The Diversity of Human Language (Online)

Instructor: Hanyong Park (Office: JOH 123)  
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Office Hours: by appointment (Email the instructor)

Course Online Access:
Canvas at https://uwm.edu/canvas/
Any problems using Canvas, please contact support@instructure.com or call 833-826-8713. More information can be found at https://uwm.edu/canvas/student-support-for-canvas/

Course Description & Objective:
This course introduces interesting aspects of languages to students (e.g., sounds, words, expression, meaning, etc.). In order to appreciate and understand the topics covered in the class, you will learn basic concepts and terms used in linguistics. This course will provide students with something to stimulate their intellectual curiosity on human language.

Course Requirements & Grading
- No prior knowledge of linguistics is required.
- Students are expected and required to have completed the assigned readings and videos along with studying through the pdf slides. The pdf slides and the assigned readings are videos are available under “Content” on the course web page.

Required Textbook & Course Materials:
No textbook is required for this course. Course materials, such as readings and videos, will be assigned for lessons. They will be found under “Additional Materials” and “Links” under “Modules” on the course web page. Note that links for many videos and articles are found in the pdf slides rather than under “Links.”

Grading:
1. Exams (60%): Midterm (30%) & Final exam (30%)
   There will be two non-cumulative exams based on the materials covered prior to the exam. These tests will evaluate students’ in-depth understanding of the course materials. The midterm will be based on lessons 1 to 5 and the final exam will be based on lessons 6 to 10. The exams consist of multiple-choice questions, True/False questions, and matching of terms. These are available under “Quizzes” on Canvas. All materials assigned from the readings &
videos can be tested.

Exams will become available only for 48 hours. This means that you have two full days to take the exam. Once you start an exam, you will have to complete it on your first attempt within 60 minutes. It is your responsibility to make sure that no technical difficulty (e.g., computer breakdown, no internet connection, etc.) prevents you from taking the exam without any interruption. See the Class Schedule (a separate document found under “Syllabus & Schedule” under “Modules”) regarding the exam schedule.

2. Quizzes (26%): 5 quizzes (2% syllabus quiz + 6% x 4 = 26%)

There will be 5 quizzes in total, which are available under “Quizzes” on Canvas. Quizzes will become available only for 48 hours. Once you start a quiz, you will have 20 minutes to finish it. Again, you have to complete the quiz on your first attempt and it is your responsibility to make sure that no technical difficulty (e.g., computer breakdown, no internet connection, etc.) prevents you from taking the quiz without any interruption. See the Class Schedule (a separate document found under “Syllabus & Schedule” under “Modules”) regarding the exam schedule.

The first quiz (2%) is on the contents of the syllabus, which is to ensure that you have read and understood the outlines and policies of this course. The other four quizzes (6% each) are based on all assigned materials (e.g., readings, videos, lecture notes, etc.) for particular lessons. The quizzes consist of multiple-choice questions, True/False questions, and matching of terms. See the Class Schedule (a separate document found under “Syllabus & Schedule” under “Modules”) regarding the exam schedule.

3. Discussion (14%): 4 discussion participations (2% self-introduction + 4% x 3 = 14%)

There will be 4 discussion topics, including the first posting to introduce yourself to the instructor and other students (2%). You can find these under “Discussions” on Canvas. The instructor will post a question/topic to discuss during the semester. Each student has to post at least two “meaningful” messages (e.g., answering the instructor’s posted questions directly or replying to other students’ postings, posting meaningful questions related to the topic being discussed, etc.) for each discussion question/topic. You will have three full days to discuss each topic. After the given time, the discussion section will be closed and we will move on to the next discussion topic. The instructor will count the number of meaningful
posting for each discussion topic and deduct points for failure to meet this requirement (i.e., at least two “meaningful” messages per topic). **There is no word limit in your message. However, in general, too short or too long messages are not likely to be meaningful.** On the one hand, it is usually difficult to express your thoughts well in very short messages. On the other hand, your messages tend to be too long because you do not know what you are talking about. If your message is “meaningful”, others (i.e., the instructor and other students) should be able to understand your idea/story. Also, if you just repeat what others have said (e.g., *I agree!, right!,* etc.) or you argue against what others have said without much argument (e.g., *it's nonsense!, I disagree!,* etc.), such postings will not be counted as being “meaningful.” **Note that you do not have to post two meaningful messages to introduce yourself** (The first discussion – *Discussion 0*). A single posting will be enough.

**GER Statement:** This course meets the UWM General Education Requirements in the divisions of the Humanities and Cultural Diversity. **Learning Outcomes:** students will be able to 1) “identify the formation, traditions, and ideas essential to major bodies of historical, cultural, literary, or philosophical knowledge”; 2) “understand and analyze the perspectives, world views, methodologies, and philosophic constructs that the group(s) use(s) to describe, explain, and evaluate its/their life experiences over historical time”; 3) “respond coherently and persuasively to the materials of humanities study; this may be through logical, textual, formal, historical, or aesthetic analysis, argument and/or interpretation”; and 4) “reflect critically on how the students’ own culture and experiences influence their knowledge of, and attitudes towards, people whose cultural and social identities differ from their own.”

**GER Assessment:** To achieve the outcomes listed above, in this course students will be presented with a variety of material through various online lectures, which they will analyze and discuss. Furthermore, students will also read, analyze, and discuss a variety of written material. To assess the accomplishment of the outcomes, students will display their effective communication skills and their individual, social and environmental responsibility by participating in online discussion of various topics. Additionally, through two separate exams and four quizzes, students will demonstrate critical and creative thinking skills by problem-solving using higher-order qualitative reasoning, as well as knowledge of and competence with human cultures and the natural world.

**Final Grading Scale:**

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>I*</td>
<td>100 – 93</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90 – 92</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>87 – 89</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>84 – 86</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80 – 83</td>
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<td>B-</td>
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I* : Students who cannot complete the course requirements because of illness or for other legitimate reasons may be considered for a grade of ‘I’ provided they request it, in writing, at least, 1 week before the semester ends.

For information on university policies such as "Students with Disabilities," "Religious Observances," and others, please see the following website:


Other Important things to know:

a. This is an online course. The online class format requires you to be self-disciplined. If you postpone doing the required activities (e.g., reading the assigned materials, watching the assigned videos, taking a quiz, etc.), you are likely to miss important deadlines and do not learn much within the given time (i.e., 12 days, excluding the weekend days). Make sure that you do required activities on time and email the instructor if you have any questions.

b. Credit hour policy: This is a 3 credit course taught online within 12 days. If this course were a 3 credit non-online class offered for a normal (e.g., spring or fall) semester, we would meet for 2.5 hours per week during the semester and students would be expected to put in approximately 7.5 additional hours per week studying and working on assignments in order to achieve the learning goals of this course. It would not be reasonable for you to study all day for this course for 12 days. However, you are expected and required to spend a reasonable amount of time to achieve the learning goals of this course.

c. E-mail communication is important! Please respond to e-mails related to course promptly.

d. Check the class Canvas site frequently – everyday! Announcements will be made on Canvas.