

San José State University
Linguistics & Language Development
LING 20, The Nature of Language, Section 01, Spring 2016

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Scott Phillabaum
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Office Hours:	MW 3-4 and by appointment
Class Days/Time:	MW 9-10:15
Classroom:	Clark Hall 225
GE/SJSU Studies Category:	Human Behavior (D1)

Course Format

This course adopts a hybrid classroom delivery format. This means you will attend class lectures and receive materials in class, but that materials will also be provided online via Canvas. You will need access to a computer with Internet access to use these materials to fully participate in classroom activities.

The course also contains a service-learning component that requires students to spend a minimum of five hours outside of class conversing with a second language learner. More information on this requirement will be provided in class.

Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on the Canvas learning management system course website. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through MySJSU and Canvas to learn of any updates.

Course Description

Introduction to the nature of language as a social institution and practice in observing language structure and use in local speech communities.

Learning Outcomes

GE Learning Outcomes

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

1. Place contemporary developments in cultural, historical, environmental, and spatial contexts.
2. Identify the dynamics of ethnic, cultural, gender/sexual, age-based, class, regional, national, transnational, and global identities and the similarities, differences, linkages, and interactions between them.

3. Evaluate social science information, draw on different points of view, and formulate applications appropriate to contemporary social issues.
4. Recognize the interaction of social institutions, culture, and environment with the behavior of individuals.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

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

1. Connect the interaction of social institutions, culture, and the environment with the language behavior and identity of individuals
2. Recognize language as a creative and systematic human ability.
3. Identify processes of language change.
4. Demonstrate that different dialects of English are rule-governed systems.
5. Use linguistic methods to collect and analyze data from local communities;
6. Formulate original conclusions about contemporary language use and its variation in diverse regional, social, cultural, or ethnic communities.

Required Texts/Readings

Textbooks

1. George Yule (2014). *The study of language, fifth edition*. Cambridge University Press.
2. Laurie Bauer and Peter Trudgill (Eds.). *Language myths*. Penguin Books.

Other Readings

Additional readings to be made available on Canvas.

Library Liaison

Nyle Monday, Nyle.Monday@sjsu.edu

Course Requirements and Assignments

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>.

Class Assignments:

1. Students will write a 2-3-page *Linguistic Experience Paper* examining their linguistic heritage and experiences. (500-750 words; GELOs 1, 2, 4; CLO 1)
2. Students will write a 2-3-page *Neologisms Paper*, discussing words that have recently entered English through various processes of word formation. (500-750 words; GELOs 1 and 2; CLOs 2, 3, 4, 5)
3. Students will write a 2-3-page *Transcription Paper*, applying their knowledge of the English sound system to a television show or movie of their choosing. (500-750 words; GELOs 2 and 4; CLOs 1-6)
4. Students will write a 2-3-page *Text Analysis Paper*, applying their knowledge of discourse analysis to two similar texts aimed at different audiences. (500-750 words; GELOs 1-4; CLOs 1, 2, 4, 5, 6)
5. Students will write a 2-3-page *Speech Events Paper*, analyzing how language use is situated in specific contexts and the factors that influence specific use. (500-750 words; GELOs 2 and 4; CLOs 1, 2, 5, 6)
6. Students will complete weekly *homework assignments* and will take *in-class quizzes*. (GELOs 1-4; CLOs 1-6)
7. Students will take a *midterm exam* and a *final exam*. (GELOs 1-4; CLOs 1-6)

Your final grade will be assessed according to your performance on the following required assignments. Points indicated represent percentage points, NOT individual points. Detailed descriptions of each assignment will be available on Canvas

Linguistic Experience Paper (10%) –Feb 10

Neologisms Paper (10%) –Feb 22

Transcription Paper (10%) – Mar 2

Text Analysis Paper (10%) – Mar 23

Speech Event Paper (10%) – Apr 25

Midterm Exam (10%) – Mar 14

Final Exam (20%) – May 18

Language Myths Presentation with Partner (10%) – May 2-11

Homework and Quizzes (10%) – Throughout semester

University policy F69-24 at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F69-24.pdf> states, “Students should attend all meetings of their classes, not only because they are responsible for material discussed therein, but because active participation is frequently essential to insure maximum benefit for all members of the class. Attendance per se shall not be used as a criterion for grading.”

Grading Policy

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	F below 60

Grading information:

- There are **NO** extra credit or make-up assignments.
- Your grade will be determined solely on your performance on the assignments listed above.
- All assignments are due on the date indicated and late assignments will **NOT** be accepted.
- In the event that a late assignment is accepted, it will be graded down (A becomes A-, A- becomes B+, et cetera.) for **each day** that it is late.
- All assignments, unless indicated otherwise, must be typed and submitted in electronic form.
- Each assignment is weighted as described above.

Note that “All students have the right, within a reasonable time, to know their academic scores, to review their grade-dependent work, and to be provided with explanations for the determination of their course grades.” See [University Policy F13-1](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-1.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-1.pdf> for more details.

Classroom Protocol

Please arrive to class on time. It distracts the instructor and other students when you arrive late. If you must arrive late, please enter the classroom quietly and with respect for your classmates and your instructor.

