

LAN1388 Origins of Language

Course Syllabus

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Origins of Language is an introductory course. All students may enroll in this course.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course informs the student to the character, history and use of human language, speech and writing. Subjects will embrace the biological origin of human language, comparable techniques in other creatures, linguistic history, the “family tree” of languages. What makes languages the way they are and what makes them keep fluctuating over time? We will investigate the suggested descriptions for language development and their associations to language modification.

You will survey a huge range of world languages and extend a comprehension of the genetic and geographical connections among them. You can learn to value language as a target of methodical study and to employ your new knowledge to daily social exchanges in your own life and community.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Language may be investigated at numerous mechanical or operational levels. This course focuses concentration to stages of language also to mechanisms of language and society, language and the mind, etc. and to the affiliations between these constituents and language adaptation within and across individuals. By the end of this course, all students should:

- Increase a vocabulary for considering historical linguistic processes
- Connect with historical linguistic facts
- Grasp elementary rules of linguistic assumption
- Describe what is indicated by the term “language evolution”
- Comprehend that language is not rigid or independent, but linked to culture, social life, political relations, and personal experience
- Learn to revere all variations of language
- Become mindful of his/her opinions to assortments of English and other languages

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is mandatory for all students. Excellent attendance is imperative for mastery and application of the information dispensed. Whether you are sitting at a desk in a classroom or attending via Skype, your attendance is vital to your success. Late arrivals are distracting and disrespectful. Please refrain from being tardy. Grades will be affected by absences and tardiness. Participation in class is a prerequisite. You learn from lectures, discussions and presentations.

CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR

Students are expected to treat all persons with respect. We should all conduct ourselves in a courteous and responsible manner. Be considerate, you can disagree, don't insult.

Please set all your electronic devices to silent during class so as not to be a disturbance to others in the class.

TUTORIAL ASSISTANCE

We maintain an open-door policy for our students. We are absolutely willing to discuss any matter that may arise during the course. If you have any questions, problems, or need help with the course material, we urge you to reach out as soon as the issue arises. If you want to contest a grade, you must do so within 48 hours and put it in writing. Please ask your student advocate for help. If you do not have a student advocate send an email to: tutordept@usilacs.org.

NON-DISCRIMINATORY STATEMENT

All students regardless of age, race, gender, religion, physical disability, class, etc., shall have equal opportunity without harassment in this course. Any problems with or questions about harassment can be discussed confidentially via email at: hr@usilacs.org.

DRESS CODE

For students enrolled who are attending in a classroom or via Skype, please be sure you are dressed modestly and respectfully. Please refer to www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/business%20casual. NO short shorts or skirts. Avoid low-cut tops. We want to present ourselves in a dignified manner at all times.

NETIQUETTE

- Always read through all the comments of the class before responding. This will avoid duplicating comments or questions asked.
- Avoid language that could be offensive. All profanity is strictly prohibited. Remember that using all caps when replying online signifies shouting. This would be rude and combative.
- Be sensitive to the fact that there will be fellow students from all parts of the world with many differing backgrounds and languages. Remember that slang and idioms will most likely be misconceived and/or misinterpreted. These should be avoided.
- Respect others views or opinions.
- Be thoughtful of the privacy of others. Ask permission before sharing email addresses or other personal information.
- Do not forward inappropriate material such as: virus warnings, chain letters, jokes, etc. The sharing of pornographic material is strictly prohibited.
- Use good spelling and grammar. Avoid using texting shortcuts.

- Strive to compose your comments in a positive, supportive and constructive manner at all times.

Any of these offenses will be dealt with by the school disciplinary committee.

ADA ACCOMMODATIONS

All reasonable accommodations will be provided for students with disabilities. Any student attending USILACS who needs an accommodation due to a chronic challenge (i.e. blindness, deaf or hard of hearing, mobility issues, psychological, or learning disability), register with:

USILACS Registrar's Office
1221 Brickell Ave.
Miami, FL 33131
1-305-330-2202
registrarsoffice@usilacs.org

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY/CHEATING

We encourage collaborating with others, either in person or online, to study and learn. When you complete your assignments or your exams, however, the wording has to be your own.

Plagiarism is the theft of someone else's work and ideas. You are permitted to cite or even quote someone else, however, you must properly cite them. There are two accepted ways of doing this. They are known as Modern Language Association (MLA) or American Psychological Association (APA). You can visit www.citationmachine.net for help in correctly citing information.

As a school that strives to maintain high moral standards, we strongly caution our students to be ethical and honest. Endeavor to be honest in conducting yourself in regard to any coursework you accomplish or exams you may take. Cheating is a dishonest practice.

REFERENCE MATERIALS

The vast majority of textbooks are outdated by the time they are published. USILACS education programs are not based upon outdated printed textbooks. USILACS programs are based on the most accurate and reliable knowledge available; specifically, up-to-date vetted internet-based information.

For those who would like some reference or Internet search recommendations, we would recommend the following.

How Did Language Begin? Narrated by Arika Okrent
Linguistics as a Window to Understanding the Brain. By Steven Pinker.
How languages Evolve. By Alex Gendler
The Origins of English? By Claire Bower
(2017) Origin of Language. Wikipedia the Free Encyclopedia.

- (2017) Esperanto: Wikipedia the Free
- (2015) The Origins of Human Language: One of the Hardest Problems in Science. Alicia McDermott. Ancient Origins Reconstructing the History of Humanity's Past
- (2010) How Many Languages Are There in the World? Stephen R. Anderson. Linguistic Society of America.

MINIMUM REQUIRED SUPPLIES

All students will need all of the following:

- Computer with camera, microphone, and speakers.
- Skype installed on the computer with an active Skype account.
- Internet
- Printer
- Notebook paper
- Pens/pencils

If the student does not have a computer or internet, there will be some available for use at the school in the computer lab.

GRADING SYSTEM

There will be three tests throughout the course. Each test will count for 33.3% of the final grade.

Grade	Percentage	Grade Point
A+	99	4.0
A	97	3.8
A-	94	3.7
B+	89	3.3
B	85	3.0
B-	81	2.7
C+	77	2.3
C	73	2.0
C-	69	1.7
D	66	1.0
F	59	0.0

All students must earn at least a "D" in order to pass the class.

ASSIGNMENTS

Idioms report-

You should come up with at least four different idioms common in your language and research the origin of them. Explain what they mean and why you think people use them. This should be at least 1,000 words in length.

Language evolution in your mother tongue-

Locate an older dictionary in your language and attempt to find at least 10 words that have changed over the years. Tell the original and the current versions and the

definitions. Find at least 10 new words in your language (within the last 10 years). Relate why they are necessary in today's world.

Compare a Bible passage-

Compare a biblical passage from the old King James Version to the same passage in a modern language bible. Relate the differences. How can this change the interpretation, if at all? Why has the Bible been updated? This paper should be at least 1,000 words in length.

WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS

Week 1	Overview of course and coursework Origin of languages
Week 2	Bow-wow, Ding-dong, Pooh-pooh
Week 3	Subjective versus objective research
Week 4	How humans acquire language <i>Idiom paper due</i>
Week 5	Video review and Exam
Week 6	Language evolution
Week 7	Dialects
Week 8	Origins of the English language <i>Language evolution in your mother tongue paper due</i>
Week 9	Video review and Exam
Week 10	Human versus animal language
Week 11	Esperanto
Week 12	How many languages? How are they connected? <i>Bible comparison paper due</i>
Week 13	Video review and Final exam