

SYLLABUS

ENGL 240: Introduction to Linguistics Fall 2019

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Office hours: Mon/Tue/Wed, 3:00-4:00 p.m.
and by appointment

Class meets: Mon/Tue/Thu, 2:00-2:50 p.m. CCC 238

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is a general introduction to the study of language. It includes an overview of basic concepts and methods of language study and introduces some of the core areas of linguistics research: *phonetics and phonology* (the sound system), *morphology* (the structure of words), *syntax* (the structure of phrases and sentences), *semantics* (how words relate to meaning), and *language acquisition*.

By learning how language works, students will better understand the interrelatedness of language, its innateness, and its social setting. Students will also gain a better understanding of the form and function of language and will develop an adequate perspective on commonly held prejudices and misconceptions about language.

GENERAL EDUCATION LEARNING OUTCOMES

This course is designed to meet the requirements of the Interdisciplinary Studies area in the General Education Program at UWSP. The learning outcomes are listed below.

Interdisciplinary Studies

Upon completing this requirement you will be able to:

- identify an issue or question related to the interdisciplinary course(s) and describe what each discipline contributes to an understanding of that issue.
- explain the benefits of being able to combine these contributions.

REQUIRED TEXTS AND MATERIALS:

Rental:

Fromkin, Victoria, Robert Rodman, and Nina Hyams. *An Introduction to Language* (11th edn.). Boston: Cengage, 2017.

ASSIGNMENTS AND ASSESSMENT:**Exams:**

There will be three exams given in this class (the third will be during UWSP Finals Week).

Homework:

There are four homework assignments that will cover different topics we discuss.

Reading assignments:

You will be assigned readings that are to be completed before class. If I am concerned that students are not reading, I reserve the right to give reading quizzes, which will be graded.

Attendance and participation:

Because so much of your learning will take place in class, you must attend on a regular basis. I will take attendance every class period. For this class, "attendance" means being present, on time, and prepared for the entire class period. A student who is chronically late to class, leaves early, or is not prepared to participate in the day's classwork will not receive attendance and participation credit.

You will have three (3) "freebie absences" for the semester, excluding the final exam period. Use them carefully. If you miss more than three scheduled classes, each missed class will result in the loss of **one grade** (e.g. from A- to B+) from your Attendance total (see Grading below).

Should you arrive for class after I have taken attendance (usually 5 minutes or more after class has begun), it is your responsibility to find the sheet, sign it, and mark yourself as "late". Three "lates" will count as one absence.

Because attendance is such a crucial part of your grade, it is very important to let me know if anything happens that would prevent you from coming to class.

Grading:

Exam 1	20%
Exam 2	25%
Exam 3	25%
Homework	20%
<u>Attendance/participation</u>	<u>10%</u>
 TOTAL	 100%

Grading scale:

93-100% = A	87-89% = B+	77-79% = C+	67-69% = D+	0-59% = F
90-92% = A-	83-86% = B	73-76% = C	60-66% = D	
	80-82% = B-	70-72% = C-		

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

UWSP Community Bill of Rights and Responsibilities

The University of Wisconsin–Stevens Point values a safe, honest, respectful, and inviting learning environment. In order to ensure that each student has the opportunity to succeed, we have developed a set of expectations for all students and instructors. This set of expectations is known as the Rights and Responsibilities document, and it is intended to help establish a positive living and learning environment at UWSP. This document can be found at <http://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Pages/Student-Conduct.aspx>

Plagiarism and academic dishonesty

Academic integrity is central to the mission of higher education and UWSP in particular. Academic dishonesty (cheating, plagiarism, etc.) is taken very seriously. ***Don't do it!*** The minimum penalty for a violation of academic integrity is a failing grade (zero) for the assignment. For more information, see the UWSP “Student Academic Standards and Disciplinary Procedures” section of the Rights and Responsibilities document, found here: <http://www.uwsp.edu/stuaffairs/Documents/RightsRespons/SRR-2010/rightsChap14.pdf>

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA)

