SYLLABUS: LINGUISTICS 190
LINGUISTIC PERSPECTIVES ON LANGUAGE: INVENTED LANGUAGES
Spring 2024 ONLINE

Instructor: Lauren Ross-Feldman
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Student support hours: Monday 11am-noon and by appointment.
                         On Zoom using the link in the Student Support Hours page on Canvas

Communication: Throughout the semester, I will communicate with you via either Canvas Announcements or your Rutgers email account. If you prefer to use a different account, *you must ensure that your emails are forwarded from your Rutgers account.*

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 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 and various philosophical languages.

Prerequisites: None

Dates: The course runs from Tuesday, March 5, 2024 through Monday, April 29, 2024.

Course Learning Objectives: By the end of this course, you will 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 Delivery & Technical Support: This course is fully online. There are scheduled due dates for activities and assessments, but the course is asynchronous, which means that you can access the course and participate in it at the times that work best for you, *as long as your work is completed and submitted by the due dates*.

To access the course, please visit http://canvas.rutgers.edu.

For more information about course access or support, contact the OIT Help Desk at 833-OIT-HELP. Visit the Rutgers Student Tech Guide page for resources available to all students.

If you do not have the appropriate technology for financial reasons, please email the Dean of Students at *deanofstudents@echo.rutgers.edu* for assistance. If you are facing other financial hardships, please visit the Office of Financial Aid.

Required Course Text(s), Videos, and Website Resources:
- All materials are provided or linked to on Canvas.

Technology Requirements: This course will require that you access online resources in the University's Canvas site. Please review the Canvas Student Resources for assistance on getting started in Canvas, and visit the Rutgers Student Tech Guide page for resources available to all students.

Baseline technical skills necessary for online courses:
- Basic computer and web-browsing skills
- Navigating Canvas

Technology skills necessary for this specific course:
- Collaborating on VoiceThread
- Recording, editing, and uploading video

Accessibility Statements:
- Canvas / Hypothesis / PlayPosit / VoiceThread

Privacy Policies:
- Canvas / Hypothesis / PlayPosit / VoiceThread

Assignments: This course will require you to spend roughly the same amount of time each week on instructional resources, activities, and assignments as you would in a traditional classroom course—***about 8 hours per week***.

Below are the assignments required for this course and the value each assignment contributes to the final course grade. Please refer to the course calendar on Canvas and/or the course schedule below for specific due dates. ***All information on Canvas supersedes the information here***. *All assessments must be submitted by the last class day in order for me to grade them.*

Reading Quizzes	25%
Group Discussions	25%
Questions about Readings and Videos (Hypothesis)	25%
Final Project	25%
Total	*100%*

Grade Range:

A 90 – 100	C+ 75 – 79.9	F Below 65
B+ 85 – 89.9	C 70 – 74.9	
B 80 – 84.9	D 65 – 69.9	

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, beginning with Week 2:

- **Friday**:
    - New Unit begins! Begin working through the material for the week.
    - Reading Quiz, Discussion forum, Hypothesis elements open.
- **Wednesday:**
    - Hypothesis assignments due at 11.59pm.
    - Reading Quiz due at 11:59pm.
    - Initial post on Discussion due at 11:59pm.
- **Thursday:**
    - Reply to a classmate's Discussion post due at 11.59pm
- **Friday**:
    - Discussion Responses due at 11:59pm.

Reading Quizzes (25%)
Each week, you will take a short quiz based on the readings and lesson materials. The quizzes are in the Quizzes module of Canvas. You may take the quiz up to two times; Canvas will automatically keep the higher score. You must work on this **alone**.

Group Discussions (25%)
Participation in the online discussion board recreates the type of learning environment present in a physical classroom. I hope you will enjoy and benefit from each other's ideas! You are expected to make **one initial post**, responding to the discussion prompt, by **Wednesday**, and make at least **one reply** to a classmate's post by **Thursday**. Then, by **Friday**, you must respond to comments left on your post by your instructor and/or classmates. The discussion thread will be visible to the members of the discussion group as well as to the instructor. It is expected that each week, you are building towards the development of your invented language that you will present in your final paper.

Hypothesis (25%)
Each week, there will be 1-3 readings or videos that you will read/watch through the Hypothesis app on Canvas and then answer questions about.

Final Paper (25%)
The final project is the culmination of the weekly discussion threads. In this paper, you will present the language that you have invented over the weeks of this course.

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:
- **Logging in AT LEAST TWICE PER WEEK**: Be sure you are logging in to the course in Canvas each week, including weeks with holidays or weeks with minimal online course activity. (***During most weeks you will probably log in several times***.) If you have a situation that might cause you to miss an entire week of class, discuss it with me as soon as possible.

- **Time Commitment**: To be successful in this course, you should plan to dedicate *approximately 8 hours per week*. This is a half semester, 1.5 credit course. Each week is designed to require you to spend the same amount of time you would each week for a 3-credit, full semester course.
- **Student support hours (optional)**: Any live, scheduled events for the course, including my student support hours, are optional, but please drop in! See the Student Support Hours page on Canvas for more information and for links to schedule appointments.
- **Participating in discussion forums 2 OR MORE TIMES PER DISCUSSION**: As participation, during a week with an assigned discussion you can expect to post at least two times as part of our substantive class discussion on the module's topics.

