

Department of Linguistics and Language Development, San Jose State University

Language and Thinking (Online)

Contact Information

Course: Ling 21-99

Instructor: Mahsa Modirzadeh

Office: Clark Hall, Room 404 C

Email: mahsa.modirzadeh@sjsu.edu

Telephone: 408-924-1375

Online Office Hours: M/T 10-11 am

All Emails received after 5pm will be responded to the next business day.

Course Description

*This course explores systems of language and logic in oral and written discourse, with a focus on the role of shared assumptions, language style and the media of presentation in shaping the form and content of argumentation. We will study well-established techniques of critical thinking and apply them to written documents such as newspaper articles, magazine articles, essays, and websites with a focus on current events. Successful students will become skilled at analyzing arguments and producing arguments of their own. Students should be willing to get familiar with current events during the semester. **NOTE: This course is taught completely online.***

Course Management System

All course materials are available on the course Canvas website and all assignments will be submitted by posting in the discussion forum or by uploading a file to a dropbox. To participate, you must have a working computer with video/audio conferencing capabilities and a reliable Internet connection. Access to a printer is highly recommended. Please note that technology issues are NEVER an acceptable excuse for late/missing assignments. You are responsible for regularly checking Canvas and/or your email for announcements to learn of any course changes or updates. Please make sure that you have linked your official SJSU email address to the email address that you check most often.

Contact Me

Since this course is offered completely online our contact will mostly be through Canvas and email. I will respond to all emails that I receive within 24 hours; typically, my response time will be much shorter, but please be aware that I will not respond to email received after 5pm until the following business day. If you would like to speak with me in person, please feel free to make an appointment.

Area A3 General Education Learning Objectives

- 1 - **Locate and evaluate** sources, through library research, and integrate research through appropriate citation and quotation.*
- 2 - **Present** effective arguments that use a full range of legitimate rhetorical and logical strategies to articulate and explain their positions on complex issues in dialogue with other points of view.*
- 3 - **Effectively locate, interpret, evaluate, and synthesize** evidence in a comprehensive way in support of one's ideas.*
- 4 - **Identify and critically evaluate** the assumptions in and the context of an argument.*
- 5 - **Effectively distinguish and convey** inductive and deductive patterns as appropriate, sequencing arguments and evidence logically to draw valid conclusions and articulate related outcomes (implications and consequences).*

Ling 21 Course Learning Objectives

- 1 - Apply deductive and inductive logic.
- 2 - Identify fallacies of relevance and evidence.
- 3 - Evaluate arguments for validity and soundness.
- 4 - Analyze and discuss the use (and abuse) of logic in public discourse.
- 5 - Write coherent, well-reasoned and well-supported essays.

Assignments and Grading

You will accomplish the Ling 21 GE and Course Learning Objectives by completing the following assignments:

Title	% Percentage	Assignment Word Count/Length	Objective Met	
			Area A3	Course
Problem Sets (6)	20%	1500 (250 words each)	2,4,5	1-3
Discussion Board Posts (8)	8%	1000 (125 words each)	2,4	3,4
Quizzes (10)	10%	--	1	1-3
*Oral Argument/Analysis Part I	5%	--	2,5	4
*Oral Argument/Analysis Part II	10%	1000	4	1-3
*Final Essay Part I: Topic/ Outline	5%	150 -250	12	5
*Final Essay Part II: Annotated Bibliography	5%	250	2,4,5	5
*Final Essay Part III: First draft (peer reviewed)	7%	1000 words	1-5	5
*Final Essay Part IV: Final Draft	10%	1100	1,5	5
*Midterm Exam	10%	500 words		1-3
*Final Exam	10%	500 words		1-4
	100%	Total words 6000		

Your grade is calculated on a weighed basis: each assignment or exam is given a points score which is then weighed per percentage.

Assignments with an asterisk next to them are required assignments. Failing to complete them, will result in failing the class.

