grades will be based on a point system. Points can be earned by completing assignments. **The course will be graded out of 400 points, but there are 420 points available.** This means that you can skip some assignments and still receive full credit. Think carefully about whether you want to skip any assignments, and if so which ones you want to skip. **No late work will be accepted without a legitimate, documented excuse (see Course Policies below).**

A = 360-400 points; B = 320-359 points; C = 280-319 points; D = 240-279 points; E ≤ 239 points

### Requirements:

#### Quizzes (150 points):

Unit Quizzes (6 at 25 points each) = 150 points

#### Problem Sets (100 points):

Problem Sets (4 at 25 points each) = 100 points

#### Discussion Board Activities (45 points)

Initial Posts (3 at 10 points each) = 30 points

Reply Posts (3 at 5 points each) = 15 points

#### Everyday Linguistics Assignments (75 points)

Everyday Linguistic Quiz = 15 points

Everyday Linguistics Assignment = 60 points

#### Final Quiz/Problem Set (50 points)

= 50 points

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#### Total

= 420 points

### Description of Major Assignments

#### (0) Syllabus Quiz (0 points)

An untimed syllabus quiz will become available under the ‘Quiz’ tab on the first day of class. You may retake the syllabus quiz as many times as necessary, but you must receive a 100% on the quiz to have access to any other course materials (besides the syllabus).

#### (1) Quizzes (150 points)

You will complete six 20-question quizzes on the content of each unit (the course will be divided into six units, each on a different linguistic topic), and you will have 60 minutes to do so. You can make two attempts at each quiz. After your first attempt, you will see which questions you got wrong, but not the correct answers. You are encouraged to take a first attempt early, and then to work through any mistakes you made and/or ask for help before trying again. If you make two attempts, D2L will select the highest scoring attempt as your final score. The quiz questions will come from that unit’s reading and lectures. *The purpose of the quizzes is to make sure that you are keeping on top of the readings and lectures.*

**(2) Problem Sets (100 points)**

You will complete four 20-question Problem Sets that will focus exclusively on data analysis. Problem Sets are not timed. As with the unit quizzes, you are able to make two attempts. *The purpose of the problem sets is to give you practice in linguistic data analysis.*

**(3) Discussion Board Activities (45 points)**

You will participate in three discussion boards. Each discussion board requires both an initial post AND a subsequent response to someone else's post. Your initial post will be guided by the topic for that board and often will include a bit of data collection, the results of which you will share as your initial post. It is important that you read the prompt and instructions for the discussion board BEFORE you read others' commentary and post yourself, because you will need to have first collected some linguistic data to share. Each initial post should be at least 250 words in length (not to include lists of data).

You are required to reply to at least one classmate for each discussion board. Be sure to respond to each other as you would if you were holding a substantive and respectful in-person conversation. Take the opportunity to expand the conversation and get to know the thoughts and opinions of your classmates. Keep your replies contentful, and make sure they relate to the original prompt; you risk losing some or all points for responses such as "me, too" or "I found X fascinating", or for writing off-topic. Each reply post should be at least 100 words in length. You MUST wait until after the deadline for the initial posts has passed, and all of your classmates have had a chance to post, before you may post a reply. If you post a reply before this deadline, you will NOT receive credit for making a reply post.

Discussion board assignments will be graded based on your mastery of the course content, the substance of your initial post, and the content of your reply to others' posts. You risk losing points for repeating yourself to reach the word limit, especially if you fail to include relevant material in your posts. *The purpose of these assignments is for you to conduct independent investigations on linguistic topics, extending the concepts discussed in class, as well as for you to practice applying terms/concepts you learned about in the course.*

**(4) Everyday Linguistics Assignments (75 points)**

You will complete one research assignment for this course. This will require you to conduct a small, informal study of language and its use. Please note that the Everyday Linguistics Quiz is part of this set of assignments and is unrelated to the unit quizzes. Its successful completion by the due date is required to gain access to the details of this assignment. Failure to complete the Everyday Linguistics Quiz results in score of zero for the assignment. *The purpose of this assignment is to increase your awareness of language and its properties as well as to give you the opportunity to conduct research in linguistics.*

This assignment requires you to collect data from other people. You must tell them that you are collecting data for a class. If you say that you did not, or if you say that you tricked them into participating in some way, you will not receive credit.

