Lingum 102: An introduction to the study of language
University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa

Instructor: Kamil Ud Deen
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http://www2.hawaii.edu/~kamil/

UM Center: On Zoom (link to be added)

Hours: Non-gate weeks:
Two hours per day, TBA

Gate weeks: 9am-4pm

Closed Tuesdays
noon-1:30pm

Questions: lingum@hawaii.edu

Teaching Assistants: John Elliott
Cody Riedeman
Carolyn Siegman
Crystal Zhong

1 Unit mastery format
This is a Unit Mastery (UM) course, which means that the structure of the course is very different from other undergraduate courses. In normal semesters (i.e., when we are not online), there are no classes or lectures in UM. Instead, students are in charge of their own learning – students must master the material through reading and regular studying habits. We provide the material in readings which are divided into "units". You must master these units (hence the name Unit Mastery) by completing assignments and passing quizzes on Laulima, in addition to fulfilling other course requirements outlined below. Students are expected to study independently, track their own progress, and determine their own schedule for completion of course components within the given deadlines.

Some students may have taken UM courses in the past, and they should know that this semester will be slightly different. We will maintain the general structure of UM as a series of units that you must master on your own schedule, but the content will not be 100% readings, nor will we assess mastery purely through multiple choice quizzes. Because we must test online in an un-proctored format, the old style of questions is not appropriate to much of the content. We will therefore test mastery in a number of ways (see below).
LING 102 Unit Mastery

Time management skills are crucial to succeed in a Unit Mastery course. Although this format involves no scheduled class meetings (it is entirely asynchronous), one should still expect to devote as much time to a Unit Mastery course as they would a traditional course.

1.1 UM Center location

You do not need to visit the UM Center in person this semester, but in case there is a need, the UM center is located in TP (Temporary Portables) #105. This is just behind the Center for Korean Studies, next to Hale Laulima and Lincoln Hall.

2 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 our 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.

2.1 Writing Intensive (WI)

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 4, Course Requirements.

2.2 Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1) define the fundamental concepts in the study of language,
2) refute basic misconceptions about language with reference to these fundamental concepts,
3) identify appropriate and reliable sources of information on languages and their structures,
4) interpret academic writing in the field of linguistics at a basic level,
5) describe in formal prose aspects of language structure and use to the layperson,
6) demonstrate habits for self-study and time management that will serve as the bedrock for success in academia and beyond.

3 Required textbook

Ordinarily, *An Introduction to the Study of Language*, is required (at a cost of $25.00). However, this semester, because of our online format, we will distribute all materials online for free.

4 Course requirements

4.1 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.

4.2 Assessment format

Some units will be assessed through online quizzes (much like the old system some of you may be used to). Others will require short summary essays, and others may require short answer questions. The method of assessment depends on the kind of content that we offer (reading or video, see below). All of this will be graded on a rubric, which will be published in Laulima.
4.3 Readings and Units

There are three types of units in the course.

The first type is the Foundation units. Each of these units is obligatory, and must be taken in the order below. The first Foundation unit consists of simply reading this syllabus and passing a syllabus quiz to make sure you understand the structure of the class. The remaining Foundation units will be completed by submitting a 1.5 page summary of the reading. Details about these summaries can be found in the document titled Foundation Summaries: Criteria and Rubric, in the folder labeled Assignment Details on Laulima.

After mastering the Foundation units in order, you may choose from any of the remaining units in any order, though keep in mind that some units will not be available early in the semester since we are currently developing them. Of the remaining units (other than the Foundation units), there are two kinds of units. VIDEO units are comprised of a video lecture or presentation which students will watch and then take a 10-question quiz on Laulima. For READING units, students will read a chapter from the Linguistics 102 Class Reader (available on Laulima), and take a 10-question quiz on Laulima to test comprehension of the material. Some Reader units may require short answer responses, and not multiple choice questions.

Quizzes are pass/fail, meaning that your score in the Laulima gradebook for a quiz will be either 100% (for a score of 7/10 or higher) or 0% (for a score of 6/10 or lower). Up to two attempts at each quiz is recorded in the gradebook, but only the higher of the two scores is kept. That is, your score for any given unit will be either 100% or 0%.

These optional units will be made available for completion on an on-going basis throughout the semester --- the UM team will upload two new units on Friday of each week throughout the semester until all the theme units are available to students.

Obligatory Core units (taken in order):
- Chapter 1, What is language?
- Chapter 2, The sounds of language
- Chapter 3, A brief look at grammar

Optional units (can be tested in any order):

Video Units
- Chapter 6, An introduction to pidgins and creoles
- Chapter 8, Bilingualism, codeswitching, and humor
- Chapter 9, Language endangerment
- Chapter 10, Language acquisition
- Chapter 11, Language and the brain
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Reading Units

- Chapter 4, Dictionaries
- Chapter 5, Languages of the Pacific
- Chapter 7, Language variation
- Chapter 12, Talking to robots, talking to ourselves: Exploring computers and language
- Chapter 13, Writing systems
- Chapter 14, Hawaiian: how an alphabet

4.4 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 academic essay (Essay 1 and Essay 2) and the mini-term paper.

