

Spring 2024

Syllabus: 11220 HSS 1300000 General Linguistics

Class:	M 3:30-6:20, CHSS Building, C509
Instructor:	Feng-fan Hsieh (謝豐帆) ffhsieh@mx.nthu.edu.tw HSS Building, A430, x3-4633
TA/Grader	T.B.A.
Office hours:	By appt.
Required texts:	The Ohio State University. 2016. Language Files, 12th edition. Taipei: Bookman Books, Ltd.

Course description:

Have you ever wondered what makes human language so special? From the first grunts and gestures to the complex symphony of words we weave today, language has always been a defining characteristic of our species. In this course, we'll embark on a captivating journey to unlock the secrets of human language, exploring its intricate structure, dazzling diversity, and profound impact on our thoughts, relationships, and societies. We'll begin by delving into the very essence of what makes human language unique. What sets it apart from the communication systems of other animals? What cognitive abilities underpin our linguistic prowess? From there, we'll dive into the fascinating world of language structure, dissecting its building blocks like a skilled architect. We'll explore the intricate dance of morphology (word formation), syntax (sentence construction), semantics (meaning), phonetics (sound production), and phonology (sound patterns). But our exploration won't be confined to the theoretical realm. Through engaging hands-on activities, including homework, in-class exercises, and even exams, you'll get to wield the tools of linguistic analysis yourself. You'll learn to dissect sentences, decode hidden meanings, and appreciate the subtle nuances that make language tick. By the end of this course, you'll not only have a deeper understanding of language, but also a newfound appreciation for the power and magic it holds. So, are you ready to embark on this captivating journey? Buckle up, get ready to be challenged, and prepare to discover the awe-inspiring world of human language!

Course requirements:

Class participation and attendance (10%)
Homework assignments (c. 4 assignments; 40%)
Midterm exam (20%)
Final exam (30%)

There will be four (4) problem sets, generally handed out on Mondays and due on the following Monday. Late homework will not be accepted except for compelling reasons (e.g. in documented case of emergency) and with prior permission of the

instructor. You are strongly encouraged to work together, and to discuss readings and your solutions to the written assignments with each other.

If you are having problems with readings, assignments, etc. please do not hesitate to get in touch with the instructor or TA – in person or by email. We are more than happy to help.

Students' use of the AI

Conditionally open; please specify how generative AI will be used in course output

Schedule of topics (subject to revision)

WEEK	TOPIC	READING
Week 1	Orientation and logistics	
Week 2	Introduction & Animal Communication	Chaps. 1&14
Week 3	Phonetics	Chap. 2
Week 4	Phonetics (cont.) HW1	Chap. 2
Week 5	Phonology	Chap. 3
Week 6	Phonology (cont.) HW1	Chap. 3
Week 7	Morphology	Chap. 4
Week 8	Morphology (cont.) HW2	Chap. 4
Week 9	Mid term	
Week 10	Syntax	Chap. 5
Week 11	Syntax (cont.) HW2	Chap. 5
Week 12	Semantics	Chap. 6
Week 13	Semantics (cont.) & Pragmatics	Chap. 6 & Chap. 7
Week 14	Prgamatics (cont.)	Chap. 7
Week 15	Language variation	Chap 10
Week 16	Final exam	