

Linguistics 102: An introduction to the study of language, Spring 17

Unit Mastery

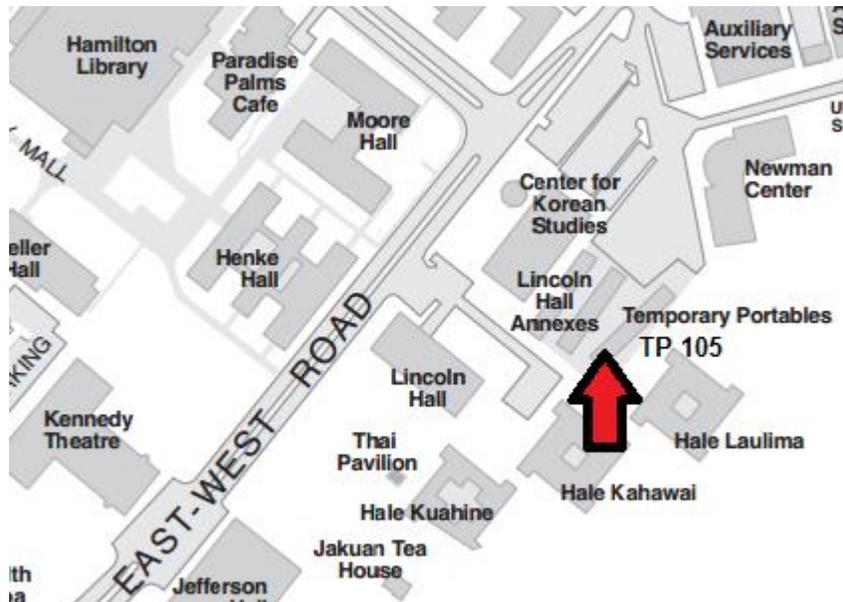
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Time: M-F 9:00 am – 3:20 pm
Instructor: Jake Terrell
Office: TP 105

Testing Center: TP 105
E-mail: jterrell@hawaii.edu
Office hours: 8:00 am – 11:00 am, or
in TP 105, or by
appointment, including
weekends.

Graduate Assistants:
TBA

Location: The testing center is located in TP 105 (Temporary Portables). This is just behind the Korean Studies building and, next to Hale Laulima and Lincoln Hall. Please check the UHM website's map for directions if you need.



Required Textbook: *An introduction to the study of language*, (Amy Schafer and Jacob Terrell, eds.) The reader costs \$25.00 and is available for purchase from the Hawaii Linguistic Association in TP (Temporary Portables) room #105. The Association can only take cash, so please plan ahead.

1. Course Description. This course is an introduction to the study of language. There are many misconceptions about language, its development, structure, and use. Therefore, the main objective of this course is to provide you with an opportunity to examine language from a linguist's perspective—one from an analytical and scientific point of view. It is my hope that throughout the semester you will reevaluate your own opinions about language as you learn how it is integrated within culture, history, society and cognition.

1.2 Student Learning Outcomes. Upon successful completion of the course, students will:

- 1) be an educated citizen in terms of how language structure and its use are related to daily life,
- 2) be able to independently carry out research regarding language,
- 3) be able to describe in formal prose aspects of language structure and its use to the layperson,
- 4) develop critical reading and time management skills, since this is an independent study course offered in the Unit Mastery format.

2. Format. In Unit Mastery there are no classes or lectures per se. Instead, students are expected to study on their own, and then pass a series of quizzes as well as fulfill other course requirements independently.

Time management skills are necessary in order to succeed in a Unit Mastery course. **Although this format does not require class meetings, one should still expect to devote as much time to a Unit Mastery course as they would a traditional course. Aside from the regular time needed for reading and studying, you should set aside *at least two to three hours per week* to visit the testing center.**

3. Writing Intensive (WI) & Requirements. This is a writing-intensive (WI) course and students will receive WI credit upon successful completion of the course requirements. Accordingly, a substantial amount of the final grade (50%) will come from writing assignments. More information concerning the writing-intensive component of the course can be found below under Section 5, Course Requirements.

4. Testing Center. The testing center is located in TP (Temporary Portals) #105, and is open 9:00 am – 3:20 pm. Please note that the test center must close by 3:20 pm to allow for other classes to be held in the same room; therefore, the last possible time to receive an exam is 3:10.

House Rules:

- Turn off cell phones,**
- No cell phones on desk or in view,**
- No headphones or music,**
- No talking,**
- No eating or drinking.**
- Your friends may not accompany you into the testing center. (Unless, of course, they too are enrolled in the class.)**

If you fail to follow these rules, you will be asked to leave the testing center. Repeated offenses may result in dismissal from the testing center for the rest of the semester.

The house rules may seem overbearing, but they exist for a reason. I would be upset if another student interfered with your test-taking by violating these rules, and I expect you would feel the same. Likewise, I would not want you to inadvertently distract others who are testing by doing any of the above.

