



湖北工业大学
HUBEI UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

Course Title	Exploring Linguistic Diversity
Course Code	LING 1211
Semester	Summer 2025
Course Length	5 Weeks, 60 Contact Hours
Credits	4
Instructor	TBA
Office	TBA
Email	TBA
Prerequisite	N/A

Course Description:

The students are given a broad introduction to the diversity of the languages of the world. By the end of the course, students will gain an appreciation for the variety of linguistic structures that have evolved to express human communication at different levels, including phonology, morphology, syntax, and the lexicon. Students will be introduced to both linguistic typology and historical linguistics, developing familiarity with methods for analyzing syntactic patterns in different languages and techniques of linguistic reconstruction. Additionally, they will engage with quantitative approaches to typology and historical linguistics.

Topics covered in this course include: the genealogical classification of the world's languages; typological perspectives on phonology, morphology, and syntax (lexical classes, semantic roles, grammatical relations, case and agreement systems, word order); language universals; the comparative method and linguistic reconstruction; language contact and models of language change; the emergence, decline, and revitalization of languages; writing systems; and linguistic relativity.

Course Goals:

Students who successfully complete this course will demonstrate competency in the following general education core goals:

- **Critical thinking skills** – Students will engage in creative and/or innovative thinking, and/or inquiry, analysis, evaluation, synthesis of information, organizing concepts, and constructing solutions.
- **Communication skills** – Students will demonstrate effective written, oral, and visual communication.
- **Teamwork** – Students will demonstrate the ability to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal and consider different points of view.
- **Social responsibility** – Students will demonstrate intercultural competency and civic knowledge by engaging effectively in local, regional, national, and global communities.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Recognize and describe the key features of linguistic diversity across different languages and language families;
- Analyze sound systems, grammatical structures, and writing systems from a comparative perspective;
- Understand the principles of language classification and language change over time;
- Discuss sociolinguistic topics such as multilingualism, language contact, and language endangerment;
- Engage critically with language revitalization efforts and their sociopolitical implications.

Textbooks:

Pereltsvaig, Asya, *Languages of the World: An Introduction*, Fourth edition, Cambridge, United Kingdom, Cambridge University Press, 2024.

Moravcsik, Edith A., *Introducing Language Typology*, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 2013.

Brian Joseph, Richard Janda, *The Handbook of Historical Linguistics*, Wiley-Blackwell, 2005.

Course Requirements:**Attendance**

Participation is required, with attendance tracked via submission of designated keywords in quizzes. Regular participation is encouraged as discussions will help reinforce course content.

Quizzes

Six timed quizzes will test students' understanding of course material. These quizzes will include multiple-choice and short-answer questions, focusing on key concepts, theories, and applications discussed in lectures and readings.

Assignments

Two major assignments will apply linguistic concepts to real-world language data. The first assignment will involve a phonological and morphological analysis of a selected language, while the second will focus on historical linguistic reconstruction. Assignments should be well-researched and properly cited.

Midterm Exam

Covers the first half of the course, including linguistic typology and sociolinguistic topics. The exam will consist of essay questions, problem-solving exercises, and data analysis components.

Final Exam

Focuses on historical linguistics, language change, and revitalization. The final exam will be cumulative, requiring students to synthesize knowledge from the entire course. The format includes written responses, comparative analysis, and case studies.

Assessments: Activity	Percent Contribution
Attendance	5%
Quizzes	30%
Assignments	20%
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	25%

Grading:

Final grades will be based on the sum of all possible course points as noted above.

Percentage of available points	Grade
90 - 100	A
80 - 89	B
70 - 79	C
60 - 69	D
<60	F

Course Schedule:

The schedule of activities is subject to change at the reasonable discretion of the instructor. Minor changes will be announced in class, and major ones provided in writing.

