

**Linguistics 123 Sound and Communication**  
**Section 10: Code 44943. Fall 2018, San José State University**

<b>Instructor:</b>	Kevin Moore
<b>Office Location:</b>	Clark 406D
<b>Telephone:</b>	(408) 924-4734
<b>Email:</b>	kevin.moore@sjsu.edu (Please don't add me to any lists.)
<b>Office Hours:</b>	Wednesdays 4:20 to 5:20 p.m., Thursdays 11 - 12 noon, and by appointment Monday through Thursday.
<b>Class Days/Time:</b>	Tues/Thurs 1:30 - 2 :45 p.m.
<b>Classroom:</b>	216 Clark
<b>Prerequisites:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Passage of the Writing Skills Test (WST) or ENG/LLD 100A with a C or better</li> <li>• Completion of core GE</li> <li>• Upper-division standing</li> </ul> Completion of or co-registration in 100W is strongly recommended.
<b>GE/SJSU Studies Category:</b>	Category R: Earth and Environment

**Other Contact Information**

Phone me in my office all day Monday/Wednesday until 5:15 p.m., or Tuesday/Thursday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.; leave a message if I don't answer. Email me at other times. Use my personal email (kevin.moore@sjsu.edu); don't email me on canvas. If you're not available during my office hours, we can make an appointment for another time. My box is in the Linguistics and Language Development department office in Clark Hall 473.

**Course Website:** Assignments, handouts, and lecture slides will be posted on the course website on canvas. For help in using Canvas go to [http://www.sjsu.edu/at/ec/canvas/student\\_resources/index.html](http://www.sjsu.edu/at/ec/canvas/student_resources/index.html). If you have trouble getting to the website you can call the help desk at (408) 924-2377 or email me. Assignments will be available only on the website. Your completed assignments need to be submitted to me on paper (hardcopy).

**Course Description**

In this class we will explore the intertwining ethological and linguistic issues related to evolution of communication systems in human and other animals. This course has a strongly multidisciplinary nature. Our lectures and readings will jump eclectically among multiple scientific fields, most notably the following three:

1. Acoustics (the science of sound)
2. Linguistics (the science of human language), and
3. Ethology (the science of animal behavior and cognition, encompassing both proximate and evolutionary explanations).

Within these fields, we will encounter many different (and sometimes conflicting) scientific perspectives on communication. In order to appreciate this theoretical diversity you will need to be able to think critically and skeptically.

**Catalog Description**

Basic acoustics and nature of sound as applied to the study of vocal communication by humans and other animals. Voice communication as transmission of a speech code via sound. GE Area: R

**Required materials**

A compiled course reader, at Maple Press, 330 S. 10th (408-297-1000). Ask for the reader for Moore’s section of Linguistics 123. Maple Press does not accept credit cards.

**Assignments**

**Table 1: Assignments and percentages toward the final grade**

1. Sound Labs 1 & 2 (10 % each)	20 %
2. Term paper	20 %
3. Presentation	10 %
4. Reflective Response Papers (2 x 5 % each)	10%
5. Midterm Exam	15 %
6. Final Exam	20 %
7. Participation	5 %
Total	100%

**Grading Policy**

On all assignments, papers, and exams, the grade will be stated as a percentage. That percentage will be weighted for the value of the assignment. For example, if you got a 100 on the first lab, that would count as 10 points towards your ultimate total; if you got a 90, that would count as 90% of 10 ( $.9 \times 10 = 9$  points). To calculate your grade, add up the points for each assignment. For example if you got 100 on each assignment you would add in each of the numbers above on the right. The determination of grades based on points earned will depend on how well the class as a whole does. The table below gives the **approximate** *expected* point-values of each grade. Possible grades are “A” through “F”.

**Table 2 Grades and Percentages**

A	95-100%	B	82-86%	C	70-74%	D	59-63%
A-	90-94%	B-	79-81%	C-	66-69%	D-	55-58%
B+	87-89%	C+	75-78%	D+	64-65%	F	below 55%

### **Workload**

SJSU classes are designed such that in order to be successful, it is expected that students will spend a minimum of forty-five hours for each unit of credit (normally three hours per unit per week), including preparing for class, participating in course activities, completing assignments, and so on. More details about student workload can be found in [University Policy S12-3](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf>.

Required activities are described below.

#### **1. Sound Labs (Lab 1 & Lab 2):**

There will be two Sound Labs, each of which is worth 10% of your final grade. Due dates are listed in the course schedule at the end of this document. In the first Lab you will analyze two recordings of animal calls. In the second Lab you will analyze the sounds of human speech. Instructions for each assignment will be posted on canvas. These assignments can be completed on your home computer or laptop, or in a computer lab on campus. (This assignment addresses GELOs 1 and 2 as well as CLOs 1 and 2.)