**(5) Final Quiz/Problem Set (50 points)**

A 50-question Quiz/Problem Set will become available on the last day of class (7/6). Questions will come from any of the six units of the course. *The purpose of this assignment is to assess your knowledge of the concepts discussed in the course.*

**(6) Extra Credit (15 points, maximum)**

There are various ways for you to earn extra points towards your overall grade in this class. One of these is to attend office hours (if you are not on campus, we can Skype). For these visits, you must come prepared with substantive questions to ask about course material or anything related to linguistics (grade queries, quiz review, and the like do not count). There may also be linguistics experiments in which you can participate for course credit if you are on campus, and I may offer other extra credit opportunities as the term goes on.

Assignments are due by **10:00 PM** on the date listed in the course calendar. Assignments are due at 10:00 PM because a) D2L goes down for maintenance after 10:00 PM on Fridays (meaning assignments due on Fridays cannot be due later than that) and b) I want to use a consistent deadline for all assignments. If you anticipate this being a problem for you (e.g. because you work until 10:00 PM), please contact me immediately so that we can arrange an alternative deadline.

**Course Policies**

**Course deadlines are NOT flexible without the prior approval of the instructor. No late work will be accepted.** If you have an emergency, you must notify me as soon as possible, AND provide documentation of the emergency, AND complete the work as promptly as possible, given the circumstances (we will determine a schedule together).

If, for instance, you skip an assignment and later realize that you needed to complete that assignment to receive a particular grade, I will NOT allow you to submit the assignment late. Technical glitches in uploading documents, taking quizzes, reviewing material, etc. are not valid reasons for missing deadlines. Although technical issues with D2L are not unheard of, they are not sufficient excuses for a late assignment or submission. Please plan ahead so that any technical issues you may have can be addressed in plenty of time to meet posted deadlines (take screenshots to document your difficulties, which can also support the legitimacy of your issue). If you need special access to accommodate an early schedule, please let me know at least one week in advance so that I can make the relevant adjustments in D2L. Assignments will NOT be accepted late and/or CANNOT be made up unless you have a documented medical or family emergency, have a Dean's Excuse, or must miss required work for religious reasons (as recognized by UA policy). If you miss coursework for any other reason, you will lose all points for that assignment.

**Students facing exceptional circumstances:** If exceptional circumstances arise or are anticipated during the term, such as chronic illness, pregnancy or childbirth, trauma, or an emergency with unforeseen and long-term impacts, please contact me as soon as possible to inform me of the situation. Legitimate and official documentation of your situation must be provided prior to negotiating an approved change of schedule for the class, should you request such modification. In addition, I expect regular and timely contact during the term, which includes informing me immediately of any changes to your situation that may impact your ability to fully participate in the class and/or to meet deadlines under the approved alternate schedule. It is your responsibility to inform me prior to or immediately following a (missed) revised deadline so that we can work together to accommodate its effect on your course participation. Again, it is imperative that you keep in continued and consistent contact with me in order for me to be able to accommodate your needs and so that I can adjust my schedule accordingly. Failure to keep in touch will be considered a deviation from our agreement and may result in said agreement becoming null and void.

**I will check my e-mail at least once per day (except weekends), so you can expect a 24 hour response time.** Plan ahead! If you e-mail me on Friday evening, you may not get an answer until late on Monday.

**Email etiquette:** Please feel free to call me “Jonathan” or “Jon”. If referring to your instructors by their first name makes you uncomfortable, you may also call me “Mr. Geary”. Please do not refer to me as “Dr. Geary”, as I am still a PhD-student and have not yet earned that title. Please keep your emails respectful and informative. I can help you best if you are clear and polite in your correspondence, and I will reply in kind.

**You must motivate yourself.** It is your responsibility to check D2L for announcements *every day*. You are responsible for your own participation. You are responsible for viewing all of the lectures and videos, for reading all of the assigned readings, and for completing all of the assignments on time.

**You are required to cite your sources in any written assignment you submit.** Give credit where credit is due; if an idea is not yours, you cannot present it as yours. If you do not cite your sources where appropriate, you will not receive credit for the assignment. I do not care how you cite your sources (you can use MLA, APA, Chicago, or something else), as long as you cite your sources in some way. I understand that this may be new to some students. If that is the case, or if you have questions regarding what needs cited, please contact me so that I may help you.

**For any assignment that requires you to collect data from another person, you must tell them that you are collecting data for a class assignment.** You should not tell them the purpose of your experiment/assignment beforehand (tell them after so that you do not bias their responses), but you must tell them that you are collecting data for a class, and in reporting your results you must keep their identities anonymous. If you fail to do this, you will not receive credit for the assignment.

