



LING 4813/8803: Structure of Language

Instructor

Hongchen Wu, Ph.D.

Email: hongchen.wu@gatech.edu

Course Description and Objectives

Linguistics is the scientific study of human language, its nature, its origins, and its uses.

This course provides a comprehensive exploration of the formal structures underlying words (morphology) and sentences (syntax) in natural languages. Through the analysis of linguistic data from a variety of languages, students will investigate the differences and commonalities among morphological and syntactic systems across languages. The course emphasizes the scientific method, guiding students to analyze data, formulate and test hypotheses, and support their reasoning with evidence.

Students will gain a solid understanding of key terminology and concepts in syntax and morphology while developing the analytical skills necessary for formal linguistic research. The course fosters critical thinking and problem-solving abilities, equipping students with tools that have broad applications beyond linguistics.

Grading

A: 90-100; B: 80-89; C: 70-79; D: 60-69; F: below 59

[Homework Assignments 45%](#)

[Tests \(25%\):](#)

[Final project \(25%\):](#)

[End-of-semester reflection \(video\) essay 5%](#)

Policies and Links

- [Georgia Tech Honor Code](#)
 - Cheating, plagiarism, and all forms of academic dishonesty are expressly forbidden in this class, and by the university's Honor Code
 - The first instance of cheating on quizzes, tests, or homework assignments will lead to an automatic zero for the assignment; the second cheating will immediately earn you a failing grade for the entire course. I will also pursue [further disciplinary actions](#) according to Georgia Tech's policies and procedures.
- [Georgia Tech's student-faculty expectations](#)
 - We all have a right to be treated with respect and professionalism, and a responsibility to treat others the way we want to be treated.
- [Resources and for student success](#), and [resources for student mental health](#)
 - Don't struggle alone with school; there are resources to help you!
- [Office of Disability Services](#)
 - Students with disabilities are very welcome in this class. Please contact ODS to make the class more accessible for you.
- More student resources can be found at <https://gatech.instructure.com/courses/245818>

Special Note

- Your academic career is important, but your safety and health are always the priority.
- In the face of a world full of uncertainty and challenges, we all need to remain calm, clear-headed, safe, and well. If you have any questions or concerns, you can always reach me or the teaching assistant by email. If your questions or concerns can be better-addressed face-to-face, you are always welcome to meet with me virtually or in person during office hours or make an appointment for a different time.
- Stay safe and take good care of yourself and each other.