LING 1211 Schedule		
Lecture	Topic	Readings
L1	Course Introduction Introduction to Linguistic Diversity Languages, Dialects, and Accents	<i>Pereltsvaig</i> , Ch. 1
L2	Language Classification and Genealogical Relationships Languages of Europe	<i>Pereltsvaig</i> , Ch. 1-2 <i>Moravcsik</i> , Ch. 1
L3	Phonetic and Phonological Variation Quiz 1	<i>Moravcsik</i> , Ch. 4
L4	Morphology and Word Structure	<i>Moravcsik</i> , Ch. 5
L5	Language Families and Their Distributions	<i>Pereltsvaig</i> , Ch. 1
L6	Writing Systems and Orthographic Variation	<i>Moravcsik</i> , Ch. 5
L7	Multilingualism and Language Contact Languages of Eastern Asia	<i>Moravcsik</i> , Ch. 5 <i>Pereltsvaig</i> , Ch. 8
L8	Code-Switching and Borrowing Quiz 2	<i>Moravcsik</i> , Ch. 2
L9	Social Factors in Language Change	<i>Moravcsik</i> , Ch. 7
L10	Syntax and Word Order Typology Quiz 3	<i>Moravcsik</i> , Ch. 3
L11	Mechanisms of Language Change	<i>Joseph</i> , Part 2
L12	The Comparative Method in Historical Linguistics Assignment 1 due	<i>Joseph</i> , Part 2
L13	Midterm Exam	/
L14	Phonological Change and Sound Shifts Languages of the Pacific	<i>Joseph</i> , Part 3 <i>Pereltsvaig</i> , Ch. 9

L15	Morphological and Lexical Change Quiz 4	<i>Joseph, Part 4</i>
L16	Syntactic Change Cross-Linguistic Perspectives on Syntactic Change Functional Perspectives on Syntactic Change	<i>Joseph, Part 5</i>
L17	Pragmatico-Semantic Change Grammaticalization An Approach to Semantic Change	<i>Joseph, Part 6</i>
L18	English as a Global Language Indigenous Languages of Canada and the USA Quiz 5	<i>Joseph, Part 7</i> <i>Pereltsvaig, Ch. 11</i>
L19	Contact Languages and Creole Formation Quiz 6	<i>Joseph, Part 7</i>
L20	Language Endangerment and Extinction Methods for Language Documentation and Preservation	<i>Joseph, Part 7</i>
L21	Indigenous Languages and Revitalization Indigenous Languages of Latin America and the Caribbean	<i>Joseph, Part 7</i> <i>Pereltsvaig, Ch. 12</i>
L22	Language Policy and Sociopolitical Issues	<i>Moravcsik, Ch. 13</i>
L23	The Role of Technology in Language Research	/
L24	Case Studies in Language Revitalization Assignment 2 due	/
L25	Ethical Considerations in Language Research Future Directions in Linguistics and Global Language Trends Final Exam	/

Accommodation Statement

Academic accommodations may be made for any student who notifies the instructor of the need for an accommodation. It is imperative that you take the initiative to bring such needs to the instructor's attention, as he/she is not legally permitted to inquire. Students who may require assistance in emergency evacuations should contact the instructor as to the most appropriate procedures to follow.

Academic Integrity Statement

Each student is expected to maintain the highest standards of honesty and integrity in academic and professional matters. The University reserves the right to take disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal, against any student who is found guilty of academic dishonesty or otherwise fails to meet the standards. Any student judged to have engaged in academic dishonesty in coursework may receive a reduced or failing grade for the work in question and/or for the course.

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, dishonesty in quizzes, tests, or assignments; claiming credit for work not done or done by others; hindering the academic work of other students; misrepresenting academic or professional qualifications within or without the University; and nondisclosure or misrepresentation in filling out applications or other University records.

Other Items:

Attendance and Expectations

All students are required to attend every class, except in cases of illness, serious family concerns, or other major problems. We expect that students will arrive on time, be prepared to listen and participate as appropriate, and stay for the duration of a meeting rather than drift in or out casually. In short, we anticipate that students will show professors and fellow students maximum consideration by minimizing the disturbances that cause interruptions in the learning process. This means that punctuality is a must, that cellular phones be turned off, and that courtesy is the guiding principle in all exchanges among students and faculty. You will be responsible for the materials and ideas presented in the lecture.

Assignment Due Dates

All written assignments must be turned in at the time specified. Late assignments will not be accepted unless prior information has been obtained from the instructor. If you believe you have extenuating circumstances, please contact the instructor as soon as possible.

Make-Up Work

The instructor will not provide students with class information or make-up assignments/quizzes/exams missed due to an unexcused absence. Absences will be excused and assignments/quizzes/exams may be made up only with written documentation of an authorized absence. Every effort should be made to avoid scheduling appointments during class. An excused student is responsible for requesting any missed information from the instructor and setting up any necessary appointments outside of class.

Access, Special Needs and Disabilities

Please notify the instructor at the start of the semester if you have any documented disabilities, a medical issue, or any special circumstances that require attention, and the school will be happy to assist.