

San José State University
Linguistics & Language Development
LING 20, The Nature of Language, Section 01, Spring 2017

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Scott Phillabaum
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Office Hours:	MW 1:30-2:30 and by appointment
Class Days/Time:	MW 12:00-1:15
Classroom:	Clark Hall 216
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.

GE Learning Outcomes (GELO)

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

Textbook

1. George Yule (2016). *The study of language, sixth 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

Toby Matoush, Toby.Matoush@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)

Grading Information

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%)

Neologisms Paper (10%)

Transcription Paper (10%)

Text Analysis Paper (10%)

Speech Event Paper (10%)

Midterm Exam (10%)

Final Exam (20%)

Language Myths Presentation with Partner (10%)

Homework and Quizzes (10%) – Throughout semester

[University policy F69-24](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F69-24.pdf) 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

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

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	Jan 30	Introduction to the class; What is linguistics? What is language? <i>HW: Post word that no one else knows to Canvas</i>
1	Feb 1	Human vs Animal Communication <i>Yule 1-2</i>
2	Feb 6	The sounds of language <i>Yule 3</i>
2	Feb 8	The sounds of language <i>Yule 3</i> Linguistic Experience Paper
3	Feb 13	The sound patterns of language <i>Yule 4</i>

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
3	Feb 15	Word formation <i>Yule 5</i>
4	Feb 20	Morphology <i>Yule 6</i> Transcription Paper
4	Feb 22	Grammar & Syntax <i>Yule 7-8</i>
5	Feb 27	Grammar & Syntax <i>Yule 7-8</i>
5	Mar 1	Semantics <i>Yule 9</i> Neologisms Paper
6	Mar 6	Semantics & Pragmatics <i>Yule 9-10</i>
6	Mar 8	Pragmatics; Review for midterm <i>Yule 10</i>
7	Mar 13	Midterm Exam
7	Mar 15	Discourse Analysis <i>Yule 11</i>
8	Mar 20	Discourse Analysis <i>Yule 11</i>
8	Mar 22	NO CLASS – PHILLABAUM AT TESOL Text Analysis
9	Apr 3	Language and the brain <i>Yule 12</i>
9	Apr 5	Language and regional variation <i>Yule 18</i>
10	Apr 10	Language and social variation <i>Yule 19</i>
10	Apr 12	Language and culture <i>Yule 20</i>
11	Apr 17	VIDEO – Do You Speak American
11	Apr 19	Language and culture <i>Yule 20</i>
12	Apr 24	First and second language acquisition <i>Yule 13-14</i> Speech Event Paper
12	Apr 26	First and second language acquisition <i>Yule 13-14</i>

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
13	May 1	Language Myths Presentations
13	May 3	Language Myths Presentations
14	May 8	Language Myths Presentations
14	May 10	Language Myths Presentations
15	May 15	Review for Final Exam
Final Exam	May 23	Final Exam: Tuesday, May 23, 9:45-12:00