This course will serve as a broad introduction to linguistics, building a foundation for further study in the field. The first half of the course will be devoted to introducing the four basic layers of language: **morphology, phonetics, phonology, and syntax.** Next we will turn to **semantics** and **pragmatics**, investigating the ways the people use language to convey meanings. We will then take a broad look at **language typology** and **historical linguistics**, looking at some of the amazing ways that languages vary across space and time. Finally, with a basic picture of linguistic systems in mind, we will look at **sociolinguistics** (language in its social context) and **computational linguistics** (methods for processing human languages by machine).

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- describe and give examples of ways in which human languages are all alike and how they may differ
- use the basic terminology of linguistics to describe language phenomena
- apply the tools of linguistic analysis to the sounds, words, and sentences of a language
- explain the ways in which languages change over time
- enumerate ways in which an understanding of linguistics can be applied to the solution of practical problems

**Instructor:**

Rob Malouf  
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Requirements:

The final grade will be based on homeworks (30%), a midterm exam (30%), and a final exam (40%). Besides being a big part of the course grade, the homework assignments will be excellent practice for the quizzes and exams. Working in groups on homework assignments is encouraged. However, please turn in your own individual write-up. Late homeworks will be accepted (with a grade penalty) for **one week only** after the deadline. There will be no make-up exams without prior arrangements. If you can't make it to an exam, let me know **in advance**!

No form of academic dishonesty, including cheating or plagiarism, will be tolerated in the class. Following Executive Order 1006, all instances of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities for investigation. For more information about the judicial process, see [http://csrr.sdsu.edu](http://csrr.sdsu.edu). For more information about what plagiarism is and how to avoid it, see [http://its.sdsu.edu/tech/plagiarism.html](http://its.sdsu.edu/tech/plagiarism.html).

If you are a student with a disability and believe you will need accommodations for this class, it is your responsibility to contact Student Disability Services at (619) 594-6473. To avoid any delay in the receipt of your accommodations, you should contact Student Disability Services as soon as possible. Please note that accommodations are not retroactive, and that accommodations based upon disability cannot be provided until you have presented your instructor with an accommodation letter from Student Disability Services. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Readings:

The required textbook for this course is:


It is for sale in the campus bookstore and at Amazon, etc. Updates and additional material can be downloaded from the publisher's website. There is also a study guide available for this that you might find useful. All course information, readings, assignments, slides, etc. will be available on Blackboard. Additional readings will be made available in class or via the “Course documents” section of the course website.
Proposed schedule:

- Week 1  **Introduction**  Chapter 1
- Week 2  **Phonetics**  Chapter 2
- Week 3–4  **Phonology**  Chapter 3
- Week 5–6  **Morphology**  Chapter 4
- Week 7–8  **Syntax**  Chapter 5
- Week 9  **Midterm**
- Week 10–11  **Semantics and pragmatics**  Chapter 6
- Week 12–13  **Historical linguistics**  Chapter 7
- Week 14  **Typology**  Chapter 8
- Week 15  **Computational Linguistics**  Chapter 17