**English 4523/5523: Intro to Linguistics**

Spring 2020

Professor Geoff Clegg

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## Course Description

Prerequisite(s): Six hours of English beyond [Communication Core](https://catalog.msutexas.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=23&poid=2747) or consent of chair.  
  
Methods and nature of language; the interlocking systems that make up language; methods of language analysis.

## Textbook

None. I will provide the readings and materials for you on D2L. Who wants to spend $100 on another textbook that might net you $15 when you try to sell it back? That is only two meals at Wendy’s. I am not cruel.

## Course Requirements (Undergrads)

| **Assignments** | **Grade Percent** |
| --- | --- |
| D2L Discussion posts | 10% |
| Response Papers (2) | 15% |
| Midterm | 15% |
| Term Paper | 30% |
| Final Exam | 30% |

**Course Requirements (Graduates)**

| **Assignments** | **Grade Percent** |
| --- | --- |
| D2L Discussion posts | 10% |
| Response Papers (2) | 15% |
| Midterm | 15% |
| Term Paper | 30% |
| Final Exam | 25% |
| Book Report | 5% |

## Grading Policy

In this class, the following numerical equivalents for finalgrades are used: A = 100-90%; B = 89-80%; C = 79-70%; D = 69-60%; F = 59-0%.

**Assignments**

*D2L Discussion Posts (x10):*

Discussion posts will consist of two parts: one responding to a prompt or reading due by Wednesday, and one that responds to a classmates’ post. Post length is normally 150-200 words per post unless otherwise stated. These act as de facto participation since we are an online class. **Note: We may change this to Perusall if it gets integrated to D2L.**

*Response Papers (x2):*

You will have two short response papers due throughout the semester. They will be 2 to 3 double-spaced pages in length in response to a short reading. I ask that you take a position in response to the reading and cite the text.

*Midterm:*

It is a midterm. It assesses what you have learned so far during the semester. I think you know the drill.

*Term Paper:*

One end-of-the-semester term paper. This will be 7-9 pages in length on a topic of your choice related to linguistics. I will advise you that your topic should be run by me beforehand. It is better to be safe than sorry. I am open to your ideas.

Graduate students will write a tern paper of 10-12 pages.

*Final Exam:*

The final will cover the last half of the course and a sprinkling of material from before the midterm. I’d much rather do something more creative with your final that allows you to apply your understanding of linguistics (*hint, hint*). Exams are annoyingly boring.

*Book Report:*

**Graduate students only!** You will write a short book report on a linguistics text of your choosing. I will post a link with plenty of pdfs if you cannot find one in the library or receive one through ILL. I also have a ton of stuff in my office you may borrow.

Lastly, there is no ‘p’ in Chomsky.

**Paper Submission Format and Policy**

All out-of-class assignments must be typed in Times New Roman 12-point black font with one-inch margins using MLA format. By enrolling in this class, the student expressly grants MSU a “limited right” in all intellectual property created by the student for the purpose of this course. The “limited right” shall include but shall not be limited to the right to reproduce the student’s work product in order to verify originality and authenticity, and for educational purposes. **Note:** You may not submit a paper for a grade in this class that already has been (or will be) submitted for a grade in another course, unless you obtain the explicit written permission of me and the other instructor involved *in advance*.

**Late Paper and Assignment Policy**

Unless arrangements are made *in advance* for extenuating circumstances, you will automatically lose a letter grade for each day a paper is late, including weekends. If you can't make it to class on the day a major assignment it due, email me in advance and hand it in either during my office hours or into the main English office (216 Bea Wood Hall) by 5:00 the day the paper is due to avoid losing a letter grade for a late paper. A paper that is more than a week late will automatically receive an F, regardless of the quality of work. **All major assignments must be turned in to pass the class. You will not be able to make up daily work and there is no extra credit.**

**Plagiarism Policy**

Plagiarism is the use of someone else’s thoughts, words, ideas, or lines of argument in your own work without appropriate documentation (a parenthetical citation at the end and a listing in “Works Cited”)–whether you use that material in a quotation, paraphrase, or summary. It is a theft of intellectual property and will not be tolerated, whether intentional or not. I have a zero tolerance for any type of plagiarism. **All incidents of plagiarism will be penalized (the paper will receive an automatic F), reported, and kept on file. The second incident of plagiarism in class by the same student will result in the student receiving an F for the course.**

**Students with Disabilities**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Disability Support Services in Room 168 of the Clark Student Center, 397-4140.

**Safe Zone Statement**

I consider this classroom a place where you will be treated with respect as a human being – regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, religious affiliation, sexual orientation, political beliefs, age, or ability. Additionally, diversity of thought is appreciated and encouraged, provided you can agree to disagree. It is my expectation that ALL students consider the classroom a safe environment.

**Attendance Policy**

Check D2L at least three times per week. Set a schedule for when you know you have time to do so.

Because this is a writing and discussion course and the work we do in class is designed to help you understand the readings and improve your writing skills, you must attend class to do well. Although I do not take daily role, your in-class writing and participation grades should ensure your attendance and preparedness. By failing to regularly attend class you will not understand the critical terminology and concepts necessary to successfully complete the daily writing assignments and larger papers. You are in college; come to class.

## Writing Proficiency Requirement

All students seeking a Bachelor’s degree from Midwestern State University must satisfy a writing proficiency requirement once they have 1) passed English 1113 and English 1123 and 2) earned 60 hours. You may meet this requirement by passing either the Writing Proficiency Exam or English 2113. Please keep in mind that, once you have earned over 90 hours, you lose the opportunity to take the $25 exam and have no option but to enroll in the three-credit-hour course. If you have any questions about the exam, visit the Writing Proficiency Office website at http://academics.mwsu.edu/wpr, or call 397-4131.

**Tentative Schedule**

week textbook chapter(s) important dates

1-20 ch. 1 intro. to class/linguistics **1-20-20 (MLK Day)**

1-27 ch. 1 intro. to linguistics

2-3 ch. 2 phonology

2-10 ch. 2 phonology Resp. Paper 1 due

2-17 ch. 2 morphology

2-24 ch. 2 syntax

3-2 ch. 3 meaning

3-9 ch. 3 meaning Midterm

3-16 ch. 17 hist. ling. **3-14->3-22 (Spring Break)**

3-23 ch. 4/5 socioling./lang. variation

3-30 ch. 7 pidgins/creoles

4-6 ch. 8 AAVE Resp. Paper 2 due

4-13 ch. 12 first lang. ac **4-8->4-13 (Holiday Break)**

4-20 ch. 12(13) first (second) lang. acqu.

4-27 ch. 6 lang. & social groups Term Paper due

5-4 ch. 10 lang. & gender

5-9 Final Exam **5-9->5-13 (Finals Week)**

Note that this schedule is purely tentative and provided as a rough idea of how we will distribute class time. Changes can and will be made.