

## Linguistic Perspectives on Language: Invented Languages 01:615:190:M2

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<b>Time:</b>	Asynchronous
<b>Location:</b>	Online via Canvas
<b>Website:</b>	<b>Canvas</b> (notifications will be sent to your Rutgers email)

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<b>Instructor:</b>	Ziling Zhu
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:ziling.zhu@rutgers.edu">ziling.zhu@rutgers.edu</a>
<b>Office hours:</b>	Thursday 12:00–1:00pm, online at <b>Zoom</b> (Meeting ID: 972 1784 6270; Password: language) Individual appointments by request on <b>Calendly</b>

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### About this course

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 world-building, 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.

### Course learning goals

At the completion of this course, students 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 website

This course has a website on Canvas ([canvas.rutgers.edu](https://canvas.rutgers.edu)). Log on using your NETID and password, and then look for the course in your Dashboard or Courses. If you encounter difficulty using Canvas, please contact their Helpdesk. You can also find additional resources by visiting Rutgers Student Tech Guide (<https://it.rutgers.edu/technology-guide/students/#new-brunswick>).

### Office hours/student support hours

Office hours, or student support hours, are designed for students to communicate with the instructor regarding their questions about the course contents. You are also very welcome to discuss with me about your graduate school and career plans, communication strategies, help with study habits and organization, etc. However, you should **not** seek answers to homework questions.

**Option 1:** Online office hours will take place **every Thursday 12:00–1:00pm**, on Zoom. Two ways to join:

- Link: <https://rutgers.zoom.us/j/97217846270?pwd=UnlybHVXLzBGcHprZStEK0pmRXdvQT09>
- Meeting ID: 972 1784 6270; Password: language

Please join with your full real name. You are welcome, though not required to, keep your videos on. To protect your privacy, you may select a virtual background (see instructions [here](#)). Again, you do **not** need to email or schedule in advance; simply join on Zoom.

**Option 2:** You may also schedule an individual meeting with me on Calendly (<https://calendly.com/zilingzhu/ling190>). On the website, you will be prompted to choose the meeting time (20-minute slots on Mondays/Wednesdays/Thursdays) and the meeting format (in-person/Zoom). Please use your real name and Rutgers email address when you schedule the appointment. Each student can request for **at most two** 20-minute slots each week.

### Evaluation and required work

Your final grade is based on reading quizzes, weekly discussions, midterm project, and final project. The percentage-wise breakdown is on the left, and the corresponding letter grades are on the right. **There is no P/NC policy.**

Grading breakdown		Letter grades	
Reading quizzes (6 out of 7)	35%	A	≥ 90%
Group discussions (5)	25%	B+	85–89.9%
Midterm project	15%	B	80–84.9%
Final project	25%	C+	75–79.9%
		C	70–74.9%
		D	60–69.9%
		F	≤ 59.9%

### 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 only submit the quiz **once**. Once you start, you will have 90 minutes to complete the quiz.

Quizzes must be completed on Canvas by the due date and time. Late submissions, by the end of Saturday (24 hours after their due date), will lead to a 50% decrease in your quiz grade. Late submissions after the end of Saturday will **not be accepted**. Your lowest-scoring quiz grade will be dropped. **Please do not collaborate on any quizzes** (see more in the Academic Integrity section).

### Group discussions

To recreate the type of learning environment present in a physical classroom, you are required to participate in the online discussion board (the Discussion module of Canvas).

The class will be split into 2 discussion groups. You are expected to make one initial post by Thursday 11:59pm following the discussion prompts, and make at least one reply to other members' posts by Friday 11:59pm. The discussion thread will be visible to your group members and the instructor.

Each of your post is worth 5 points max:

- 1 point for submitting both initial post and reply on time;
- 2 points: in your initial post, you follow the requirements in each discussion prompt;
- 2 points: in your reply to others' posts, you give helpful and meaningful replies to help your peers develop their ideas.

Discussions must be completed on Canvas by the due date and time. Late submissions, within 24 hours after their due date), will lead to a 50% decrease in your discussion grade. Late submissions after 24 hours will **not be accepted**. **Please do not copy others' answers** (see more in the Academic Integrity section).

### 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 Assignments module on Canvas. The assignment is available since the first day of the course and the submission is open a week before the indicated due date. The assignment must be submitted as a PDF document.

## Final project

The final project is worth 25% of the course grade. You are required to present your work to the classmates. The final project is designed to let you use the tools and information learned in class in a creative way. It is a continuation of the midterm project.