Essays

The two academic essays are due at different points during the first two gates of the semester. They are on a slightly different schedule than the quizzes, so please refer to section 5.2 below for the exact deadlines. Each essay should be roughly 1,000 words in length (about two pages).

The essays can cover any unit in the reader, even if you have not yet tested on a particular unit. 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 final draft following the suggestions provided by the instructors and teaching assistants. If you do not submit a revision of a draft, the “hypothetical” grade on the first draft will be counted.

Mini-term paper

The mini-term paper is an expansion of one of your previous essays. The paper must be a minimum of 2,000 words (about four pages, excluding title page and references). Again, you should submit a first draft, revise the paper to incorporate our feedback, and then submit a final draft. Additional directions and prompts for the essays and the mini-term paper are available on the course Laulima website in the Resources folder.
Grading of writing assignments

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 the UM staff.

4.5 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 as one unit for your final grade. The experiments (this semester, all online) typically run around 40 minutes. The LBC website can be found here: [http://www.ling.hawaii.edu/lbc/](http://www.ling.hawaii.edu/lbc/), where information on available experiments and contact information can be found. It is not mandatory that you participate, but this will help you better understand how research occurs in the field of linguistics. LBC reports are due to us by November 30, 2020.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grading scale</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>93+</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90 – 92.9</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>88 – 89.9</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>83 – 87.9</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80 – 82.9</td>
<td>B-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>78 – 79.9</td>
<td>C+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>73 – 77.9</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70 – 72.9</td>
<td>C-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>68 – 69.9</td>
<td>D+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>63 – 67.9</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60 – 62.9</td>
<td>D-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>59.9 &amp; below</td>
<td>F</td>
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Note: A+ grades will be given for exceptional performance

Grading Rubric

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Units mastered (quizzes)</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Each unit: 4%</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Possible units: 12</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Essays</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15% each</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 essays</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graded out of 10 points</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5 Important Dates (see Schedule at a Glance for full set of dates)

5.1 Gates

You must complete a certain number of units by each gate within the semester. Here are the dates for each gate:

1st Gate: October 02, 2020 (Fri)
2nd Gate: November 13, 2020 (Fri)
3rd Gate: December 09, 2020 (Wed)

5.2 Writing assignment deadlines

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Essay</th>
<th>Draft due</th>
<th>Final due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Essay 1</td>
<td>September 25</td>
<td>October 02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essay 2</td>
<td>November 06</td>
<td>November 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mini-term paper</td>
<td>November 30</td>
<td>December 09</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6 Policies

6.1 Academic honesty

Academic dishonesty includes plagiarism and cheating. Students who violate the University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University. Policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced.

6.2 Additional accommodations (Kokua)

If you have disability-related needs or concerns, please contact the Kokua program (phone: 956-7511, website: https://hawaii.edu/kokua/access-services/).

6.3 Title IX – Sexual Discrimination in Education

I am personally committed to providing students with an educational environment free of any discrimination or hostility of any kind, and as part of that, I would like to draw your attention to the Title IX office here on campus.
The University of Hawaii is committed to providing a learning, working and living environment that promotes personal integrity, civility, and mutual respect and is free of all forms of sex discrimination and gender-based violence, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, gender-based harassment, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. If you or someone you know is experiencing any of these, the University has staff and resources on your campus to support and assist you. Staff can also direct you to resources that are in the community.

If you wish to remain ANONYMOUS, speak with someone CONFIDENTIALLY, or would like to receive information and support in a CONFIDENTIAL setting, contact the confidential resources available here:

http://www.manoa.hawaii.edu/titleix/resources.html#confidential

If you wish to REPORT an incident of sex discrimination or gender-based violence including sexual assault, sexual harassment, gender-based harassment, domestic violence, dating violence or stalking as well as receive information and support, contact:

Dee Uwono (Director and Title IX Coordinator)
Hawaiʻi Hall 112
2500 Campus Road
Honolulu, HI 96822.

As a member of the University faculty, I am required to immediately report any incident of sex discrimination or gender-based violence to the campus Title IX Coordinator. Although the Title IX Coordinator and I cannot guarantee confidentiality, you will still have options about how your case will be handled. My goal is to make sure you are aware of the range of options available to you and have access to the resources and support you need. For more information regarding sex discrimination and gender-based violence, the University’s Title IX resources and the University’s Policy, Interim EP 1.204, go to:

http://www.manoa.hawaii.edu/titleix/.

7 Questions

For any questions please visit the instructor or the teaching assistants during office hours in the UM Center, or by appointment. After hours, feel free to contact us by email at lingum@hawaii.edu.