



110-2

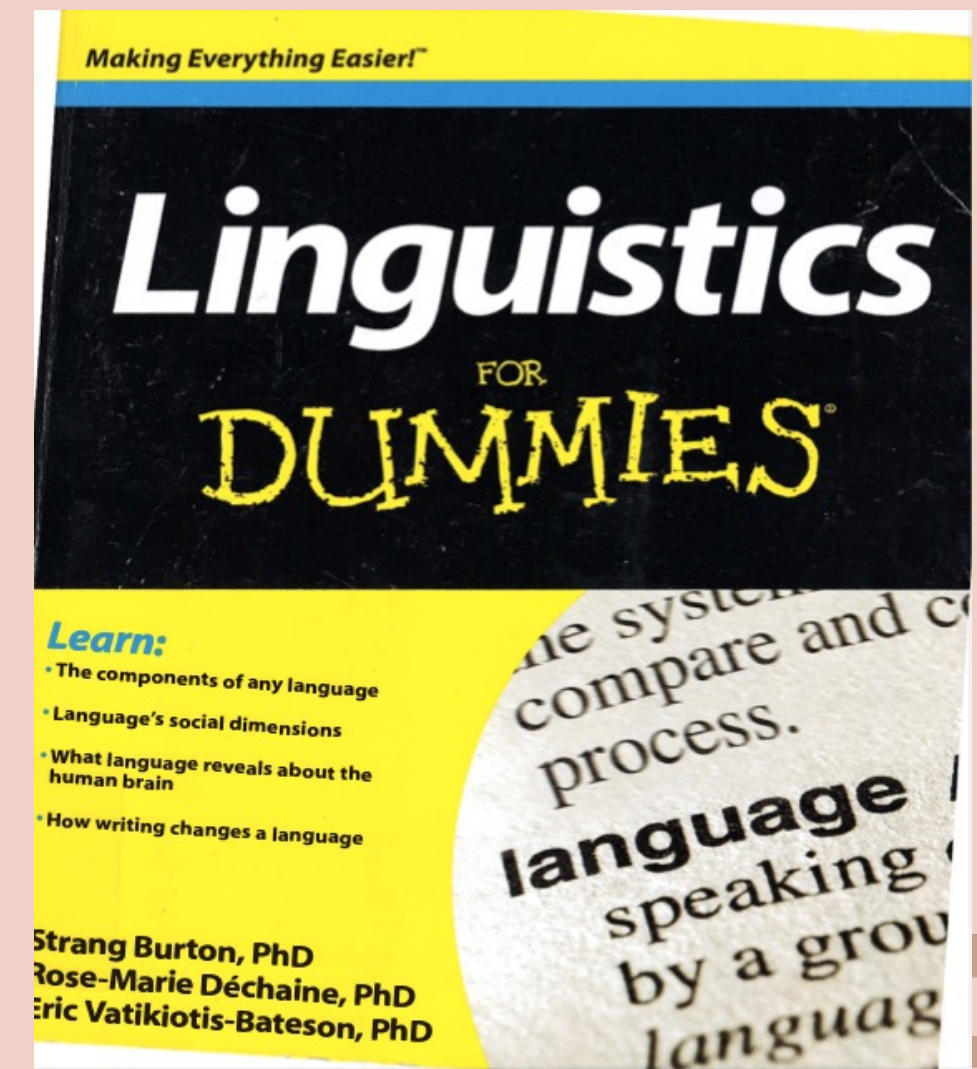
Class Syllabus

“Linguistics for Dummies”



Students Learning Objectives

This course will help you understand some of the primary streams of linguistics: what language is for (communication), how language works (pattern formation), what language reveals about the mind (cognition), and how written language shapes society (technology).






Lessons to be Covered


Get to know the basics — determine the traits that all languages share and get to know the design features which ensure that language can convey meaning

Discover the building blocks of language — investigate how individual speech sounds combine to form words, which form sentences, and how those are strung together to make conversation



Explore the evolution of language — consider how new languages are born, chart how language changes over time, and examine how languages are lost

Study the relationship between the human brain and language — find out how children and adults learn language and how language activates your brain



Lessons to be Covered

Contents at a Glance

Introduction	1
Part I: Looking at Language through the Lens of Linguistics	7
Chapter 1: Knowing a Language Versus Knowing What Language Is.....	9
Chapter 2: Communicating with Language: The Design Features	21
Part II: The Building Blocks of Language	33
Chapter 3: Building Sounds: Phonetics	35
Chapter 4: Putting Sounds Together: Phonology	57
Chapter 5: Building Words: Morphology	77
Chapter 6: Creating Sentences: Syntax	95
Chapter 7: Making Sense of Meaning: Semantics	117
Chapter 8: Using Language in Conversation: Pragmatics	133
Part III: The Social Life of Language	151
Chapter 9: Living with Language Variation: Sociolinguistics	153
Chapter 10: Finding Family Relations: Historical Linguistics	171
Chapter 11: Cataloguing Differences: Linguistic Typology	189
Chapter 12: Beginning and Ending: Language Birth and Language Death.....	205
Part IV: Your Brain on Language: Learning and Processing Language	221
Chapter 13: Learning Language.....	223
Chapter 14: Perceiving Language.....	245
Chapter 15: Producing Language.....	259
Chapter 16: Locating Language in the Brain: Neurolinguistics	277
Part V: Getting from Speaking to Writing	293
Chapter 17: Writing Down Language	295
Chapter 18: Writing Changes You.....	307
Part VI: The Part of Tens	321
Chapter 19: Ten Myths about Language Busted by Linguistics	323
Chapter 20: Ten Unsolved Problems in Linguistics	331
Chapter 21: Top 10 Jobs for Linguists.....	337
Index	343



Requirements for Class

Problem sets (50% of class grade)

There will be a problem set due twice a week, and it will be posted on Google Classroom. Homework is to be turned in on the due date via the Google Classroom platform.

Class Participation (30% of class grade)

You are required to participate and get involved in every class. There will be a 30% participation component of your grade. Please do your best come to class every time and on time.

Oral Review (20% of class grade)

Each group will be responsible for reviewing ONE chapter from the material and PPT is required.



Why this course?

If you have ever wondered why you have a hard time understanding someone's accent.

Or if you had noticed that your dad uses funny old expressions that you'd never think of using.

Or, if you've been amused by an infant just beginning to make words.

Then this course is for you!