At the end of the semester, all points will be tallied and your final letter grade will be assigned based on the following scale:

A+ = 97+	A = 93 - 96.9	A- = 90 - 92.9
B+ = 87 - 89.9	B = 83 - 86.9	B- = 80 - 82.9
C+ = 77 - 79.9	C = 73 - 76.9	C- = 70 - 72.9
D = 60-69.9	F = Below 60	

***You must earn at least 70 points, or a C-, to receive credit for this course.
Final Exam is mandatory. Somatane12***

Modules

This course is set up as a series of weekly modules; each weekly module contains a list of all activities due for the week and links to those activities. Except Week 1 module (which opens on the first day of the semester) **each weekly module will open on Sunday at 12:00am and its assignments and quizzes will be due on the following Sunday at 11:59pm.** Weekly activities are listed in the order that I suggest you complete them; however, you are free to navigate through the activities in whichever order that you wish. Because each week's lessons build upon the prior week's activities, you should complete ALL of the activities in a module before you begin work on the next one.

Late Policy - Important

Late assignments (problem sets, discussion posts, quizzes, essays, and exams) are NOT accepted: you will NOT be able to submit assignments or access quizzes AFTER the module due/closing date. If you anticipate that you will need extra time to complete a module, you must contact me at least one day PRIOR to its due date. Permission to submit late work is discretionary and typically will only be granted for a documented family or personal emergency.

Also, please note that the midterm and final exams MUST be taken within the specified time given on Canvas. Alternate testing will only be offered for a documented family or personal emergency.

Cheating/Plagiarism/

RESUBMISSION OF WORK

You can find the University Academic Integrity Policy S07-2 at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf>.

Here is MY policy on cheating, plagiarism, and re-submission of work that has been previously submitted for a grade in another class: **if you do it, you will receive a grade of zero for the assignment and you will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development.** It's easy to avoid problems in this area: don't cheat!

Course Policies

Description of Course Assignments

Lectures and Discussion Based on Readings – You should complete the assigned readings and view all assigned video lectures, which are designed to increase your understanding of course concepts. These are posted on Canvas and can be accessed through the weekly modules.

Problem Sets – Problem sets should be downloaded from Canvas, completed, and uploaded to Canvas to the appropriate assignment dropbox by the due date/time. **Problem sets must be submitted as a Word document (.doc or .docx) or as an Adobe (.pdf) file.** Any problem set that is submitted in an incorrect format will not be graded.

Weekly Discussion Posts – For the first eight weeks of the semester you will be asked to complete a weekly discussion assignment. The last seven of these posts will require you to find and discuss an article on a current and controversial issue; you will choose the topic of your final essay from these articles. Please remember to follow the online etiquette guidelines (see Week 1 Module) in your discussion board activity and to **completely read the discussion assignment prompt** before posting.

Weekly Quizzes - You will take twelve weekly quizzes designed to review important concepts covered in the weekly modules; you should use these as 'self-checks' to gauge your understanding of what you have studied.

Oral Argument/Analysis – During Week 2 of the semester, you will video record and submit a short oral argument (5-10 minutes) on a current and controversial topic selected by your instructor. In Week 8, you will watch your video and write and submit a written analysis of your argument. **All written assignments must be uploaded to the appropriate dropbox on Canvas by the due date/time, and must be submitted as a Word document (.doc or .docx) or as an Adobe (.pdf) file.**

Final (Argumentative) Essay – In this essay you will explore the arguments surrounding a current and controversial issue. You will submit an annotated bibliography with evidence that supports both sides of the controversial issue, an outline, and a final draft of the essay. **All written assignments must be uploaded to the appropriate dropbox on Canvas by the due date/time, and must be submitted as a Word document (.doc or .docx) or as an Adobe (.pdf) file.**

Midterm and Final Exam – A midterm exam will be given during the eighth week of the semester; it will contain questions similar

to the ones in your textbook and in the problem sets. The final exam will be given during the last week of the semester; it will include topics studied throughout the semester. **Study guides for the midterm and for the final exam will be posted on Canvas.**

Extra Credit – During Week 14 of the semester, you will have the option to complete an extra credit problem set covering topics studied throughout the semester. You may earn a maximum of 5 points, or 5%, extra credit for this assignment.