4.1 In the Testing Center.

Always bring your student ID – you cannot receive an exam without your student ID. (Please, no credit cards or driver's licenses)

The testing center is divided into three sections. To the right you will find desks turned towards the windows. This section is the study area. You may study or review your notes here (but do so alone, if you need to study in a group, you should go elsewhere). *Note: during gates, this area may not be available for studying.*

When you are ready to take an exam, approach the instructor or the Graduate Assistants (GAs) and request the appropriate exam. You will be required to leave your student ID at the desk while you take the exam. **(IMPORTANT: Please write your name in full block letters, not cursive, nor autographs. If we cannot read your name, you cannot get credit!)**

In the center of the room there are rows of desks facing the front. This area is reserved for testing. Here you may have nothing on your desk other than a pencil/pen and the exam. When you have finished the exam, return it to the GAs. A GA will grade your exam while you wait. The GAs will mark each question, but not reveal the correct answers.

After your exam has been graded, a GA will call your name and return your exam. If you wish to review your exam, you may do so in the area next to the windows. However, *note the following*:

Reviewing Area Policies:

- 1. You may review your exam in this area, and compare it with your notes or textbook,**
- 2. You may *not* write or record any of the exam questions,**
- 3. No pens or pencils are allowed in this area,**
- 4. You may not take exams out of testing center.**

5. Course Requirements.

5.1 Gates. The semester is divided into three sections which we refer to as “gates”. Each gate is roughly five weeks apart. You must master at least 12 units throughout the semester. You can receive credit for up to five units during each gate (5+5+5). It is possible to master more than five units during one gate; however, you can only carry extra units forward, not backward.

This means that you may work ahead, *but it will be difficult to catch up if you fall behind*. For example, if you master 12 units before the first gate, you will receive credit for five units for the first gate, five for the second, and two for the third. On the other hand, if you master zero units during the first gate, and then ten in the second, you can only receive credit for five units for the second gate and five for the third, a total of 10 units. If you master zero units in the first and second gates, and then 10 units in the third gate, you can only receive credit for five units for the third gate and none for the previous gates.

Again, it is easy to work ahead, but please be cautious of falling behind.

5.2 Quizzes. Each quiz consists of ten multiple choice questions. In order to “master” a unit, you must pass a quiz with a grade of 7/10 or higher. If you score below 7 for a particular unit, you may try again twice more, though not on the same day. (Note: It is possible to test for more than one unit per day after you reach the optional units section.) Each time you retake an exam you will receive a different version for the same unit. If you are not able to master a unit within three attempts, you must move on to the next unit. Each mastered unit will count for 3.75% points toward the final grade of a total of 100% points. In order to receive an ‘A+’ in the class, you must master at least 12 units (45% of your grade) in addition to the other criteria below (see writing assignments, LBC, and LiC below).

5.3 Readings and Units. The first three units in the reader serve as the introduction to the latter units. Therefore, you must take these three units in order. After mastering the three core units in order (or attempting each at least three times) you may choose from any of the remainder units in the textbook and test in any order.

Obligatory Core units:

Chapter 1, What is language?

Chapter 2, The sounds of language

Chapter 3, A brief look at grammar

Optional units: you may test on these in any order

Chapter 4, Dictionaries

Chapter 5, Languages of the Pacific

Chapter 6, An introduction to pidgins and creoles

Chapter 7, Language variation

Chapter 8, Bilingualism, codeswitching, and humor

Chapter 9, Language endangerment

Chapter 10, Language acquisition

Chapter 11, Language and the brain

Chapter 12, Talking to robots, talking to ourselves: exploring computers and language

Chapter 13, Writing systems

Chapter 14, Hawaiian: how an alphabet evolved

Chapter 15, Animal communication

5.4 Writing Assignments. The Writing Intensive (WI) designation is an important component of Linguistics 102. In order to help students fully digest the materials covered throughout the semester, it is necessary to complete a number of written assignments with a satisfactory mark.

There are two types of writing assignments. The first type is an academic essay, and two must be completed during each of the first two gates. Like the quizzes, you can receive credit for up to two essays per gate; additional essays completed during the first gate will carry forward to the second gate. (There are no essays for the third gate, only the mini-term paper.)

The essays can cover any unit in the reader, even if you have not yet tested on a particular unit. Each essay must be at least two full double-spaced pages, excluding references. To give you some direction, the instructor will provide a series of prompts for each unit. The prompts will be in the form of questions or statements related to the unit, and will be posted in the Resources folder in the Laulima course website. You are free to choose from these prompts, or address an alternative issue related to the materials.

To aid in developing writing skills, you must submit two versions for each essay—a first draft and then a second draft following the suggestions provided by the instructor and graduate assistants. Therefore, you should anticipate writing four or more pages for each essay assignment (2+ page draft, 2+ page revision for each, 16 pages in total). If you do not submit a revision of a draft, the “hypothetical” grade on the first draft will be counted.

