

Course Syllabus

Instructor

Dr. Strang BURTON

Instructor contact:

- strangb1@telus.net (preferred contact) <-- see email policies below in this syllabus!
- strang.burton@ubc.ca (also works)

Office Hrs.:

- Instructor's office hours: 11-12 Wed - Meet instructor in Ike's cafe (private meeting space available on request, other times also available on request)
- TA office hours: (see Connect course site, discussions area, for TA office hours)

Course Description

What We Will Ask:

This course is a survey of the linguistic map of the world, examining how languages are genetically classified and how different languages evolve. Principles underlying different writing systems and the decipherment of historical documents. Issues of languages in contact, minority language endangerment, language death and the role of English as a world language. Recommended but not required for an honours, major, or minor in linguistics or speech sciences.

The course will survey these topics through a case-study approach, focusing on a series of studies of different languages. The set of languages covered will be selected partly based on the native languages and interests of the class, but will cover languages and dialects from at least five different language families, with a mix of majority and minority languages, and including at least one creole. As we review the case studies, we will explore the topics above, and related questions including:

- *How are linguistic systems built?*
- *How do the systems evolve over time into distinct dialects and distinct languages?*
- *How do languages connect with each other historically?*
- *How did writing systems develop and evolve?*
- *How do languages change and influence one another in contact?*
- *How are sounds systems structured, and how do the systems vary across languages?*
- *How do different languages express forms for 'you' (second person), and 'yes'?*
- *How do the determiner systems of languages vary?*
- *How do word-order principles vary across languages?*

If possible, the course will include a guest lecture by an expert working with endangered and/or minority languages.

Course Format

Course format is a combination of lectures and problem-solving sessions. Normally there are two lectures and one group problem-solving session each week, though some weeks vary.

Student Outcomes

- Perceive and transcribing all distinctive sounds of English, and transcribe at least twenty sounds from other languages.
- Understand the major distinctive features distinguishing all of these sounds.
- Identify the origins of major writing systems, and common methods of representing language.
- Distinguish the use of pitch as one vs. intonation
- Identify and apply concepts related to: syllables and syllable structure, phonotactic constraints, phonological rules, generative rules, and historical reconstruction.
- At A and A+ level you must also be able to apply the concepts above to creatively solve new problems, selected from any world language

Required and Optional Materials

- An iClicker is *required* for this course
- There is *no* required textbook.
- If you want to do some reading, here are some useful references:

UBC guide to sounds: <http://enunciate.arts.ubc.ca/linguistics/introduction/>

Linguistics for Dummies, by Rose-Marie Dechaine, Strang Burton, and Eric Vatekikos-Bateson, Wiley Press 2012, Available on Amazon.com Also available online through UBC library.

Introduction to language/Victoria Fromkin, Robert Rodman, Nina Hyams
Fromkin, Victoria
Library of Congress P106.I57.2011
KOERNER reserve
2 Hour reserve

Language files: materials for an introduction to language & linguistics/editors,
Thomas W. Stewardt, Jr. Nathan Vaillette
Library of Congress P121 .L3855 2011
2 Hour reserve

Course Policies

- **Please do not ask questions before class**

Your instructor has a tight turnaround time to get his equipment set up, so it's hard for him to address your questions properly before class. Quick questions *after* class are perfectly fine, though!

- **Office Hours, Email and Appointments:**
If you have questions pertaining to lecture material we (the instructor and TA) encourage you to come to our office hours, or to meet us at the end of class to make an appointment.
- **If you have an emergency or a serious academic issue that needs immediate attention, you may contact us by email.** Please ask course content questions in person, during office hours, or (best of all) on the course discussion threads on Connect.
- **Please treat e-mail as a formal communication**
As noted above, please remember that email, like appointments and meetings with the instructor, is a formal form of communication. **Direct your emails to us in a professional manner and please place LING 101 in the subject line.**

Evaluation

Final marks in the course are based on your performance in the following categories:

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|---|------------|
| • Mid-Term Exam (in class, Friday Oct. 30th) | 27% |
| • 10 Online Assignments | 30% |
| • Final Exam (to be scheduled during exam period) | 35% |
| • Class Participation (including <i>polite</i> participation in connect forum discussions!) (5%-clicker participation, 1%-average participation in online discussions, additional 1% for exceptional contribution to online and/or class discussions) | 7% |
| • Linguistics Outside the Classroom (LOC) participation (see explanation below) | 1% |
| | <hr/> 100% |

Linguistics Outside the Classroom (LOC) Participation

Participation in Linguistics Outside the Classroom (LOC) is required for this course. This is a means of increasing your involvement in learning about linguistics outside of regular classroom instruction.

