LING 4340_001 Field Methods
TR 9:30-10:45 in F373
Spring 2024
Stephen F. Austin State University
Department of Languages, Cultures, and Philosophy

Instructor: Dr. Chris Sams
Office: Liberal Arts North (LAN) 255
Office phone: (936) 468-2270 (no voicemail activated)
Email: samsc@sfasu.edu (please indicate Field Methods in the subject line of your message)

Office hours: MWF 8:00-9:00 and TR 8:00-9:30

Course Description

This semester will be a descriptive linguistic field methods course in which we will elicit data from a language informant in order to analyze the phonological and morphosyntactic systems of the language. **Students are not to do any outside research regarding the language itself. Any evidence of outside research will constitute a violation of the academic integrity policy and will be addressed in accordance with the procedures of the policy.** Students are not to discuss class material with the speaker outside of class; however, students are encouraged to share and compare data collected as well as hypotheses with each other.

This course is 3 credit hours and meets 150 minutes per week for the full semester, typically twice per week for 75 minutes or three times per week for 50 minutes. Students complete a variety of formal and informal assignments, which require, on average, six hours of work outside the classroom each week and may include outside readings, data analyses, written responses, projects, and/or exams.

**Prerequisite(s)** LING 3341

**Required Texts**

All course materials will be provided by the instructor.

**Student Course Learning Outcomes**

1. The student will demonstrate the ability to think critically about the scientific study of language and the major subfields covered in the course: phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, and pragmatics.

2. The student will demonstrate higher-order thinking skills (application and synthesis/correlation) by observing how the core areas of linguistics work within the various subfields.

3. The student will demonstrate the ability to comprehend and apply both traditional and contemporary methods in linguistics to language.
4. The student will demonstrate the ability to integrate theories and methodologies of the linguistics course with that of other disciplines taught at the university.

5. The student will demonstrate the ability to perform data analysis relevant to linguistic study.

6. The student will demonstrate the ability to effectively communicate results of data analysis in a medium appropriate for the academic level.

Coursework Requirements and Grading Policy

- The final course grade will be determined by three assignments (each worth 100 points): a phonology sketch, a morphosyntactic sketch, and the translation of a story. Guidelines for all three assignments will be posted.

- I only accept late work under extreme circumstances (which almost always will include prior notice) and for a penalty of my discretion.

Final Course Grade

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage Range</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>100-90</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>89.9-80</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>79.9-70</td>
<td>Average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>69.9-60</td>
<td>Below Avg.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>59.9 and below</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Course Policies

- Adults make arrangements. They also take responsibility, are held accountable, and accept the consequences of their actions.

- Attendance, Participation, and Preparation
  - Prompt attendance to all class sessions, active participation, preparation, and adherence to the syllabus policies are expected.
  - If at any point during the semester I determine there is an issue with attendance or students not being prepared and eliciting, I will make an announcement in class and via email and the following will go into effect: Going off the number of scheduled classes left in the semester, students missing more than 20% of the remaining classes will receive a one letter grade deduction from their final grade for each absence in excess of the 20%. For example, if there were 10 classes remaining, each student would be allowed 2 absences (20%). If they missed a 3rd class, their final grade would be lowered by a letter grade – a 4th class would be two letter grades and so on. I do not distinguish between excused and unexcused absences unless I am required to by UT Policy or SFA Procedure.
  - If you miss class, you are responsible to find out from a classmate what you missed, get notes, and see if you missed any announcements. After speaking to a classmate, if you have specific questions or need clarification, please see me. For this particular
class, barring any technical difficulties, recordings of each class will be posted on D2L. Please remind me to start the recording. I normally post it the same day.

- I post all assignments on D2L. I do not monitor or respond to emails sent via D2L; all emails should be sent to c.sams@sfasu.edu. For D2L technical support, contact student support in The Center for Teaching and Learning at d2l@sfasu.edu or 936-468-1919. If you call after regular business hours or on a weekend, please leave a voicemail.

- Students should check their SFA email account daily during the week. I return most emails within 24 hours. If you don’t hear back from me within 24 hours on a weekday, please resend your email--I may not have received it.

- During office hours, due to privacy, I only permit one student at a time in my office. If you are waiting, please ensure that I see you and I’ll divide up my time by how many students are waiting. Students with assignment-related questions are given priority. You can wait outside my door or sit in the main office. If you have non-assignment related questions or discussion topics and need to see me, stopping by during a week when no assignments are due works best.

**Institutional Absences (HOP 04-110)**

An Institutional Absence may be granted to a student who participates as a representative of the University in academic (including research), extra- or cocurricular, or athletic activities. Students will be excused for institutional purposes from otherwise required academic activity only when a valid Institutional Absence is approved by the appropriate administrative unit or official and the documentation of approval is provided to the faculty member at least five (5) days in advance.

