

Intro to Linguistics

LING-2100-B, Fall 2026

Course description

This course introduces the study of language, a key defining feature of humanity which constitutes the substance of all our social interactions as well as the literature, laws, and historical records of all human cultures. This course teaches facts, theories, and technical terms used to analyze diverse languages at the level of sounds, words, sentences, conversations, and macro-social groups.

Textbook (optional):

- Language Files: Materials for an Introduction to Language and Linguistics, 13th edition
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Student learning outcomes

Learning objectives:

- Develop a clear understanding of different linguistic subfields and use precise terms to discuss them
- Synthesize and apply information to different languages and contexts
- Combine and appreciate scientific as well as humanistic perspectives

Skills objectives:

- Carry out a collaborative project, including planning, implementation, and communicating your findings
 - Develop career-ready competencies
 - Communicate about linguistic diversity and reflect on one's own language(s)
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Resources

If you are experiencing challenges for any reason, here are some resources that may help:

- [Georgia Tech student resources](#)
- [Office of Disability Services](#)
- [Georgia Tech Police Department](#) (404-894-2500)
- [GT Center for Mental Health Care and Resources](#) or [988lifeline.org](https://www.988lifeline.org)
- [Georgia Tech on-call counselors](#)
- [Resources for student success](#)

Assessment

Homeworks: There are 9 homeworks, but your lowest HW grade will be dropped. Homeworks must be submitted before the start of class on Tuesday. If you use AI, you must share your full chat when you submit. Readings from *Language Files* are optional but support learning.

Exams: There are 2 in-class exams during the semester, each worth 15% of your grade.

Final Project: You will work in groups of 4-5 to do a “language sketch.” Each group will work on a different language, and each member will choose 2 subfields to report on. Assessment will be based on the in-class presentation (10%) and the writeup (10%).

Attendance & Engagement: This is an interactive course, so attendance is required. You are allowed 3 absences, no questions asked, but after that your grade will be impacted. You’re also assessed based on engagement: come prepared, put electronics away, and participate in every class.

Assessment	Frequency	Total %
Homework	9 (8 count)	40%
Exams	2	30%
Final Project	1	20%
Attendance & Engagement	throughout	10%

Grading Criteria: (90s=A, 80s=B, etc.)

[Georgia Tech Honor Code](#): Be honest about your work. Give credit to people for their ideas. Don’t present anyone else’s work as your own. Don’t help anyone else violate the Honor Code.

This is a Core IMPACTS course that is part of the Humanities area.

Core IMPACTS refers to the core curriculum, which provides students with essential knowledge in foundational academic areas. This course will help master course content, and support students’ broad academic and career goals.

This course should direct students toward a broad Orienting Question:

- How do I interpret the human experience through creative, linguistic and philosophical works?

Completion of this course should enable students to meet the following Learning Outcome:

- Students will effectively analyze and interpret the meaning, cultural significance and ethical implications of literary/philosophical texts in English or other languages, or of works in the visual/performing arts.

Course content, activities and exercises in this course should help students develop the following Career-Ready

Competencies: Ethical Reasoning, Information Literacy, Intercultural Competence

Schedule

Week	Day	Topic	Reading	Assignments (due following Tuesday)
1 8/24-8/28 Overview of Linguistics	T	Introduction to course; Linguistic subfields		<i>Linguistics survey</i>
	Th	Language analysis		
2 8/31-9/4 Phonetics	T	<i>Survey discussion</i> Consonants	2.0 - 2.3	HW1 - Phonetics
	Th	Vowels		
3 9/7-9/11 Phonology	T	Phonotactics, Phonemes, & Allophones	3.0 - 3.3	HW2 - Phonology
	Th	<i>HW1 discussion</i> Phonological rules		
4 9/14-9/18 Morphology	T	Words & Word formation	4.0 - 4.2	HW3 - Morphology
	Th	<i>HW2 discussion</i> Morphological processes		
5 9/21-9/25 Syntax	T	Syntactic properties, constituency, categories	5.0 - 5.5	HW4 - Syntax <i>Study for exam</i>
	Th	<i>HW3 discussion</i> <i>Course feedback</i> Constructing a grammar		
6 9/28-10/2 Exam I	T	<i>Exam I prep</i>		
	Th	<i>Exam I</i>		
7 10/5-10/9 Semantics	T	Fall Break - no class	6.0 - 6.3	
	Th	<i>HW4 discussion</i> <i>Exam I discussion</i> Semantics		

8 10/12-10/16 Pragmatics	T	Rules of conversation	7.0 - 7.3	HW5 - Semantics & Pragmatics
	Th	Drawing conclusions		
9 10/19-10/23 Language Acquisition	T	Acquisition part 1	8.0 - 8.3	HW6 - Language Acquisition
	Th	<i>HW5 discussion</i> Acquisition part 2		
10 10/26-10/30 Psycholinguistics	T	Language & the brain	9.0 - 9.4	HW7 - Psycholinguistics
	Th	<i>HW6 discussion</i> Production & perception		
11 11/2-11/6 Language Variation	T	Language varieties	10.0 - 10.5	HW8 - Language Variation
	Th	<i>HW7 discussion</i> Factors in variation		
12 11/9-11/13 Language Change	T	Language change part 1	13.0 - 13.6	HW9 - Language Change <i>Study for exam</i>
	Th	<i>HW8 discussion</i> Language change part 2		
13 11/16-11/20 Exam II	T	<i>HW9 discussion</i> <i>Exam II prep</i>		
	Th	<i>Exam II</i>		
14 11/23-11/27	T	<i>Exam II discussion</i> <i>Final project intro</i>		<i>Work on final project</i>
	Th	Thanksgiving - no class		
15 11/30-12/4 Final project workshop	T	Outlining the project		<i>Work on final project</i>
	Th	<i>Course feedback</i> Preparing the presentation		
16 12/7-12/11	T	<i>Final class - presentations</i>		<i>Work on final project</i>