Discussion and Communication Guidelines: Our activities and assignments give us lots of opportunities to interact. I encourage you to bring your authentic self and interests to this course and to your work within it. Please join me in creating a welcoming, inclusive community marked by respectful, thoughtful engagement. Here are some guidelines we will follow:
- **Style**: Class discussions and intro activities are informal academic activities, and your writing and speech styles typically can match that informality. (After all, we all love an occasional emoji or well-chosen gif.) Remember to be respectful and collegial in your interactions.
- **Citing your sources**: Please cite your sources to support what you say. For the textbook or other course materials, provide at least the title and page numbers or section headings. For online sources, include a link.
- **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.

Late and Missing Work: All work will be completed asynchronously for this course; however, regular class engagement will be assessed through the assigned activities and assessments. I reserve the right to make exceptions to the policy here.
- **Missing work**: Canvas is set to automatically record a "0" for any assignment that has no submission once the due date passes. This setting is intended to help you have an accurate picture of your current grade.
- **Late work**: You may submit reading quizzes and hypothesis assignments late, up to the last date listed for Week 7 on the course schedule. **Canvas is set to automatically deduct 5% for each day that an assignment is late. Any submissions later than 10 days will receive a maximum of 50% credit.** Discussion posts can't be submitted late as they involve interacting with your classmates and stand in for classroom interaction.
  - Example 1: An assignment is due the last day of Week 1. You submit it 2 minutes late. Canvas counts this as late 1 day. Canvas will automatically deduct 5% from the maximum grade for the assignment.
  - Example 2: An assignment is due the last day of Week 1. You submit it the last day of Week 7. Canvas counts this as 42 days late. Canvas will automatically deduct up to 50% from the maximum grade for the assignment.

- **Word to the wise**: I do not recommend waiting until the end to complete late work. The best strategy is to submit your work on time, as each week builds on the previous one, and my feedback will help you complete the next week's work with greater success. If you are late with an assignment, I recommend submitting it as soon as possible so as to minimize the penalty.

Faculty Feedback and Response Time: I am providing the following list to give you an idea of my intended availability throughout the course. (Remember that you can email help@oit.rutgers.edu or call 833-648-4357 if you have a technical problem.)
- **Grading and Feedback:** For activities and assignments that have free responses, you can generally expect feedback within 7 days of the assignment's due date.
- **E-mail**: I will reply to e-mails within 24 hours on school days, and by the next business day on weekends and holidays.
- **Discussions**: I will check these spaces regularly but I may not post a response every time.

Academic Integrity: The consequences of scholastic dishonesty are very serious. Please review the Rutgers' academic integrity policy.

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.

Please note: Collaboration and interaction are expected and integral aspects of work in this class and outside of it in the highly connected world we live in today. I encourage you to work together whenever possible and to make the most of the collaborative tools available on our course site and social media—or just get together in person if you're on campus.

Here is some specific guidance on where collaboration is and is not permitted in this course:
- Avoid working on quizzes together.
- Avoid talking about quiz questions and answers during quiz availability periods.
- Submit your own work for all assignments.
- Cite your sources, including classmates whose thoughts have informed your own opinions.
  - This point is especially important for discussions. Identifying a classmate who has changed or expanded your thinking in some way not only gives them proper attribution, it helps us build an online learning community that recognizes and values participation.

Consult the following link for tips on how to improve your notetaking to avoid accidental plagiarism:

- [RU Citing? Solutions & Strategies for Avoiding Plagiarism](#)

Protecting intellectual property of students and instructors: Almost all original work is the intellectual property of its authors. These works may include syllabi, lecture slides, recorded lectures, homework problems, exams, and other materials, in either printed or electronic form. The authors may hold copyrights in these works, which are protected by U.S. statutes. Copying this work or posting it online without the permission of the author may violate the author's rights. More importantly, these works are the product of the author's efforts; respect for these efforts and for the author's intellectual property rights is an important value that members of the university community take seriously. For more instructions on copyright protections at Rutgers University, please refer to the [Rutgers Libraries](#).

Accommodations for Accessibility: 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.

Student Support and Mental Wellness: The following may be useful to you
- Student Success Essentials: https://success.rutgers.edu
- Student Support Services: https://www.rutgers.edu/academics/student-support
- The Learning Centers: https://rlc.rutgers.edu/
- Rutgers Libraries: https://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/
- Bias Incident Reporting: https://studentaffairs.rutgers.edu/bias-incident-reporting
- Dean of Students – Student Support Office: https://success.rutgers.edu/resource/dean-students-student-support-office
- Office of Veteran and Military Programs and Services: https://veterans.rutgers.edu
- Student Health Services: http://health.rutgers.edu/
- Counseling, Alcohol and Other Drug Assistance Program & Psychiatric Services (CAPS): http://health.rutgers.edu/medical-counseling-services/counseling/
- Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance: www.vpva.rutgers.edu/
- Office of Disability Services: https://ods.rutgers.edu/

Course Schedule and Deadlines

Please see the appropriate unit on the Canvas site to find detailed information about each assignment, including rubrics and specific due dates. ***Information provided on the course site supersedes details provided here.***

There are two quizzes for the first week of class. The first quiz is a syllabus quiz. Passing the syllabus quiz with a score of 10/10 is the prerequisite for the other units.

WEEK	DATES	CONTENT
1	3/5-3/8	Unit 1: Introduction to Linguistics and to Constructed Languages
	3/9-3/17	*Spring Recess*
2	3/8-2/22	Unit 2: Motivations for Inventing Languages
3	3/22-3/29	Unit 3: Phonetics, Phonology, Klingon, & Dothraki
4	3/29-4/5	Unit 4: Morphology & Esperanto
5	4/5-4/12	Unit 5: Syntax & Lojban
6	4/12-4/19	Unit 6: Semantics & Philosophical Languages
7	4/29	Final Paper Due