

**Department of Linguistics
University of Kansas**

LING 111: Language and Mind, Honors (#61143)
Monday/Wednesday, 11:00–12:15 am, Blake 206

Spring 2017

Instructor:	Dr. Annie Tremblay
Office:	Blake 415
Office Hours:	M/W 1:00–2:00 pm
Email:	atrembla@ku.edu

Overview

Linguistics 111 is a basic introduction to the study of language. Language permeates every aspect of our life—cognitive, social, economic, and political. In this course, we will explore language as a fundamental aspect of human cognition. How does language affect thought processes? How does language relate to the mental capacities that people have? How do we process language? Are there areas of the brain specialized for language? How do we learn language as a child? Is this process different from learning language as an adult? What are the different accents in English? How is language used in everyday conversation? This course will introduce you to the complexity and creativity of the acquisition and use of language. Just like breathing, producing and understanding speech is a natural activity that we engage in daily, with little conscious awareness or effort. In this course, we will study the processes that underlie this ability. The more you understand about language and how it is learned and processed, the more you understand yourself and the people around you.

There are no prerequisites. No previous knowledge of linguistics is required.

Course Objectives

- Understand how to approach the study of language scientifically
- Think critically about what constitutes knowledge of language
- Acquire general knowledge about the nature and structure of human language, including its processing and its diversity
- Understand how we comprehend and produce language
- Examine how linguistic knowledge is represented and structured in the brain
- Understand the process of how we acquire a first language
- Understand the process of how we acquire a second language
- Verbalize what is involved in the learning and development of language and discuss its biological and social foundations
- Understand the variation associated with ways of speaking and their social consequences

- Understand how diversity manifests itself in language
- Read, critically evaluate, and write effectively about linguistic topics

Language and Mind is a course that all students should find valuable in their life.

Required Materials

TWO textbooks are required in this class:

- Pinker, S. (1994). *The language instinct: How the mind creates language*. New York: Harper Collins. (Available at the bookstore and online)
- Yule, G. (2014). *The study of language* (5th edition). New York: Cambridge University Press. (Available at the bookstore and online)

A reading packet that includes the papers below is also required for this class. \$20 will be collected from each student to cover the cost of the reading packet and of additional photocopies that will be provided to you throughout the semester.

- Reading #1:** Altmann, G. (2006). Psycholinguistics: History. In K. Brown, R. E. Asher, & J. M. Y. Simpson (Eds.), *Encyclopedia of language and linguistics* (2nd edition) (pp. 257-265). Elsevier.
- Reading #2:** Wolff, P., & Holmes, K. J. (2011). Linguistic relativity. *Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews: Cognitive Science*, 2, 253-265.
- Reading #3:** Libben, G. D. (2004). Psycholinguistics: The study of language processing. In W. O'Grady, J. Archibald, M. Aronoff, & J. Rees-Miller (Eds.), *Contemporary linguistics: An introduction* (pp. 429-458). Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's.
- Reading #4:** Birdsong, D. (1999). Whys and why nots of the critical period hypothesis for second language acquisition. In D. Birdsong (Ed.), *Second language acquisition and the critical period hypothesis* (pp. 1-22). Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum.

Students will also need access to the course website: <http://courseware.ku.edu>.

Course Requirements

Examinations (60%)

There will be FOUR exams during the semester, each worth 15% of the final grade. All exams will be given during class. **No make-up exams will be provided, except in cases of documented serious emergency, or with advance approval of the Instructor.** In such a case, it is your responsibility to contact Dr. Tremblay right away in order to provide such documentation and make arrangements to take the exam.

Article Summaries (20%)

You will be asked to summarize two articles throughout the semester: Wolff & Holmes (2011) (Reading #2) and Birdsong (1999) (Reading #4). Each article summary is worth 10% of your final grade. Hard copies of the summaries will be collected at the beginning of the class on the day they are due (see the calendar for details). Detailed guidelines will be provided. **Late work will NOT be accepted unless accompanied by a documented emergency reason, or with advance approval of the Instructor.**

Homework Assignments (12%)

You will be asked to complete three homework assignments (4% each) about the more technical aspects of linguistics (phonetics, morphology, syntax) we will discuss in class. Homework assignments will be collected at the beginning of the class on the day they are due (see the calendar for details). **Late work will NOT be accepted unless accompanied by a documented emergency reason, or with advance approval of the Instructor.**

In-class Quizzes (8%)

You will be asked to complete four in-class quizzes (2% each): one quiz will be about Reading #1, one quiz will be about Reading #3, and the remaining two quizzes will be about other content covered in class (see the calendar for details). **No make-up quizzes will be provided, except in cases of documented serious emergency, or with advance approval of the Instructor.**

Note: You are required to attend class and arrive on time. If you miss class, you are responsible for getting any information you may have missed.

Academic Misconduct

Academic misconduct will not be tolerated. Strict procedures for reporting plagiarism in written assignments will be enforced. If plagiarism discovered, you will receive a zero for that portion of your final grade and the incident will be reported to University authorities. If such academic misconduct occurs a second time you will receive an F in the course and the incident will again be reported to University authorities. Note that a second incidence of plagiarism on record at the university may in some cases result in a transcript citation.

