Course Description:
This course introduces the student to the nature and structure of language and presents fundamental concepts and notions in linguistics. Topics include an examination of the biological aspects of language: animal communication, language acquisition, language and the brain; the grammatical aspects of language: phonetics and phonology (the study of the sounds of language), morphology (the study of words and word formation), syntax (the study of the structure of sentences and phrases), semantics (the study of meaning); and the social aspects of language: pragmatics, conversational analysis.

Required Text:
- Additional readings may be assigned as the semester progresses.

Evaluation:
- Literature Review (10%): Obtain a copy of one article related to the text. Read & analyze it thoroughly. Report back to the class on the article (written: I will publish your work for all to read). This may be a group project with multiple related articles selected.
- Quizzes, and other assignments (25%): Quizzes to encourage/ensure preparation for class discussion may be given on a random basis. "Review” quizzes are given at the conclusion of two chapters. There will be no opportunity to make-up missed quizzes. The lowest score in this category, however, will be dropped. Responses to two of your peers’ projects will be included in this category as will a phonetic transcription.
- Semester Research Project: (25%): This project may be a term paper, linguistic analysis of literature, action research/service learning project or a study replication.
- Examinations (40%): There will be two exams: midterm (before drop day) and final exam. Each exam is worth 20% of the course grade. You must be present on exam day; no make-up exams will be given.
Attendance

- Students are expected to attend ALL classes. Students are responsible for all material presented in class, including announcements about course procedures. Exams, quizzes, and homework often include questions on material presented only in class, so performance on these indirectly reflects attendance. Even more importantly, your intuition and opinions are crucial to the class. If you are absent, you hurt not only yourself, but you classmates as well.
- Perfect attendance will be rewarded with 2% added to your final grade. Nearly perfect attendance (1 absence) will be rewarded with 1% added to your final grade. *(There will be no distinction between “excused” and “unexcused” absences).*

Beware:
The consequences of academic dishonesty of any sort range from failure on an assignment to expulsion. All formal written assignments will be submitted to Blackboard for an automated plagiarism check (no hard copies required).

Accommodations
To request accommodation for a disability, please contact the Office of Disability Services (CLC 232, 503-5123) and see the course instructor as soon as possible.

Grading

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90%–100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80%–87.99%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>88%–89.99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70%–77.99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>78%–79.99%</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60%–67.99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>68%–69.99%</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>below 60%</td>
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*Class participation may be rewarded with a ‘plus’ for scores within 2 points of the next grade level (e.g. 86.0 → B+) at the instructor’s discretion*

Extra Credit Possibilities:

- In the USC-Upstate Library, find a hard copy of a recent academic linguistic article or one that is considered a classic piece of writing in linguistic study. Assimilate the information and share it with the class. *(most difficult: highest potential value)*
- Many popular films revolved around the study of language, e.g., Nell. View one of these films, and write an essay exploring the film’s relevance to linguistic study and specifically what we’ll study in this course. *(medium)*
- Find treatment of a linguistic issue in the popular press, summarize the point, relate it to what we’ve learned, and analyze the presentation of the information. Was it accurate? Simplified for the general audience? What was the purpose? *(easy)*

*** This syllabus is subject to change ***