Linguistics 100  
Diversity of Human Language  
Summer 2017

Prerequisites: None.

Instructor: Hamid Ouali  
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Office Hours: Tuesday 2pm-3pm or by appointment, Johnston 129

Class time and place: 9:00am-12:20pm, TWR, MER 213  
(5/30-6/24)

GER: CD, HU

Course Description: Language is Humans’ most fundamental capacity. The field of Linguistics explores the nature of human language seeking to describe what human languages are like, how languages develop and change, and how languages are diverse.

Before you start learning about the structure of language, we will try to define what we mean by Language and discuss whether it is Human specific. You will learn about the structural diversity of human language mainly: the diverse sounds languages have and how these sounds are produced, the diverse words languages use and how these words are formed, the diverse principles that underlie the construction and meaning of words, phrases and sentences. You will learn about how languages change through time and will also be introduced to some social and cultural aspects of language, including the study of English dialects like Southern and African-American English. By the end of the course you will gain an introductory understanding of what we “know” when we “know” a language, what language can tell us about being human, and how language is entangled in human cultures and societies.

For a listing of UWM policies relating to academic misconduct, grade appeals, complaint procedures, religious observances, and accommodation of students with disabilities and other issues, please consult the following website:

http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/SyllabusLinks.pdf

Text:  
The Study of Language (fourth edition), by George Yule  
Cambridge University Press  
(A free copy of the book is available online.)

D2L: Materials for this course will be available on the Desire2Learn (D2L) course Web site.

Requirements:  
Take home midterm exam.  
Take home final exam.  
Periodic quizzes in class.  
Regular attendance.
Grading Policy: the course grade is based 25% on take-home midterm exam, 25% on attendance and participation, 25% on quizzes, and 25% on final take-home exam (cumulative). The course curve will be established after final calculations have been made, but the grade scale is as follows:

A = 93-100%, A- = 90-92%, B+ = 87-89%, B = 83-86%, B- = 80-82%, C+ = 77-79%, C = 73-76%, C- = 70-72%, D+ = 67-69%, D = 63-66%, D- = 60-62%, and F 59% and under.

GER Statement: This course meets the UWM General Education Requirement of Cultural Diversity.

Learning Outcomes: students will be able to 1) “recognize and analyze intrapersonal, interpersonal, and/or sociocultural factors associated with individual behavior, collective action, or societal development”; 2) “identify and critically evaluate the function, structure and development of human collectivities, organizations, institutions, and cultures, their infrastructures and interrelationships”; 3) “recognize and contextualize human capacities for and/or techniques of creating behavior acquisition and change as viewed from both intra- and inter-cultural perspectives”; 4) “demonstrate the ability to identify, apply and effective communicate methodologies designed for conducting inquiry into human behavior, collective action, societies, or cultures;” and, 5) “critically evaluate and apply alternative theoretical frameworks that have been used to offer meaningful explanations of social phenomena”.

Assessment: Demonstrate effective communication skills and individual, social and environmental responsibility by participating in class. Complete two separate exams to demonstrate critical and creative thinking skills using higher order qualitative reasoning, as well as knowledge of and competence with human cultures and the natural world.