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal law requiring educational institutions to provide reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. For more information about UWSP’s policies, check here:

<http://www.uwsp.edu/stuaffairs/Documents/RightsRespons/ADA/rightsADAPolicyInfo.pdf>

If you have a disability and require classroom and/or exam accommodations, please register with the Disability and Assistive Technology Center and then contact me at the beginning of the course. I am happy to help in any way that I can. For more information, please visit the Disability and Assistive Technology Center, located on the 6th floor of the Learning Resource Center (the Library). You can also find more information here:

<http://www4.uwsp.edu/special/disability/>

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

For details on all emergency responses at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, see the UWSP Emergency Management Plan at <http://www.uwsp.edu/rmgt/Pages/em/default.aspx>

CLASSROOM PROTOCOL

We will spend some of our class time in group work, discussions, and lecture. Regardless of the class format, you are expected to be prepared, to listen, to contribute, and to participate in an appropriate fashion.

At all times you should be respectful toward others; inappropriate and disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Our classroom will be a place where all involved feel safe when exchanging ideas. Diverse opinions and concepts are a fact of college life and adult life beyond college. As a class we will work together to understand and appreciate different viewpoints.

In this class there will be only limited use of cellular phones or other similar electronic devices; please do not spend class time sending or receiving text messages on a regular basis. Such behavior is disruptive to me (as I will most likely see you) and can obviously affect others and yourself. Unless you are otherwise instructed, or unless you have discussed it with me, please refrain from using laptops in class.

Failure to abide by any of these rules may result in being asked to leave the classroom, resulting in an absence for that day.

LATE WORK

If you turn in homework late, your grade for that assignment will be lowered **one full letter grade** (e.g., A– becomes B–) per class session it is late. A paper is late if the hard copy is received more than 15 minutes after the start of class the day it is due.

If you cannot turn in an assignment at the beginning of class on the day it is due, you must notify me **by email** at least 24 hours before the due date to discuss the possibility of an extension, although an extension is not guaranteed.

PROBLEM SOLVING

I encourage you to see me during office hours, to email me, or to make an appointment any time we are both available to discuss issues connected with this class and/or your performance.

Please discuss concerns with me at an early time—while we have options. I tend to be generous with students who consult with me while issues are concerns, rather than crises. Of course, if an emergency situation does arise, please let me know as soon as possible.

DAILY SCHEDULE (Note: subject to change)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Material covered</u>	<u>What is due</u>
Week 1		
T/R 9/3-5	Introduction to class and syllabus Ch. 1: What is language?	
Week 2		
M/T/R 9/9-12	Ch. 1 cont. Ch. 10: Brain and language	
Week 3		
M/T/R 9/16-19	Ch. 10 cont. Ch. 5: Phonetics	Homework 1 due
Week 4		
M/T/R 9/23-26	Ch. 5 cont.	***NO CLASS SEPT. 26***

<u>Date</u>	<u>Material covered</u>	<u>What is due</u>
Week 5 M/T/R 9/30-10/3	Chapter 6: Phonology	
Week 6 M/T/R 10/7-10	Ch. 6 cont. Review	Homework 2 due
Week 7 M/T/R 10/14-17	Chapter 2: Morphology	Exam 1
Week 8 M/T/R 10/21-24	Ch. 2 cont. Chapter 3: Syntax	
Week 9 M/T/R 10/28-31	Ch. 3 cont.	Homework 3 due
Week 10 M/T/R 11/4-7	Ch. 3 cont. + Review	Exam 2
Week 11 M/T/R 11/11-14	Chapter 4: Semantics/Pragmatics	
Week 12 M/T/R 11/18-21	Chapter 7: Language and society	
Week 13 M/T/R 11/25-28	Chapter 8: Language change	***NO CLASS NOV. 28***
Week 14 M/T/R 12/2-5	Chapter 9: Language acquisition	Homework 4 due
Week 15 M/T/R 12/9-12	Ch. 9 cont. Review	
Finals week W 12/18		Exam 3 (2:45-4:45 p.m.)