SYLLABUS: 01:615:190
LINGUISTIC PERSPECTIVES ON LANGUAGE:
INVENTED LANGUAGES
SPRING 2021

Course Overview

Instructor

Instructor: Shiori Ikawa

Email address: shiori.ikawa@rutgers.edu

Virtual Office hours: Wednesday 10:00 – 11:00 am and by appointment

Important Dates

The course begins on **Jan 19 2021** and ends on **Mar 8 2021**.

Course Delivery

This course is distributed on https://canvas.rutgers.edu/. If you are reading this syllabus, yes, that's where it is!

Course Description

This is an online, asynchronous course exploring the design of and motivation for invented languages from a modern linguistic point of view. Invented languages are those that are the result of some conscious and deliberate design rather than ones occurring naturally. We will explore the different motivations for language invention, from the desire to create a "perfect language", to fictional worldbuilding, to fostering global harmony.

In characterizing the different types of invented languages, students will develop familiarity with the basic tools of linguistic theory, focusing on phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics. Languages analyzed in detail include Klingon, Esperanto, Lojban, Valyrian, Elvish, and various philosophical languages.

Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for this course.

Course Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, students should successfully be able to:

- Explore and evaluate motivations for inventing new languages
- Compare invented languages to natural human languages

- Characterize and analyze the types of existing invented languages
- Become familiar with the fundamental tools of modern linguistic theory

Course Materials

Readings, Videos, and Course Slides

On Canvas, you can find in the Course Materials section of each unit its required readings, videos and course slides. The weekly schedule of the units are provided below.

Required Texts

Rosenfelder, Mark. 2010. The Language Construction Kit. Yonagu Books: Chicago. ISBN 978-0984470006. (LCK)

Adams, Michael (ed.). 2011. From Elvish to Klingon. Oxford University Press: New York. ISBN 978-0192807090. (FEtK)

Optional

Okrent, Arika. 2009. In the Land of Invented Languages. Spiegal & Grau: New York. (ILIL)

Peterson, David J. 2015. The Art of Language Invention. Penguin Books. (ALI)

Technology Requirements

Baseline technical skills necessary for online courses

- Basic computer and web-browsing skills
- Navigating Canvas

Required Equipment

- Computer: current Mac (OS X) or PC (Windows 7 or newer) with high-speed internet connection

Assessment

Grading Scale

(Source: Rutgers standard undergraduate grade scale)

Grade	A	B+	B	C+	C	D	F
Range	90 – 100	85 – 89	80 – 84	75 – 79	70 – 74	60 – 69	60 <

Assignment Summary

Below are the assignments required for this course and the value of each assignment to the course grade as a whole. Please refer to the course calendar (on Canvas) and/or the course schedule (below) for specific due dates.

Assignment	Points
Reading Quizzes (7)	**35**
Midterm Project	**15**
Final Project	**25**
Group Discussions (5)	**25**
Total	**100**

See course schedule, below, for due dates.

Assignment Overview

Weekly Expectations

You are expected to follow along with all material as the semester progresses. Each week will consist of one unit, which will have the same basic structure listed below:

- Tuesday:
    - New Unit begins! Begin working through the material for the week.
    - Reading Quiz and forum participation open.
- Friday:
    - **Reading Quiz due at 11:59pm**
    - **Initial post on Discussion due at 11:59pm.**
- Monday:
    - **Discussion Responses due at 11:59pm.**

Reading Quizzes

Each week, you must take a short quiz based on the readings and lesson materials. The quizzes are in the Quizzes module of Canvas. Unless otherwise indicated, you can submit the quiz only once, and you must work on this alone. Once you start, you will have 90 minutes to complete the quiz! The lowest quiz grade is dropped.

Midterm Project

The midterm Project is worth 15% of the course grade. The assignment is designed to let you use the tools and information learned in class in a creative way. The assignment is in the Canvas Assignments module. The assignment is viewable since the first day of the course

and will become open for submission a week before the indicated due date. **The assignment must be submitted as a single PDF document.**

Final Presentation

The Final Presentation is worth 25% of the course grade. You are required to present your work to the classmates in the last week of this course (Mar 3rd (Wed)). As you can view from the Final presentation module in this Canvas site, the content of the presentation work is the continuation of the Midterm Project and is designed to let you use the tools and information learned in class in a creative way.

Group Discussions

Participation in the online discussion board is required to recreate the type of learning environment present in a physical classroom. Hope you will enjoy and benefit from learning each other's ideas!

The entire class will be randomly split into discussion groups with about 10 members. From Week 1 to Week 5, you are expected to make **one initial post** by Friday following the discussion prompts, and make **at least two replies** to other members' posts by Monday. The discussion thread will be visible to the members in the same discussion group as well as to the instructor.

Your post for each unit contributes up to 5 pts to your participation grade. Your posts are graded based on

- whether they are on time (1 pt max),
- whether your initial post is on point, following the format specified in each discussion prompt (2 pt max),
- and how well your comments to other members help them develop their ideas (2 pt max).

Student Participation Expectations

Because this is an online course, your attendance is based on your online activity and participation. The following is a summary of everyone's expected participation:

- **Time Commitment**

  To be successful in this course, you should plan to dedicate approximately 4-5 hours per week.
- **Office hours and live sessions**:
  All live, scheduled events for the course, including my office hours, are optional. For live presentations, I will provide a recording that you can watch later.
- The scheduled Office hours will be held as a Canvas conference, in which you can optionally participate.

