ENGL301
Ticket # 14007

INTRODUCTION TO LANGUAGE AND LINGUISTICS

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Office Hours: Mon & Wed. 12:00-1:00 and by appointment

Reader: ASAP Copy and Print, 9250 Reseda Suite #6, Northridge (818) 700-7999
**We use these at (almost) every class session, so please bring them with you.**

ENGL301 is a survey course – a whirlwind tour, a smorgasbord of ideas to sample and savor from the major subfields of linguistics. We will examine language from dual viewpoints: the theoretical – what we have in our heads – and the practical – what we do with language in real world situations.

Linguistics as a discipline is concerned with all human languages, their similarities and their differences. As a result, we will discuss data from a variety of languages and you are strongly encouraged to contribute examples from languages that you know. Reflecting on the phenomenon of human language, (some of?) our goals will be: to appreciate its complexity; to attempt to describe and explain that complexity; and to account for and dispel some of the common myths, legends, and old spouses’ tales about language and language differences.

Chapter 1  INTRODUCTION TO HUMAN LANGUAGE, SPOKEN AND SIGNED
PREScriptive AND DESCRIPTIVE RULES.
Reader: Catchphrase if you Can – 2007’s Words of the Year (CR:i-iv)

Jan. 23 (1) Whom can you trust? Why can’t we get no satisfaction?

Jan. 25 Ain’t willing to quickly give up ideas I’m particularly attached to.
What can Koko, the gorilla, really tell you?

Chapter 3  PHONETICS: THE SOUNDS AND SHAPES OF LANGUAGE

Jan. 28 (2) Can you really believe your ears?

Jan. 30 When you hear a recording of your voice, does it actually sound like you?

Feb. 1 Why most of us have a foreign accent.
Chapter 4  
**PHONOLOGY: MENTAL ARRANGEMENTS OF SOUNDS**

Feb. 4  (3)  Phonetics (con’t.) and Phonology
Feb. 6  Does French sound romantic? Does German sound harsh?
Feb. 8  I scream, you scream, we all scream for ice cream.
Can one language really sound better than another?

Chapter 2  
**MORPHOLOGY: WORDS AND THEIR PARTS**

Reader:  **Acronyms creep into gov-speak draw FLAK** (CR:31-33)  
**2005 additions to the Oxford Dictionary** (CR:63-64)

Feb. 11  (4)  What about antidisestablishmentarianism?
Feb. 13  Is *dis* a real word?  What about *dat*?
Feb. 15  Hey buddy, infix this! Was it inf#!@%kincredible or what?

Feb. 18  (5)  **Test 1: Phonetics & Phonology**
Feb. 20  **(Morphology, con’t)** Happy Unbirthday!
Feb. 22  What does *unlockable* mean?

Chapter 5  
**SYNTAX: THE ORDER OF WORDS IN A SENTENCE.**
Reader:  **Grammar Skill is Easy as a Song for Starling** (CR:53b-d)

Feb. 25-29  (6)  No left turn.  Left no turn.  Turn no left.  No turn left.
Mar. 3-7  (7)  When you can’t see the forest for the *you-know-whats*

Chapter 6  
**SEMANTICS – THE STUDY OF MEANING**
Reader:  **UV light might color tribes’ language**  (CR:60-62)  
**How does language color the meanings people assign to experience?**  (CR:67-71).

Mar. 10-14  (8)  Remember when *bad* didn’t sometimes mean *good*?
Does *meat* refer to chicken?

Mar 17-21  Spring Break! We get sprung for a week!

Mar. 24-28  (9)  **Semantics, con’t.**
Reader:  **Re-naming the war: it’s not just semantics** (CR:71a-b)
What *do* people mean when they say “It’s just semantics?”
Mar. 31 (10)  **Caesar Chavez Day off – and a chance to study for Test #2.**

Apr. 2  **Test 2: Morphology, Syntax, & Semantics**

**Chapter 9**  **DISCOURSE ANALYSIS (DA): CONVERSATION AND ITS RULES**

*Reader:* *Popspeak* (CR:80-81)

*Bored on the phone? Beware the Jerk-O-Meter* (CR:82-83)

Apr. 4  Do you come from a family of overlappers?

Apr. 7-11 (11)  Do you know anyone who won’t let you get a word in edgewise?

Apr. 14 (12) Discourse Analysis and conversation, con’t.

**Chapter 11 (12) REGIONAL AND ETHNIC VARIETIES OF ENGLISH**

*Reader:* *Talking Wrong* (pp.103-104)

*The Politics of Correction* (CR:105-109)

*Five Easy Pieces* (CR:110-115)

*Ethnic Stereotyping and Judgments of Children’s Speech* (CR:98-102)

*NFHA Discovers Housing Discrimination among Hurricane Survivors* (CR:119-120)

*Long Dismissed, Hawaii Pidgin Finds Place in the Classroom* (pp.116-118)

Apr. 16-18  You the man!

Apr. 21 (13) African American Vernacular (Variety of) English (AAVE)

Apr. 23  Dialectology

**Chapter 11**  **GENDER VARIETIES OF ENGLISH**

*Reader:* *The Psychology of the Generic Masculine* (CR:92-97)

*Yo! A New Gender-neutral Pronoun from, of all places, Baltimore!* (CR:97a-c)

*Cultural approach to male and female miscommunication* (CR:126-136)

*Dude, you can’t be serious!* (CR:121-122)

Apr. 25 (13) Regional and ethnic varieties, con’t., Intro to Gender Varieties

Apr. 28 (14) What *she* said and what *he* heard. Is it really an “other planet” thing?

Apr. 30-May 02  Why *do* men and women (sometimes, often, always) have trouble communicating with each other?
Chapter 15

Language Acquisition

Reader: Reading your baby’s mind (CR:137-141)

May 5      (15)  How can a child say a sentence she’s never heard?
May 7      Does hearing two languages (or more) at home confuse kids?
May 9      “I getted it yesterday when we goed shopping.”

May 12     Final Exam. 12:45- 2:45

Course requirements:

1. Bring your sense of humor to every class!
2. Also bring your textbook and Course Reader (CR).
3. Textbook and CR readings should be completed prior to that day’s class.
4. Class participation, through attendance and discussion, is essential.
5. Please don’t ask – there are NO make-up tests or assignments.
6. Please find an “email buddy” in the event that you miss a class and need to be brought up to speed.
7. Everyone MUST take the final at the time set by the university.
8. As a courtesy to everyone, please:
   a. Arrive on time for class
   b. Turn off your communication devices

Grading:

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Grading basis:

- Test #1 33.3%
- Test #2 33.3%
- Final Exam 33.3%