**Course documents (aside from the grading policy) may change,** with reasonable advance notice from the instructor.

**Grading Philosophy:** Your grade in this course will reflect the quality and timeliness of submitted assignments as well as your level of mastery of the course objectives as demonstrated on these assignments. Arguing a grade based on any criteria aside from theses is inappropriate.

**Grade Review Policy:** If at any point you feel that you have received a grade that is unfair or inaccurate, please inform me in writing of your concern within **one week** of having received the grade. I will consider the issue carefully and reply to you as soon as possible with either a grade correction or a justification of why I believe the original grade should stand. In no case will your request for a grade review result in punitive measures being taken against you in this course. You are encouraged to request clarification or correction for any grading concern. If, however, you request a grade review without having checked any feedback I have already provided, I will not consider your request.

**It is your responsibility to ensure that you are comfortable with the technologies that are necessary for successful participation in this course.** If you have questions or concerns about the technological aspects of this course, there are university resources that are available to help you:

For general computing questions: [http://uits.arizona.edu/departments/the247#\\_blank](http://uits.arizona.edu/departments/the247#_blank).

For help with D2L: e-mail [d2l@email.arizona.edu](mailto:d2l@email.arizona.edu).

**This course is web-delivered. Technical problems are to be expected.** You must consider this possibility and have a back-up plan for completing your work on time. If you do experience a technical problem that is beyond your control (network interruptions, etc.), notify me as soon as possible, AND submit a problem report to the D2L team as promptly as possible, AND complete the work ASAP. If you do not follow these instructions, late work will not be accepted.

To submit a problem report to D2L:

- (a) Go to the D2L Help page at <http://help.D2L.arizona.edu> and click on “Report a Problem,” OR
- (b) e-mail [d2l@email.arizona.edu](mailto:d2l@email.arizona.edu), and copy the instructor: [jonathangeary@email.arizona.edu](mailto:jonathangeary@email.arizona.edu).

**Academic Integrity Policy:** While you are encouraged to form study groups to discuss your homework assignments for the course, all work must be typed and completed individually.

- It is not acceptable to collaborate in any way on quizzes or the final exam.
- It is not acceptable to submit work for this course which has been previously submitted by you or by anyone else for academic credit at any time.
- It is not acceptable to falsify any component of any document that you submit to this class for a grade.
- It is not acceptable to provide your work to other students in a manner that might facilitate their submission of your work under their name.
- It is not acceptable for any two or more students to submit assignments with substantial identical content.
- It is not acceptable for any student to submit assignments containing unattributed quotations or paraphrases from another source (see citation policy above).

Any violation of the Code of Academic Integrity will lead to either a grade of zero on the relevant assignment or a failing grade in the course. According to University Policy, further disciplinary action may be pursued for anyone with multiple code violations. The Code of Academic Integrity can be found at:

<http://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/codeofacademicintegrity>.

**Students with disabilities:** If you anticipate the need for reasonable accommodation to meet the requirements of this course, you must register with the Disability Resource Center (phone: 520.621.3268; web: <http://drc.arizona.edu/>) and request that they send me official notification of your accommodation needs as soon as possible. Please plan to email me personally to discuss accommodations and how my course requirements may impact your ability to fully participate. We can then plan how best to coordinate your accommodation.

### **Who am I?**

My name is Jonathan Geary, but you may call me Jonathan or Jon (please do not call me Dr. Geary; I am not yet a PhD). I am from Pittsburgh, PA, and feel strongly about [my local dialect](#), and will likely bring in examples from “Pittsburghese” in explaining course topics. I earned a BA in Linguistics with minors in History and Arabic Studies at Boston College in 2014. Now, I am a third-year PhD student in Linguistics at [the University of Arizona](#).

My linguistic interests are primarily in psycholinguistics, morphology, historical linguistics, and language revitalization, and I do much of my work on Piipaash and on Semitic and Quechuan languages. Though not the focus of the course, I will connect the course content to topics in psycholinguistics, historical linguistics, and language revitalization. If any of these topics interest you, I encourage you to arrange a meeting with me to discuss them (and I may be able to recommend other courses which focus on these topics).

Outside of linguistics, I like animals (esp. cats and sharks), coffee, horror and sci-fi films and novels, American football, hiking, and going for long walks at night. I am a gigantic nerd and appreciate any nerd-references in your assignments. I will likely intersperse cute animal pictures in my lectures to get your attention/to keep you and me feeling happy.