LINGUISTICS 102     Introduction to Language
3 credits
TTh 10:00-11:15 Palanakila117 CRN: 63171

INSTRUCTOR: Laurie Scott Tomchak, Ph. D.
OFFICE: Hale Manaleo 121
OFFICE HOURS: 11:30-12:00 TuTh,
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EFFECTIVE DATE: Spring 2015

WINDWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE MISSION STATEMENT

Windward Community College offers innovative programs in the arts and sciences and opportunities to gain knowledge and understanding of Hawai‘i and its unique heritage. With a special commitment to support the access and educational needs of Native Hawaiians, we provide O‘ahu’s Ko‘olau region and beyond with liberal arts, career and lifelong learning in a supportive and challenging environment — inspiring students to excellence.

CATALOG DESCRIPTION

An investigation of the nature and function of language, its sounds, structures and semantics, oral and written expression, acquisition and change. General linguistic principles applicable to all languages will be covered. We will learn ways of talking about language that will enable us to discuss language and understand what linguists do and say. (3 hours lecture)

Pre-Requisite(s): Credit for ENG 22 or higher or consent of instructor.

Activities Required at Scheduled Times Other Than Class Times

Students may be required to interview speakers of languages other than English, or do field research outside of class.
STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

The student learning outcomes for the course are:

1. Examine and appreciate human language.
2. Articulate an appreciation of human languages and how they work.
3. Articulate the diversity of communication systems in daily life.
4. Examine and assess ones own language beliefs and capabilities.

COURSE CONTENT

1. What language is (and isn't) Animal Language
2. Phonetics, Phonology--Basic sounds in English and other languages--how they are represented in the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA)
3. Syntax--How words and phrases are combined into sentences
4. Semantics--what and how words mean
5. Pragmatics--language in context and conversation
6. Acquisition--How children learn their first language and how adults learn other languages.
7. Storage and Processing--How we remember and store language and how we forget it (dementia, Alzheimer's)
8. Language Variation--How languages vary according to geography, gender, age, economic status, ethnicity, etc.
9. Language and Culture
10. Practical applications of Linguistics (Forensics, Speech Pathology, Language Education, Translation

COURSE TASKS

Students will do practical exercises relating to each topic, and write short essays on topics set by the instructor. They will also do one longer essay, which they will submit in draft form and after conference with the instructor, they will revise it and present it in class. There will be a written midterm and final, and a language journal.

ASSESSMENT TASKS AND GRADING

Distribution of grading:

30%: Daily practical exercises, essays
30% Written Midterm and Final
40% Essay and Presentation
LEARNING RESOURCES

Student Companion Website:
http://cw.routledge.com/textbooks/9780415774680/students.asp

Schedule (subject to change)
Week 1 January 13 & 15th: What language is (and isn't) Animal Language Animal Communication: The "Language of Honey Bees" (ch. 13) Alex the Parrot and Noam Chimpsky
Week 2 Jan. 20 & 22 ASL: A Visual Language (12) Teaching Pronunciation (3)
Week 3 Jan 27 & 29: First Language Acquisition: Developing Native Linguistic Competence
Week 4 Feb. 3 & 5 Syntax: Machine Translation: The Challenge of Ambiguity (6) and Text Translation: Approaching otherness
Week 5 Feb. 10 & 12 Syntax Lexicography: What Dictionaries Reveal about Language and Dictionary Makers (4)
Week 6 Feb. 17 & 19: Language, Power, and Sexual Assault: Women's Voices on Rape and Social Change (8) Gender, Language, and Power: Surname or Sirname? (9)
Week 7 Feb. 24 & 26 Semantics: Speech Communities: Language as a Mediator of Messages and Perceptions (2)
Midterm Mar. 3
Week 8 Mar. 5 Pragmatics: Communication disorders: A Personal Perspective (14) Speech Pathology
Week 9 Mar. 10 & 12 Pragmatics: Language of Children with Autism: The Two Worlds Uniting Verbal Communication (17)
Week 10 Mar. 17 & 19 Storing and Processing: Neurolinguistics and Psycholinguistics: Contributions to Understanding Healthy Aging and Dementia (16)
Spring Break: March 23-27
Week 11 Mar 31 & Apr. 2 Language Variation: Students and Teachers Reflect on Accents and Dialects. (1)
Week 12: Apr. 7 & 9 Speech Communities: Language as a Mediator of Messages and Perception (2)
Week 13: April 14 & 16 The N-Word, the F-Word, and All that Jazz: Race Sex and Transgressive Language in Contemporary American Literature and Popular Culture (7)
Week 14: April 21 & 23 Linguistics as a Forensic Science (10)
Week 15: April 28 & 30 Presentations
Week 16: May 5 & 7: Presentations, Review
Final: Tues. May 12, 10:00-11:15

DISABILITIES ACCOMMODATION STATEMENT

If you have a physical, sensory, health, cognitive, or mental health disability that could limit your ability to fully participate in this class, you are encouraged to contact the Disability Specialist Counselor to discuss reasonable accommodations that will help you succeed in this class. Ann Lemke can be reached at 235-7448, lemke@hawaii.edu, or you may stop by Hale ‘Akoakoa 213 for more information.

Revised Jan. 2, 2012