I do not allow any cell phone use in class. Please turn off your phone when you arrive to class and store your phone in your purse, backpack, or pocket. Because it is difficult for me to know why a cell phone is in your hand or sitting on your desk, you may not use your phone as a clock or to take notes in my class. There is a clock in the classroom that functions just fine as a timepiece. I will forgive any two transgressions of this policy (they may occur in the same class), after which **you will be asked to leave class for the day for any subsequent transgression.** Repeat offenders will be sent academic discipline for disrupting class.

Should you wish to use a laptop or tablet in class, it will be allowed **on a trial basis** and **only with my prior approval.** I reserve the right to revoke this privilege at any time if I find it distracting to you or to other students. Should you wish to consult research on the impact of using technology for taking notes, please see <http://pss.sagepub.com/content/25/6/1159>.

This is a workshop-style course, not a purely lecture course. This means that **participation in all class activities is mandatory.** We will be using lots of group and pair work, as well as whole-class discussion in which everyone is encouraged to speak up. You are asked to adapt to this kind of format

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](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S90-5.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S90-5.pdf>. More detailed information on a variety of related topics is available in the [SJSU catalog](http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/catalog/rec-12234.12506.html), at <http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/catalog/rec-12234.12506.html>. 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.

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](http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html) 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](http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/) at http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/. The [Late Drop Policy](http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/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.

Information about the latest changes and news is available at the [Advising Hub](http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/>.

Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material

[University Policy S12-7](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf), <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf>, requires students to obtain instructor's permission to record the course and the following items to be included in the syllabus:

- “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.”
 - Please consult with me before recording any lectures. I will grant oral permission to record the class. I reserve the right to revoke this privilege at any time during the semester.
 - In classes where active participation of students or guests may be on the recording, permission of those students or guests should be obtained as well.
- “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/>.

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](http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf) at http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the [Accessible Education Center](http://www.sjsu.edu/aec) (AEC) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aec> 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](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S14-7.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S14-7.pdf>.

Student Technology Resources

Computer labs for student use are available in the [Academic Success Center](http://www.sjsu.edu/at/asc/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/at/asc/> located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall and in the Associated Students Lab on the 2nd floor of 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. These items include DV and HD digital camcorders; digital still cameras; video, slide and overhead projectors; DVD, CD, and audiotape players; sound systems, wireless microphones, projection screens and monitors.

SJSU Counseling Services

The SJSU Counseling Services is located on the corner of 7th Street and San Fernando Street, in Room 201, Administration Building. Professional psychologists, social workers, and counselors are available to provide consultations on issues of student mental health, campus climate or psychological and academic issues on an individual, couple, or group basis. To schedule an appointment or learn more information, visit [Counseling Services website](http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling>.

LING 20 / Nature of Language, Spring 2016, Course Schedule

Tentative Class Schedule and Assignments (subject to change)

NOTE: Readings and Assignments are to be completed by class time on the date indicated. Class topics are listed first, then assigned readings, and finally any assignment due that day.

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	Feb 1	Introduction to the class; What is linguistics? What is language? <i>HW: Post word that no one else knows to Canvas</i>
1	Feb 3	Human vs Animal Communication <i>Yule 1-2</i>
2	Feb 8	The sounds of language <i>Yule 3</i>
2	Feb 10	The sounds of language <i>Yule 3</i> Linguistic Experience Paper
3	Feb 15	The sound patterns of language <i>Yule 4</i>
3	Feb 17	Word formation <i>Yule 5</i>
4	Feb 22	Morphology <i>Yule 6</i> Transcription Paper
4	Feb 24	Grammar & Syntax <i>Yule 7-8</i>
5	Feb 29	Grammar & Syntax <i>Yule 7-8</i>
5	Mar 2	Semantics <i>Yule 9</i> Neologisms Paper
6	Mar 7	Semantics & Pragmatics <i>Yule 9-10</i>
6	Mar 9	Pragmatics; Review for midterm <i>Yule 10</i>
7	Mar 14	Midterm Exam
7	Mar 16	Discourse Analysis <i>Yule 11</i>
8	Mar 21	Discourse Analysis <i>Yule 11</i>

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
8	Mar 23	Language and the brain <i>Yule 12</i> Text Analysis
9	Apr 4	Language and regional variation <i>Yule 18</i>
9	Apr 6	Language and regional variation <i>Yule 18</i>
10	Apr 11	Language and social variation <i>Yule 19</i>
10	Apr 13	Language and social variation <i>Yule 19</i>
11	Apr 18	Language and culture <i>Yule 20</i>
11	Apr 20	Language and culture <i>Yule 20</i>
12	Apr 25	First and second language acquisition <i>Yule 13-14</i> Speech Event Paper
12	Apr 27	First and second language acquisition <i>Yule 13-14</i>
13	May 2	Language Myths Presentations
13	May 4	Language Myths Presentations
14	May 9	Language Myths Presentations
14	May 11	Language Myths Presentations
15	May 16	Review for Final Exam
Final Exam	May 18	Final Exam: Wednesday, May 18, 7:15-9:30