

Introduction to Linguistics — EN 4403/6403 — Ginger Pizer

Course Description

The objective of this course is to provide students with new ways to think about language, including its structural properties, how our brains process it, how children learn it, and the roles it plays in our societies. An understanding of linguistic principles is a significant asset in language learning and teaching. Detailed attention to language structure and use will develop students' awareness of patterns and meaning in the language of their daily lives.

Textbooks

- All students: *Language Files* (10th edition), 2007, by The Department of Linguistics, The Ohio State University. Editors: Anouschka Bergmann, Kathleen Currie Hall, Sharon Miriam Ross.
- Graduate students only: *The Language Instinct*, 2007, by Steven Pinker.

Grading

The grade for the course will be based on three tests, two short real-world example presentations, and homework assignments given every one to two weeks. Real-world examples are a kind of show-and-tell of things that you have found in the real world to illustrate linguistic concepts that we have discussed in class.

Test Average	70%
Homework	20%
Real-World Examples	10%

Graduate Students

Students registered for EN 6403 will be assigned extra readings (*The Language Instinct* and 2-3 journal articles) concerning the degree of innateness of the human capacity for language. They will meet with the instructor at least twice to discuss the readings and will write a final paper (8-10 pp.) on the topic. The paper grade will be averaged with the three test grades to reach the final test average.