Institutional absences will not be approved for keystone events, defined as: a special or unique assignment, test, project, experience, or other academic exercise identified by the Faculty member as critical for successful completion of standards of the class and unable to be missed. These events must be identified on the syllabus at the beginning of the semester and communicated to the students. Events added to the syllabus at a later date will not qualify for Keystone Event status. Keystone Events where the date/time is changed will no longer be considered a Keystone Event. Students should make themselves aware of any Keystone Events identified in the syllabus to ensure there are no conflicts.

For keystone events where the assignment dates vary, it is incumbent upon the students to work with their faculty member to not select a conflicting date.

More information on Institutional Absences, including how to apply, can be found at https://www.sfasu.edu/deanofstudents/student-resources/institutional-absences.
Academic Integrity (4.1)

The Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity outlines the prohibited conduct by any student enrolled in a course at SFA. It is the responsibility of all members of all faculty, staff, and students to adhere to and uphold this policy.

Articles IV, VI, and VII of the new Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity outline the violations and procedures concerning academic conduct, including cheating, plagiarism, collusion, and misrepresentation. Cheating includes, but is not limited to: (1) Copying from the test paper (or other assignment) of another student, (2) Possession and/or use during a test of materials that are not authorized by the person giving the test, (3) Using, obtaining, or attempting to obtain by any means the whole or any part of a non-administered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program, or using a test that has been administered in prior classes or semesters without permission of the Faculty member, (4) Substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for one’s self, to take a test, (5) Falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other records or computer program, or academic work offered for credit, (6) Using any sort of unauthorized resources or technology in completion of educational activities.

Plagiarism is the appropriation of material that is attributable in whole or in part to another source or the use of one’s own previous work in another context without citing that it was used previously, without any indication of the original source, including words, ideas, illustrations, structure, computer code, and other expression or media, and presenting that material as one’s own academic work being offered for credit or in conjunction with a program course or degree requirements.

Collusion is the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any provision of the rules on academic dishonesty, including disclosing and/or distributing the contents of an exam.

Misrepresentation is providing false grades or résumés; providing false or misleading information in an effort to receive a postponement or an extension on a test, quiz, or other assignment for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial benefit for oneself or another individual or to injure another student academically or financially.

Withheld Grades Policy (5.5)

Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the coursework because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course to compute the grade point average. For additional information, go to https://www.sfasu.edu/policies/course-grades-5.5.pdf.
Students with Disabilities

To obtain disability-related accommodations, alternate formats, and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services promptly may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.

Student Wellness and Well-Being

SFA values students’ overall well-being, mental health and the role it plays in academic and overall student success. Students may experience stressors that can impact both their academic experience and their personal well-being. These may include academic pressure and challenges associated with relationships, emotional well-being, alcohol and other drugs, identities, finances, etc. If you are experiencing concerns, seeking help, SFA provides a variety of resources to support students’ mental health and wellness. Many of these resources are free, and all of them are confidential.

On-campus Resources:

The Dean of Students Office (Rusk Building, 3rd floor lobby)
www.sfasu.edu/deanofstudents
936.468.7249
dos@sfasu.edu

SFA Human Services Counseling Clinic Human Services, Room 202
www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp
936.468.1041

The Health and Wellness Hub “The Hub”
Location: corner of E. College and Raguet St.

To support the health and well-being of every Lumberjack, the Health and Wellness Hub offers comprehensive services that treat the whole person – mind, body and spirit. Services include:
Health Services
Counseling Services
Student Outreach and Support
Food Pantry
Wellness Coaching
Alcohol and Other Drug Education
www.sfasu.edu/thehub
936.468.4008
thehub@sfasu.edu

Crisis Resources:
Burke 24-hour crisis line: 1.800.392.8343
National Suicide Crisis Prevention: 9-8-8
Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1.800.273.TALK (8255)
JohCrisis Text Line: Text HELLO to 741-741

Tentative Course Outline

We will spend the first portion of the course on the phonology of the language, the second on its morphosyntax, and the final portion on the translation of stories.

Phonology Sketch due: Thursday, February 22
Morphosyntax Sketch due: Thursday, April 4
Story Translation due: Thursday, May 2

End-of-Semester Procedures

For final course grades, an 89.9 is a B and a 79.9 is a C and so on. You should not expect or request that grades be rounded up. Please don’t email asking to redo an assignment, do corrections, do extra credit etc. I do not take into special consideration loss of scholarships, financial aid, financial assistance from parents, program admission requirements, probation, suspension, athletic requirements etc. Final assignment grades will be posted on D2L and final grades uploaded to mySFA during finals week.

“JackText grade notification is available to students who sign up for it. This service sends a text to the student each time a grade is posted to their account. This should eliminate some of their anxiety when awaiting grades posting, as they will be notified the moment the grade is rolled into their academic history. Instructions for signing up for JackText can be accessed at http://www.sfasu.edu/5418.asp.”