Linguistics 101: Human Language
(Introduction to Linguistics)
satisfies DEC “F” and
SB Curriculum “SBS and SNW”

Lecture: Monday, Wednesday 11:00-11:53, Javits 102
Instructor: XXX
e-mail: XXX
office: XXX
office hours: XXX

Recitation sections:
R-1 Friday, 10:00-10:53 Library N3074
R-2 Friday, 10:00-10:53 Library N3033
R-3 Friday, 10:00-10:53 Frey Hall 112
R-4 Friday, 11:00-11:53 Library N4006
R-5 Friday, 11:00-11:53 Frey Hall 112

Graduate TAs: XXX
Undergrad TAs: XXX

Course Description: This course introduces students to the scientific study of human language, with focus on the following guiding questions: What is ‘language’ in human beings? What do we know when we know a language natively? In what ways is language a natural phenomenon and in what ways is it a cultural invention? How is human language different from other systems of communication (in animals, in machines,…)? What do all languages have in common? How is human language structured and what are its organizing principles? What are the basic building blocks? How is language situated in the brain? How (and why) do languages change over time? Under what circumstances do languages die and are new languages born?

Because language is (in part) a natural phenomenon, part of human cognition embodied in the brain, it can be investigated using the methods of the natural sciences. We all use language all the time, so much of the data for this investigation can easily be found all around us. Therefore, it is relatively easy to formulate explicit hypothesis about language and to test them against new data.

Meta-questions: How can language be studied scientifically? What do languages tell us about the human mind? How are language and thought related? How is language similar to other human cognitive abilities (music perception, vision, concepts,…)? How is language used in a social context?

Learning Outcomes:
• Understand scientific methodology in the study of human language.
• Learn how to analyze data from natural spoken language.
• Understand the phenomena of language use in society.
• Learn the way language in society is studied.

Requirements:
• Attendance is mandatory (both lecture and section)
• There will be 1 written homework every week (only 10 will count)
• Students are required to do all assigned readings (including on BB)
• Students are responsible for the content of all class discussions
• There will be 5 quizzes, one after each course topic, as well as pop quizzes, on an unpredictable schedule (the lowest quiz grade will be dropped)
• There will be a cumulative final exam on XXX

Course Rules:
• No electronic devices to be used during class!
• All assignments must be handed in personally, hard copy. No e-mailed assignments accepted.
• Late HW assignments will not be accepted
• No make-up quizzes for any reasons (other than medical with documentation)

Grades: 
attendance & participation 5%
10 homework assignments 30%
quizzes 45%
cumulative final exam 20%
total: 100%

Books: (additional readings will be posted on Blackboard)
The Language Instinct: How the Mind Creates Language (Steven Pinker) 2000. Harper Perennial

Topics:
Weeks 1-2: Introduction, language myths, language universals
Weeks 3-4: Language in society, language and gender, language controversies
Weeks 5-6: Word structure (Morphology)
Weeks 7-8: Phrases and sentences (Syntax)
Week 9-10: Sound systems (Phonetics and Phonology)
Week 11-12: Language change (Historical Linguistics), Language Evolution, Animal Language
Weeks 13-15: Language-Mind-Brain; Sign Language

Americans with Disabilities Act: If you have a physical, psychological, medical or learning disability that may impact your course work, please contact Disability Support Services, (631) 632-6748 or http://studentaffairs.stonybrook.edu/dss/. They will determine with you what accommodations are necessary and appropriate. All information and documentation is confidential. Students who require assistance during emergency evacuation are encouraged to discuss their needs with their professors and Disability Support Services. For procedures and information go to the following website:
http://www.sunysb.edu/ehs/fire/disabilities.shtml

Academic Integrity: Each student must pursue his or her academic goals honestly and be personally accountable for all submitted work. Representing another person's work as your own is always wrong. Faculty are required to report and suspected instances of academic dishonesty to the Academic Judiciary. For more comprehensive information on academic integrity, including
categories of academic dishonesty, please refer to:
http://www.stonybrook.edu/uaa/academicjudiciary/
Critical Incident Management: Stony Brook University expects students to respect the rights, privileges, and property of other people. Faculty are required to report to the Office of Judicial Affairs any disruptive behavior that interrupts their ability to teach, compromises the safety of the learning environment, or inhibits students' ability to learn.