You will use the Praat program, which runs on any platform. You can download it for free at

<http://www.fon.hum.uva.nl/praat/>

I will show Praat to you in class.

#### **2. Reflective Response Papers**

You will be assigned to write two reflective response papers, responding to course materials. Each reflection paper should contain at least 750 words (between two and two-and-a-half pages, double spaced). You can write more if you want. Please indicate the word count at the end of every paper.

#### **3. Term paper**

You will write a term paper on a topic of your choosing that is directly relevant to issues that we study in this course. Examples are (1) differences between a language you know and English in terms of sound patterns or word structure; (2) communicative systems of non-human animals that we have not already covered in class; a topic in great ape communication that you take beyond what we did in class. The topics could also have to do with other kinds of communicative sounds, such as technical issues in the acoustics of music. Later in the course, I will give you more specific requirements and a list of possibilities to stimulate your imagination. You will have to submit your topic to me for approval before you start. The paper must be at least 1500 words long (about 5 pages, double spaced). You can write more if you want. Please indicate the word count at the end of the paper. (This assignment addresses GELOs 2 and 3 as well as CLOs 3, 4, and 5.)

#### **\*\* Turning in labs, response papers, and the term paper \*\***

For labs, response papers, and essays, you will need to turn in hardcopy for each assignment in class on the due date. Additionally, I will ask you to upload your assignment to canvas.

#### **4. Power Point Presentation ( about 10 Minutes)**

For this assignment, you will present your term-paper research in progress to the class. (This assignment addresses GELOs 2 and 3 as well as CLOs 3, 4, and 5.)

#### **5. Exams (Midterm and Final):**

The in-class midterm exam will be on the topics covered during the first half of the course, and the in-class final exam will be cumulative. Exam dates are listed in Course Schedule. The exam is closed-book and closed-notes. Questions will be based on all of the course material. You will need to bring a T&E-200 scantron and #2 pencils for the exams. Questions include multiple choice and open-ended.

#### **6. Participation**

You will earn participation points for in-class activities. These points are earned during certain class periods when we do activities. Note that participation points cannot be made up.

#### **Learning Outcomes**

GE Learning Outcomes (GELO)

Upon successful completion of this course, you will be able to:

1. **GELO 1:** demonstrate an understanding of the methods and limits of scientific investigation;
2. **GELO 2:** distinguish science from pseudo-science; and
3. **GELO 3:** apply a scientific approach to answer questions about the earth and environment.

Each of the GELOs is fulfilled as you engage in the following specific coursework:

1. GELO 1:
  - In-class acoustic practice
  - Sound Lab assignments (Sound Lab 1 and 2)
  - Discussions on methodologies used in experimental studies.
  - Evaluations of theories.
2. GELO 2:
  - Critical readings of research papers
  - In class activities to distinguish facts from opinions and to locate, interpret, evaluate, and synthesize evidence in support of one's ideas
  - Term paper and presentation
3. GELO 3:
  - Class discussions on acoustic analyses, analysis of communicative behavior, and research methodology
  - Sound Lab assignments (Sound Lab 1 and 2)
  - Class discussions on qualitative and quantitative data analysis
  - Term paper and presentation

In addition to the three GLOs listed above, there are five more course specific learning outcomes for Ling 123. Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. **CLO1:** Understand sound as a physical phenomenon, and be able to solve simple problems in acoustics, such as calculating a sound's frequency (Sound Labs);
2. **CLO2:** Analyze recorded human speech and animal vocalization on a computer, and draw conclusions on those data (Sound Labs);

3. **CLO3:** Understand the biological mechanisms that allow humans and certain other animals to produce and process vocalized signals (Reading and class activities);
4. **CLO4:** Understand how to study animal communication systems (Reading and class activities); and
5. **CLO5:** Discuss the essential design features of human language, and to explain how our language differs from the communication systems of other animal species (Reading and class activities).

### **Classroom Protocol**

- Cellphone use is prohibited in class. Please do not let your phone ring.
- Students must access assignments on the course website and submit completed assignments as hardcopy. Essays and papers have to be typed.
- Students are expected to complete each assigned reading before the class for which it is listed, to be prepared to discuss its contents, and to participate fully in groupwork in class.
- Exams may not be taken at other than their scheduled times, except in case of emergency or religious observance. Any such case must be documented in writing by the appropriate authorities.
- Each assignment must be the original work of the student who turns it in. It cannot contain any material that has been submitted for credit to another class. No student may collaborate with anyone on any assignment or written document related to an assignment that is not specified as a group assignment, or take any words from any source without acknowledging it in a clear and obvious way. Your assignments must be entirely your work. Do not share your assignment with anyone before it is due. If you use outside material, you must clearly indicate that it is someone else's work, and give the source. **Plagiarism — submitting someone else's work for credit — has serious consequences; for example, you can get an F in the course.** Anyone committing plagiarism will be reported to the office of student conduct.
- Essays and papers must be typewritten (i.e. machine-printed).
- **Hardcopy of assignments must be turned in by the due date.** There is a substantial penalty for any late work.
- If you miss a class it is your responsibility to contact me or a fellow student so that you can find out what you missed.