Grading: +/- system (*not negotiable*)

	B+	89.99–86.67	C+	79.99–76.67	D+	69.99–66.67	
A	100–93.33	B	86.66–83.33	C	76.66–73.33	D	66.66–63.33
A–	93.32–90	B–	83.32–80	C–	73.32–70	D–	63.32–60
F	<60						

Other Information and Resources

Students with Special Needs

The Academic Achievement & Access Center (AAAC) coordinates accommodations and services for all KU students who are eligible. If you have a disability for which you wish to request accommodations and have not contacted the AAAC, please do so as soon as possible. Their office is located in 22 Strong Hall; their phone number is 785-864-4064 (V/TTY). Information about their services can be found at <http://disability.ku.edu>. Please contact Prof. Tremblay privately in regard to your needs in this course.

Communication

Communication is crucial. If you find you are having difficulty with any part of the course, please do not hesitate to get in touch with the instructor right away, so that we can work together to do something about it. Likewise, if you find that or any part of this course is something you particularly enjoy or find interesting, let the instructor know so that she can help you with ways to experience more linguistics, with finding opportunities to do linguistic research, and with how you can learn more about considering a Linguistics major or minor.

Office Hours

Office hours are an ideal opportunity for you to meet one-on-one with us for discussions, to ask questions, and to practice and review the course material. Please do take advantage of this resource!

Blackboard

Please check our Blackboard website (<http://courseware.ku.edu>) on a regular basis. We will use Blackboard to post lecture notes, readings, assignments, announcements, handouts, and other materials.

Writing Center

Writing assistance is available on campus. See the Writing Center webpage at <http://www.writing.ku.edu>.

Academic Calendar

Make sure to check any relevant deadlines regarding your registration on the KU academic calendar for Spring 2017. You can find it online, on the KU website at <http://registrar.ku.edu/spring-2017-academic-calendar-date>.

Calendar (subject to change)

<i>Class</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Reading (to be read before class)</i>	<i>Homework</i>
Week 1				
1	Jan. 18 (W)	Introduction: What is language?	Yule, Ch. 1 Pinker, Ch. 1	
Week 2				
2	Jan. 23 (M)	Historical Perspective on Language	Reading #1	In-class Quiz 1 (about Reading #1)
3	Jan. 25 (W)	Origins of the English Language	Yule, Ch. 17	
Week 3				
4	Jan. 30 (M)	Language and Thought	Yule, Ch. 20, pp. 270-276 Pinker, Ch. 3	
5	Feb. 1 (W)	Language and Thought Exam Review	Readings #2	Summary 1 assigned
Week 4				
6	Feb. 6 (M)	EXAM 1		
7	Feb. 8 (W)	Animal Communication	Yule, Ch. 2	
Week 5				
8	Feb. 13 (M)	Animal Communication	Pinker, Ch. 4	Summary 1 DUE
9	Feb. 15 (W)			
Week 6				
10	Feb. 20 (M)	Sound Structure and Articulation	Yule, Ch. 3	In-class Quiz 2 (about animal communication) Homework 1 assigned
11	Feb. 22 (W)			
Week 7				
12	Feb. 27 (M)	Phonetics	Yule, Ch. 4	Homework 1 DUE
13	Mar. 1 (W)	Phonetics Exam Review		
Week 8				
14	Mar. 6 (M)	EXAM 2		
15	Mar. 8 (W)	Speech Perception		
Week 9				
16	Mar. 13 (M)	Morphology: The Structure of Words	Reading #3 Yule, Ch. 5-6	In-class Quiz 3 (about Reading #3)
17	Mar. 15 (W)	Word Recognition: "The Mental Lexicon"		Homework 2 assigned
Week 10				
Spring Break				

Week 11				
18	Mar. 27 (M)	Language and the Brain	Yule, Ch. 12	Homework 2 DUE
19	Mar. 29 (W)	Hemispheric Differences Exam Review		
Week 12				
20	Apr. 3 (M)	EXAM 3		
21	Apr. 5 (W)	Aphasia and Brain Imaging	Pinker, Ch. 10	
Week 13				
22	Apr. 10 (M)	Syntax and Semantics	Yule, Ch. 7-8	Homework 3 assigned
23	Apr. 12 (W)	Sentence Processing		
Week 14				
24	Apr. 17 (M)	First Language Acquisition	Yule, Ch. 13	Homework 3 DUE
25	Apr. 19 (W)	First Language Acquisition Exam Review	Pinker, Ch. 9	In-class Quiz 4 (about first language acquisition)
Week 15				
26	Apr. 24 (M)	EXAM 4		
27	Apr. 26 (W)	Second Language Acquisition and the Critical Period	Yule, Ch. 14 Reading #4 (pp. 1-15)	Summary 2 assigned
Week 16				
28	May 1 (M)	Social Class	Yule Ch.17, 18	
29	May 3 (W)	Gender Class evaluations	Yule, Ch. 20, pp. 278-280	Summary 2 DUE