## Readings

You must keep up with the reading (this should be be very manageable)! **You do not need to buy a textbook for this course.** Assigned course readings will be posted on Canvas, and they come from the following sources:

### *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 Texts*

- Okrent, Arika. 2009. In the Land of Invented Languages. Spiegel & Grau: New York. (ILIL)
- Peterson, David J. 2015. The Art of Language Invention. Penguin Books. (ALI)

## **Schedule**

The course schedule is given in Table 1. This schedule is tentative and subject to change, but hopefully it helps you get your bearings. Notice in particular:

- The contents of each unit are available on every **Monday** (exception: Tuesday for Unit 1).
- Lecture videos and readings are due on the **Wednesday** of their week (exception: Thursday for Unit 1).
- The initial post of group discussions is due on the **Thursday 11:59pm** of their week.
- Quizzes and the reply of group discussions are due on the **Friday 11:59pm** of their week.
- Midterm project is due **Feb 17, 11:59pm**.
- Final project is due **Mar 6, 11:59pm**.

<b>Week</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Unit</b>	<b>Your duties</b>	<b>Due dates</b>
1	Jan 17 – Jan 22	Course Introduction	Lecture 1.1 & Reading 1.1 Quiz 1	Jan 19 Jan 20
2	Jan 23 – Jan 27	Motivations for Inventing Languages	Lecture 2.1, 2.2 & Reading 2.1, 2.2 Discussion 2: initial post Quiz 2 & Discussion 2: reply	Jan 25 Jan 26 Jan 27
3	Jan 30 – Feb 3	Klingon and Phonology	Lecture 3.1, 3.2 & Reading 3.1, 3.2 Discussion 3: initial post Quiz 3 & Discussion 3: reply	Feb 1 Feb 2 Feb 3
4	Feb 6 – Feb 10	Esperanto and Morphology	Lecture 4.1, 4.2 & Reading 4.1, 4.2, 4.3 Discussion 4: initial post Quiz 4 & Discussion 4: reply	Feb 8 Feb 9 Feb 10
5	Feb 13 – Feb 17	Loglan/Lojban and Syntax	Lecture 5.1, 5.2 & Reading 5.1, 5.2, 5.3 Discussion 5: initial post Quiz 5 & Discussion 5: reply <b>Midterm project</b>	Feb 15 Feb 16 Feb 17 Feb 17
6	Feb 20 – Feb 24	Philosophical Languages and Semantics	Lecture 6.1 & Reading 6.1, 6.2, 6.3 Discussion 6: initial post Quiz 6 & Discussion 6: reply	Feb 22 Feb 23 Feb 24
7	Feb 27 – Mar 3	Elvish Languages and Writing Systems	Lecture 7.1 & Reading 7.1, 7.2 Quiz 7 <b>Final project</b>	Mar 1 Mar 3 Mar 6

Table 1: Tentative class schedule

## General policies

The following policies are provided at [ling.rutgers.edu](http://ling.rutgers.edu) > Academics > Undergraduate > Learning Goals and Policies (a direct link is [here](#)). It is the responsibility of all students to read and abide by the policies.

## Religious holidays

University attendance and religious holiday policies are at [http://catalogs.rutgers.edu/generated/nb-ug\\_current/pg1433.html](http://catalogs.rutgers.edu/generated/nb-ug_current/pg1433.html)

## Academic Integrity

Students are expected to maintain the highest level of academic integrity. You should be familiar with the university [policy on academic integrity](#). Violations will be reported and enforced according to this policy. Use of external website resources such as Chegg.com or others to obtain solutions to homework assignments, quizzes, or exams is cheating and a violation of the University Academic Integrity policy. Cheating in the course may result in grade penalties, disciplinary sanctions or educational sanctions. Posting homework assignments, or exams, to external sites without the instructor's permission may be a violation of copyright and may constitute the facilitation of dishonesty, which may result in the same penalties as plain cheating.

## Disability Services

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: <http://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines>. 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 ODS web site at: [ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form](http://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form).

## Counseling, ADAP & Psychiatric Services (CAPS)

CAPS is a University mental health support service that includes counseling, alcohol and other drug assistance, and psychiatric services staffed by a team of professional within Rutgers Health services to support students' efforts to succeed at Rutgers University. CAPS offers a variety of services that include: individual therapy, group therapy and workshops, crisis intervention, referral to specialists in the community and consultation and collaboration with campus partners. Call (848) 932-7884 or visit [rhscaps.rutgers.edu](http://rhscaps.rutgers.edu).

## Violence Prevention & Victim Assistance (VPVA)

The Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance provides confidential crisis intervention, counseling and advocacy for victims of sexual and relationship violence and stalking to students, staff and faculty. To reach staff during office hours when the university is open or to reach an advocate after hours, call 848-932-1181 or visit [www.vpva.rutgers.edu/](http://www.vpva.rutgers.edu/).

## Other resources

- Student Success Essentials: <https://success.rutgers.edu>
- Student Support Services: <https://www.rutgers.edu/academics/student-support>
- The Learning Centers: <https://rlc.rutgers.edu/>
- The Writing Centers (including Tutoring and Writing Coaching): <https://writingctr.rutgers.edu>
- Rutgers Libraries: <https://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/>
- Office of Veteran and Military Programs and Services: <https://veterans.rutgers.edu>
- Student Health Services: <http://health.rutgers.edu/>
- Scarlet Listeners: Call 732-247-5555 or visit [scarletlisteners.com](http://scarletlisteners.com)