### **Library Liaison**

Toby Matoush is the SJSU library liaison for linguistics. You can reach her by email ([Toby.Matoush@sjsu.edu](mailto:Toby.Matoush@sjsu.edu)) for any questions you may have regarding library sources.

### **University, College, or Department Policy Information:**

#### **Dropping and Adding**

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. Refer to the current semester's Catalog Policies section at <http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html>. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the current academic year calendars document on the Academic Calendars webpage at [http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic\\_calendars/](http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/). The Late Drop Policy is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/>. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes.

## **Student Resources**

### **Technology**

Computer labs for student use are available in the Academic Success Center located on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of Clark Hall, as well as in the Student Union. Additional computer labs may be available in your department/college. Computers are also available in the Martin Luther King Library.

A wide variety of audio-visual equipment is available for student checkout from Media Services located in IRC 112.

### **Accessible Education Center (formerly Disability Resource Center)**

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with the Center as soon as possible. Students who wish to have special accommodations because of a disability must register with the Center <http://www.sjsu.edu/aec/> to establish a record of their need. (Please let your instructor know as soon as possible in order to more effectively accommodate your needs.) Your needs will remain confidential.

### **The SJSU Writing Center**

The Writing Center is located in Room 126 in Clark Hall. It is staffed by professional instructors and upper-division or graduate-level writing specialists from each of the seven SJSU colleges. Our writing specialists have met a rigorous GPA requirement, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. Students who want to improve their writing skills are strongly encouraged to make use of this resource. It is best to make an appointment ahead of time. <http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/>

### **Peer Connections locations:**

- 1st floor, Clark Hall
- Student Services Center 600
- Living Learning Center, Campus B village, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
<http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu>

### **University Policies**

General Expectations, Rights and Responsibilities of the Student

As members of the academic community, students accept both the rights and responsibilities incumbent upon all members of the institution. Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with SJSU's policies and practices pertaining to the procedures to follow if and when questions or concerns about a class arises. See University Policy S90-5 at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S90-5.pdf>. In general, it is recommended that students begin by seeking clarification or discussing concerns with their instructor. If such conversation is not possible, or if it does not serve to address the issue, it is recommended that the student contact the Department Chair as a next step.

### **Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material**

University Policy S12-7, <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf>, requires students to obtain instructor's permission to record the course and:

“Common courtesy and professional behavior dictate that you notify someone when you are recording him/her. You must obtain the instructor's permission to make audio or video recordings in this class. Such permission allows the recordings to be used for your private, study purposes only. The

recordings are the intellectual property of the instructor; you have not been given any rights to reproduce or distribute the material.”

“Course material developed by the instructor is the intellectual property of the instructor and cannot be shared publicly without his/her approval. You may not publicly share or upload instructor generated material for this course such as exam questions, lecture notes, or homework solutions without instructor consent.”

### **Academic integrity**

Your commitment, as a student, to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The [University Academic Integrity Policy S07-2](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf> requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The [Student Conduct and Ethical Development website](http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/) is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/>.

### **Statement on plagiarism:**

The Department would like to emphasize that we adhere strictly to the rules against plagiarism as set forth in the SJSU Catalog. Should a student plagiarize in any Linguistics or LLD course, the instructor will report the student to the University’s Office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. **A student who commits plagiarism should expect an F in this course.**

### **How to avoid plagiarism:**

Plagiarism is representing someone else’s work as your own in exchange for course credit. Even one plagiarized sentence can earn you an F, even if you do it by mistake. Copying someone else’s work is obviously plagiarism. Also working together with someone on a written assignment is plagiarism in this course, and so is turning in an assignment that you have turned in before in another class.

It is not always easy to recognize whether you are legitimately citing the work of others or whether you have “crossed the line” into plagiarism. The SJSU website offers definitions, policies, and links to useful websites offering guidelines in plagiarism prevention.

**Tip: Never cut and paste from a website.** (The risk of forgetting to put the quotes and citation is too great.)

Students who are caught cheating will be reported to the Judicial Affairs Officer of the University, as prescribed by Academic Senate Policy S04-12.

If you would like to include in your assignment any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU’s Academic Policy F06-1 requires approval of instructors.