- If you want to talk to me at any other time, please email me to set up a meeting. If you need to discuss an assignment with me, please contact me at least 3 days before the due date of the assignment.

Discussion and Communication Guidelines

The following are my expectations for how we should communicate as a class. Above all, please remember to be respectful and thoughtful.

- **Writing style**: While there is no need to participate in class discussions as if you were writing a research paper, you should remember to write using good grammar, spelling, and punctuation. Informality (including an occasional emoticon) is fine for non-academic topics. Please also refrain from using all CAPITAL LETTERS, as this is often interpreted as shouting.
- **Tone and civility**: Let's maintain a supportive learning community where everyone feels safe and where people can disagree amicably. Remember that sarcasm doesn't always come across online. Treat your instructor and fellow students with respect at all times, and in all communications.
- **Citing your sources**: When we have academic discussions, please cite your sources to back up what you say. (For the textbook or other course materials, list at least the title and page numbers. For online sources, include a link.)
- **Backing up your work**: Consider composing your academic posts in a word processor, where you can save your work, and then copying into the Canvas discussion.

Course Schedule and Deadlines

Important: you need to complete Unit 1 (Course Introduction) before you can start Unit 2. Unit 1 includes the very first reading quiz, which is based on information from the syllabus. You can take this quiz multiple times and you must eventually score 100%.

Week	Dates	Topics, Readings, Assignments, and Deadlines
	– 1/22	**Unit 1: Course Introduction**
1	**1/19 – 1/25**	**Unit 2: Motivations for Inventing Languages**
2	**1/26 – 2/1**	**Unit 3: Klingon and Phonology**
3	**2/2 – 2/8**	**Unit 4: Esperanto and Morphology**
4	**2/9 – 2/15**	**Unit 5: Loglan/Lojban and Syntax**
	2/15	***Midterm Due***
5	**2/16 – 2/22**	**Unit 6: Philosophical Languages and Semantics**

6	**2/23 – 3/1**	**Unit 7: Elvish Languages and Writing Systems**
7	**3/3**	***Final Project Due***

Support and Policies

Late work

This course has set deadlines within each week so that participants may complete the assignments as a cohort and benefit from each other's experience. Late quizzes are graded with a penalty of 10% per day overdue. For late discussion posts, 1 point will be deducted for each week. Late mid-term projects and final projects are not accepted.

Feedback and Response Time

I will reply to emails within 24 hours **on school days.** Please include the course number (Ling 190) in the subject line.

Academic Integrity

The consequences of scholastic dishonesty are very serious. Please review the Rutgers' academic integrity policy. (**Notice that this policy is revised in June 2020.** I encourage you to go over the policy once again.)

Academic integrity means, among other things:

- Develop and write all of your own assignments.
- Show in detail where the materials you use in your papers come from. Create citations whether you are paraphrasing authors or quoting them directly. Be sure always to show source and page number within the assignment and include a bibliography in the back.
- Do not fabricate information or citations in your work.
- Do not facilitate academic dishonesty for another student by allowing your own work to be submitted by others.

If you are in doubt about any issue related to plagiarism or scholastic dishonesty, please discuss it with your instructor.

Other sources of information to which you can refer include:

- *Rutgers' Academic Integrity website*
- *Code of Student Conduct*
- *Eight Cardinal Rules of Academic Integrity*

Academic Support Services

- Rutgers has a variety of resources for academic support. For more information, check the Academic Support website.
- Rutgers has Learning Centers on each campus where any student can obtain tutoring and other help. For information, check the Learning Center website.
- Rutgers also has a Writing Center where students can obtain help with writing skills and assignments. Learn more at the Writing Center website.
- Many library resources are available online. Assistance is available through phone, email, and chat. For information, check the Rutgers Libraries website.

The faculty and staff at Rutgers are committed to your success. Students who are successful tend to seek out resources that enable them to excel academically, maintain their health and wellness, prepare for future careers, navigate college life and finances, and connect with the RU community. Many other resources that can help you succeed and connect with the Rutgers community can be found at success.rutgers.edu, and nearly all services and resources that are typically provided in-person are now available remotely.

Rutgers Health Services

Rutgers Health Services is dedicated to health for the whole student body, mind and spirit. It accomplishes this through a staff of qualified clinicians and support staff, and delivers services at a number of locations throughout the New Brunswick-Piscataway area. For more information, check the Rutgers Health Services website.

Counseling, ADAP, and Psychiatric Services

Undergraduate and graduate students experience a great many stresses in their lives - sorting out one's identity, establishing and maintaining important relationships, coping with anxiety and depression, working on changing relationships with parents and other family members, dealing with losses, handling new academic demands, and dealing with reactions to one's differentness. To help with these tasks, Counseling, ADAP & Psychiatric Services (CAPS) provides a variety of psychological counseling services for all students of Rutgers University in New Brunswick/Piscataway, undergraduate and graduate. Services are free, and confidentiality is guaranteed within legal and ethical guidelines.

Accommodations for Accessibility

Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation. More information can be found in the Documentation Guidelines section of the Office for Disability Services website.

If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus's disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible. To begin this process, please complete the Registration Form on the Office for Disability Services website.

Go to the Student section of the Office of Disability Services website for more information.