You will find detailed instructions for all assignments in the weekly modules. ***Please review these instructions before contacting me with questions about an assignment!***

Ling 21 Online Spring 2017 Course Schedule

Please be aware that this course schedule is subject to later change.

Week	Due Date (Sunday at 11:59pm)	Activities/Assignments (Begin each module by reading the weekly START HERE page)
1 Introduction to Ling 21	2/4/18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Ling 21 General Information (Read All) • Read <i>Online Etiquette Guidelines</i> • Read <i>Tips to Ensure Online Success</i> • Discussion Board Week 1 • Quiz-Introduction to Ling 21
2 Introduction to Critical Thinking	2/11/18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Bassham Chapter 1 • Watch <i>Qualia Soup Critical Thinking video</i> • Quiz- Introduction to critical thinking • Discussion Board Week 2 • Oral Argument/Analysis Assignment Part I
3 Recognizing Arguments/ Non-Arguments	2/18/18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Bassham Chapter 2 • <i>Recognizing Arguments</i> Video • Quiz – Recognizing Arguments • Discussion Board Week 3 • Problem Set - Recognizing Arguments and Non-Arguments
4 Deductive Arguments	2/25/18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Download and print Chart of Deductive and Inductive Arguments • Read Bassham Chapter 3 Deductive Arguments • Watch <i>Deductive Arguments</i> Video • Quiz Week 4 • Discussion Board Week 4 • Problem Set- Deductive Arguments
5 Inductive Arguments	3/4/18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Bassham Chapter 3 Inductive Arguments • Watch <i>Inductive Arguments</i> Video • Quiz Week 5 • Discussion Board Week 5 • Problem Set- Inductive Arguments
6 Fallacies of Relevance	3/11/18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Download and print Chart of Logical Fallacies • Read Bassham Chapter 5 • Watch <i>Fallacies of Relevance</i> Video • Quiz Week 6 • Discussion Board Week 6 • Problem Set- Fallacies of Relevance
7 Fallacies of Insufficient Evidence	3/18/18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Bassham Chapter 6 • Watch <i>Fallacies of Insufficient Evidence</i> Video • Quiz Week 7 • Discussion Board Week 7

Week	Due Date (Sunday at 11:59pm)	Activities/Assignments (Begin each module by reading the weekly START HERE page)
		• Problem Set- Fallacies of Insufficient Evidence
8 Midterm	3/25/18	• Download and review Midterm Study Guide • Download and complete Midterm Exam • Discussion Board Week 8 • Oral Argument /Analysis Assignment Part II
9 Evaluating Evidence	4/1/18	Read-Herrick Chapter 6 Watch Evaluating Evidence video Complete the King Library <i>InfoPower</i> tutorial and take the quiz at the end of the tutorial Argumentative Essay Part I: Topic Worksheet
10 More Inductive Argument	4/8/18	Read Bassham Chapter 11 More Inductive Argument Watch More inductive Argument Video Quiz- week 10 Argumentative Essay Part II: Annotated Bibliography
11 Finding Assumptions Behind Arguments/ Warrants	4/15/18	Read- Finding Assumptions Behind an Argument Watch Reality assumptions, Value Assumptions, and Warrants <i>Quiz- Finding the Assumption Behind an Argument</i>
12 Writing Argumentative Essays	4/22/18	Read Writing Body paragraphs Read Using In-text citations Read Integrating Quotations into Sentences Problem Set- Writing Argumentative Essays
13 Final Essay First Draft (Peer Review)	4/29/18	Argumentative Essay Part III: First Draft is due. This draft will be peer reviewed by a classmate.
14 Extra Credit	5/6/18	<u>Optional:</u> Complete and submit Problem Set: Extra Credit (5%)
15 Final Essay	5/13/18	Write and submit Final Essay Part IV
16 Final Exam	5/16/18	Complete and submit Final Exam

Information on University Policies

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on the Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' Syllabus Information web page at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>