

LING1101 Fundamentals of Linguistics

Code

LING1101

Title

Fundamentals of Linguistics

Credits

3

Description

Language is a fundamental part of our lives - yet what is it exactly, and how does it really work? This course will help students go beyond a surface understanding of language in order to understand the complexity, diversity and beauty of human language. We will be introduced to major topics in linguistics in order to perform our own analyses of language; these will include phonetics/phonology (sounds of language), morphology (parts of words), syntax (grammar), semantics (meaning), and pragmatics (language in context). We will examine data from a variety of languages to help us understand the wide variety of languages in the world and will develop our abilities to analyze real examples of language.

Objectives

This course intends to: - introduce students to major concepts, terms and theories in the study of linguistics - familiarize students with the diversity of language systems - enable students to carry out basic linguistic analysis - prepare students to describe and analyze language as a basis for future teaching and research

Outcomes

By the completion of the course, successful students should be able to do the following: · Define and explain major concepts, terms and theories in linguistics · Apply the concepts covered in the course to analyze real linguistic data in terms of phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, and pragmatics · Work both independently and in teams to construct a detailed and logical invented language, applying real linguistic phenomena and combining them in appropriate ways

Assessment

60 % -first and second assessments

40 % -final assessment

Tentative course outline

Week1

Introduction to linguistics; course overview Basic concepts: What is language?

Week2

More basics: Linguistic diversity, analyzing language

Week3

The sounds of language: Phonetics I

Week4

The sounds of language: Phonetics II, Phonology I

Week5

The sounds of language: Phonology II

Week6

Putting words together: Morphology I

Week7

Putting words together: Morphology II and review (Midterm 1 - Test)

Week8

Words and sentences: Syntax I

Week9

Words and sentences: Syntax II

Week10

Making meaning: Semantics

Week11

Meaning in context: Pragmatics (Midterm 2 - Test)

Week12

Semantics and Pragmatics

Week13

Additional topics according to class preference. Possible topics: Language acquisition, writing systems, language in contact, sociolinguistics, humans and animals, historical linguistics

Week14

Class presentations

Week15

Course review (Final test)