There are two ways of satisfying this LOC requirement.

- **One way is by participating in [1] points worth of experiments being run by researchers in the Department of Linguistics.** To sign up for experiments, please visit <https://ubclinguistics.sona-systems.com> to register and participate. Experiments typically take anywhere from 15 minutes to 1 hour and offer the opportunity to contribute to and learn about linguistics research first hand. Your participation in research is voluntary.
- **A second way of completing this requirement is by attending [1] Linguistics research seminars or colloquia and writing a one-paragraph summary of the talk, which you turn into your instructor within a week of attending.** You can browse the talk series here: <http://www.linguistics.ubc.ca/events>.

Do EITHER of the options above, and you will have fulfilled the LOC requirement.

Policy on missed assignments, grade queries, plagiarism, midterm exams, and electronic devices.

- Please check your assignments and grades online regularly. Contact in person or by email if there are errors or other problems with your grades. Check regularly: do NOT leave this till the end of classes.
- All assignments must be submitted on the due date according to instructions. Late assignments will not be accepted without proper documentation of a medical or family emergency. No exceptions will be made.
- You are welcome to have any assignment or exam re-graded by the instructor. See the instructor in person. Re-grades are only possible within two weeks of the completion of the assignment.
- You are welcome to form discussion groups to work on assignments together; however, you must write up/enter your answers separately and individually, and in your own words. If we find identical phrasing repeatedly on assignments, this will be considered plagiarism and you will receive a grade of 0 in the assignment, with the possibility of failing the course and/or further academic penalty.
- All students are *required* to have reviewed the materials on academic integrity available at <http://www.library.ubc.ca/clc/airc.html>.
- Suspected cases of either plagiarism or cheating on exams will be reviewed by the instructor and an external UBC linguistics faculty member, and will be vigorously pursued in accordance with official UBC policy. Cases identified as plagiarism or cheating may result in a failing grade for the course.
- Missing exams: if you are sick or have a family emergency and have to miss an exam, you must provide written documentation (from a doctor, or from Arts advising). One and only one make-up mid-term exam will be scheduled, within one week of the scheduled quiz date, and you must make yourself available for that make-up if you want to receive credit for a missed quiz.
- Cell phones and iPods or similar music players must be turned off prior to each class.
- If you have to leave a lecture or tutorial early, please do so in a polite and non-disruptive manner.
- Based on research on serious and persistent problems with laptop-use in a lecture setting, note-taking on laptops is *not* permitted in lectures or tutorials. In return, many of the professor's lecture notes will be made available to you via Web-CT.¹
- All course materials shared with you, including lecture notes and problems, are copyrighted materials. You do NOT have permission to post these on online sites for sharing course materials (e.g. CourseHero.com); we regularly have these materials removed, and if you post LING 101 materials to them then you are wasting everyone's time (including your own) if you post them.

Policy for students representing UBC, BC or Canada (at academic or sports events)

We fully support students involved with organizations and teams that travel during the semester; however, with this privilege comes additional responsibility. You are responsible for providing formal documentation identifying the organization you represent and potential

¹ See Fried, 2007 "In-class laptop use and its effects on student learning" in *Computers & Education* vol. 50, issue 3: "Results showed that students who used laptops in class spent considerable time multitasking and that the laptop use posed a significant distraction to both users and fellow students. Most importantly, the level of laptop use was negatively related to several measures of student learning, including self-reported understanding of course material and overall course performance." (Emphasis added).

schedule conflicts with this course. In the event that you are traveling and unable to attend an exam, you must schedule a secondary exam before you depart. Without proper documentation, a missed exam will earn zero points.