### **Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act**

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the Accessible Education Center (AEC) (which used to be known as the DRC [Disability Resource Center]) to establish a record of their disability.

### **Accommodation to Students' Religious Holidays**

San José State University shall provide accommodation on any graded class work or activities for students wishing to observe religious holidays when such observances require students to be absent from class. It is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor, in writing, about such holidays before the add deadline at the start of each semester. If such holidays occur before the add deadline, the student must notify the instructor, in writing, at least three days before the date that he/she will be absent. It is the responsibility of the instructor to make every reasonable effort to honor the student request without penalty, and of the student to make up the work missed. See [University Policy S14-7](#) at

### Linguistics 123-10 Fall 2018 Tentative Course Schedule

The schedule is subject to change with fair notice. If it should become necessary to change the schedule, notice will be given in class.

NOTES: *W/D* = ‘week and day’; this column gives the week of the semester and the day of the week; for example, *1T* means ‘Week 1 of the semester, Tuesday’. Do each reading before the class where it is listed.

All readings are in the course reader. The Zihlman chapters from *The human evolution coloring book* are in Part Two of the reader.

Table 3: Tentative Course Schedule

<i>W/D</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>LING 123 Fall 2018: Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines</i> DO EACH READING BEFORE THE CLASS FOR WHICH IT IS LISTED.
1T	8/21	Introduction to Linguistics 123. Discuss term paper.
R	8/23	Evolution of communication. READ Hauser pp. 17-30.
2T	8/28	VIDEO: <i>Great transformations</i> .
R	8/30	Sound waves. READ: <i>The Physics Classroom</i> (online). LINK: <a href="http://www.physicsclassroom.com/class/sound">http://www.physicsclassroom.com/class/sound</a> Lesson 1 (a, b, c); Lesson 2 (a & c only).
3T	9/4	Complex waves. Introduction to Praat. <a href="http://www.fon.hum.uva.nl/praat/">http://www.fon.hum.uva.nl/praat/</a>
R	9/6	Complex waves. Acoustic analysis with Praat. In-class practice with Assignment 1. Download Praat and the class soundfiles. <b>Bring the Assignment 1 instructions to class.</b>
4T	9/11	Frog advertisement calls. READ: Zelik et al., 1999 (pp. 386-411).
R	9/13	VIDEO: <i>Signals and Songs</i> . Reflective Response 1 assigned. <b>DUE: Sound Lab 1.</b>
5T	9/18	Bird song. READ: Beckers (2006); Naguib & Reibel (2006).
R	9/20	Bird calls. READ: Templeton et al. (2005). <b>DUE: Reflective Response 1.</b>
6T	9/25	Vocal communication in in old world monkeys. READ: Seyfarth et al (1980); Hauser & Marler (1993); Zihlman #60.
R	9/27	Review for midterm exam.
7T	10/2	MIDTERM.
R	10/4	VIDEO: <i>Monkey in the Mirror</i> .
8T	10/9	Communication in great apes. READ: Tomasello pp. 1-30.
R	10/11	VIDEO TO BE ANNOUNCED. Reflective response 2 assigned.
9T	10/16	The evolution of language. READ: Tomasello pp. 30-55.

<i>W/D</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>LING 123 Fall 2018: Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines</i> DO EACH READING BEFORE THE CLASS FOR WHICH IT IS LISTED.
R	10/18	Articulatory phonetics. READ: Davenport & Hannahs Ch. 2. <b>DUE: Reflective Response 2. Term paper assigned.</b>
10T	10/23	Acoustics of speech. READ: Davenport & Hannahs Ch. 5.
R	10/25	Sound lab 2 practice.
11T	10/30	Child language acquisition. READ: Pinker.
R	11/1	Language and the brain. READ: British Neuroscience Association “Science of the brain”. <b>DUE (by email <a href="mailto:kevin.moore@sjsu.edu">kevin.moore@sjsu.edu</a>): Term paper proposal</b> (This is just a couple of sentences to tell me what your idea is. It is not graded, but you have to get my approval on your topic.)
12T	11/6	Language and the brain. READ: Bergen Ch. 2 “Keep your mind on the ball”.
R	11/8	Language and the brain. READ: Bergen Ch. 3 “Meaning and the mind’s eye”.
13T	11/13	Student presentations.
R	11/15	Student presentations.
14T	11/20	Student presentations.
R	11/22	THANKSGIVING. NO CLASSES!
T	11/27	Student presentations.
15R	11/29	Student presentations
T	12/4	Review for the final.
16R	12/6	Review for the final. Our last class.
<b>Thur</b>	<b>12/13</b>	<b>FINAL EXAM 12:15 to 2 p.m. (Not our regular time)</b>