The second writing assignment is a mini-term paper which is an expansion of one of your previous essays. The paper must be a minimum of five pages (excluding title page and references). For this assignment, you will not be allowed to submit a first draft. Instead, it is expected that your experience and feedback from the essay exercises will enable you to submit a polished, final work—the very objective of WI courses. Additional directions and prompts for the essays and the mini-term paper are available on the course Laulima website in the Resources folder.

5.5 Grading. Finally, to assist you throughout this process, each student will be assigned to a personal writing tutor. The tutor will be either the instructor or a graduate assistant for the course. Our goal is not to compare one student’s ability to another, but to ensure that you work to develop your *own* writing skills. Therefore, we will keep a detailed journal for each student, and base your grades on improvements made from previous essays according to our feedback and suggestions. The writing assignments are

assessed on a scale of 0 to 10. The hypothetical score on the first draft is only to indicate where you stand at that moment, and how much you need to improve to get a perfect score. In order to earn 10 out of 10 on the second draft, you must take into account **all** suggestions and corrections provided by your tutor.

Please note: Time management is of the utmost importance here. Remember, if you do not submit a revised essay, the “hypothetical grade” will stand. Keep in mind that it will take some time for your tutor to respond to your first draft, as they too are graduate students with full-time schedules. You may expect to wait up to three or four days for EACH essay you submit before receiving comments on your essay. You should also take into account the time you will need to complete any revisions in order to turn the assignments in on time. If you expect to receive feedback on your writing, for example, the **first drafts for gate 1 should be submitted by Jan 31st, , and the first drafts for gate 2 should be submitted by March 5th. Remember, each gate requires two different essays on two topics to meet the WI focus.** If you do not meet these deadlines, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to provide feedback on your drafts.

If you have any questions concerning assignment assessments or requirements, you are more than welcome to contact the instructor.

6. Linguistics beyond the Classroom (LBC). The Department of Linguistics has a special program called Linguistics beyond the Classroom. Here, students enrolled in linguistics courses have the opportunity to participate in linguistic experiments conducted by faculty and graduate students at UH. Participation in this program will count towards 5% of your final grade. Each experiment runs around 40 minutes. The LBC website can be found here: <http://www.ling.hawaii.edu/lbc/>, and a link to a list of open experiments and contact information will be posted under the resources folder in Laulima.

It is not mandatory that you participate, but we feel that this will help you better understand how the field researches language. If you choose not to participate in the LBC, you may master an extra unit (13 in total) to make up for this portion of the course requirements. (Note that in Unit Mastery the LBC media option is not allowed.)

7. Linguistics in the Community (LiC). There will be at least two opportunities throughout the semester to earn supplementary credit towards your final grade. These opportunities come in the form of social outings, where you can choose to attend a preapproved play, exhibition, seminar or festival which is related to the reading materials. To receive credit for an outing, you must submit a two-page response or summary of the event. You may use these outings to supplement or make for up to two quizzes or one essay. Additional information on social outing LiCs, including updates of approved events, will be available on the Laulima website under the Resources folder.

8. Progress and Grading Rubric. It is important for you to keep track of your own progress throughout the semester. **We will have copies of your quizzes, but please keep track using the Quiz Tracker below. If you approach us and say ‘I don’t know what quizzes I’ve taken’, we may not know either depending on when you took the quiz and whether we have had time to enter it in the data base. Keep in mind that there are usually 250 students or more in Unit Mastery, thus when we are busy, we may not have time to process all quizzes that night. So, be sure to not lose this syllabus.**

Grading Rubric	Scale
<u>Each unit mastered</u>	
3.75% each, possible 12 units = 45% points (pass/fail, 7/10 needed to pass)	98 – 100 : A+ 73 – 77 : C 93 – 97 : A 70 – 72 : C- 90 – 92 : A- 68 – 69 : D+
<u>LBC (or an additional unit)</u> = 5% points	88 – 89 : B+ 63 – 67 : D 83 – 87 : B 60 – 62 : D- 80 – 82 : B- 59 – below : F
<u>Writing assignments:</u>	
Essays, four at 10% points each = 40% points	78 – 79 : C+

Your Scores:

Please record the dates below as well.

Chapter 1

What is language?

Chapter 2

The sounds of language

Chapter 3

A brief look at grammar

Optional units: you may test on these in any order

Your Scores:

Chapter 4

Dictionaries

Chapter 5

Languages of the Pacific

Chapter 6

An introduction to pidgins and creoles

Chapter 7

Language variation

Chapter 8

Bilingualism, codeswitching, and humor

Chapter 9

Language endangerment

Chapter 10

Language acquisition

Chapter 11

Language and the brain

Chapter 12

Talking to robots, talking to ourselves: exploring computers and language

Chapter 13

Writing systems

Chapter 14

Hawaiian: how an alphabet evolved

□□□ Chapter 15
Animal communication