

L367 LANGUAGES of the WORLD

Semester: Fall
Year: 2013
Days: MW
Time: 1:00p.m. — 2:15p.m.
Venue: BH 205
Department: Linguistics
Credit Hours: 3
Contact Hours: 3
Instructor: Professor Samuel Obeng
Office: Memorial Hall 319 & Woodburn Hall 221
Office Hours: T. 11:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course focuses on an examination of some languages (which differ genetically and typologically) with respect to their chief phonetic, phonological, grammatical, and typological characteristics, as well as their geographical distribution and cultural settings. Language death, and a review of the methods and evidence for language grouping as well as possible causes for language diversity are examined. Each student will adopt a language for this purpose.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Students who take this and related courses will be prepared to take up career positions in the foreign service (State Department) and international relations, academia, the book industry, NGOs, etc.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The Course is designed in such a way that upon its completion students will be able to:

1. Identify the nature and types of genetic differences and similarities between languages
2. Be aware of the typological differences between languages
3. Be able to describe and theorize about the genetic differences between languages
4. Be able to describe and theorize about the typological differences between languages
5. Become aware of factors that lead to language death and language endangerment
6. Identify ways of documenting and 'saving' endangered languages.
7. Be able to recognize and understand the role played by language in society

COURSE TEXTBOOKS

Shopen, Timothy, Ed. 1990 Languages and their Status. Cambridge, Mass.: Winthrop Publishers. (Paperback 1987, Univ. of Pennsylvania Press)

Shopen, Timothy, Ed. 1990 Languages and their Speakers. Cambridge, Mass.: Winthrop Publishers. (Paperback 1987, Univ. of Pennsylvania Press)

METHOD OF DELIVERY: Lecture, class discussion, and class presentations.

EVALUATION

1. Written Assignments (WA) 20% of final grade
2. Attendance & Participation (AP) 10% of final grade
3. Quizzes (QZ) 20% of final grade
4. Class Presentation (20%)
4. Final Language Profile (FLP) 30% of final grade

GRADING: Grades will be assigned on a proficiency basis, not on a curve. Every effort is made to provide clear expectations and criteria for successful completion of quizzes, assignments and projects. There are no extra credit assignments, quizzes or projects.

Grading

1. WA: 18-20=A; 16-18=B; 14-16=C; 12-14=D
2. AP: 9-10 = A; 8-9 = B; 7-8 = C; 6-7 = D
3. QZ: 9-10 = A; 8-9 = B; 7-8 = C; 6-7 = D
4. FLP: 36-40=A; 32-36=B; 28-32=C; 24-28=D
Final Grade = WA+ AP+ QZ+ FLP = 100

COURSE POLICY

1. Assignments: All assignments must be neatly typed. One late assignment will be allowed for the semester; that late assignment must be turned in at the class meeting following the date for the assignment. Any other late assignment may be turned in for comments but it will not count toward the final grade.
2. Incompletes: Incompletes will be considered (by instructor) only on receipt of a written request from the student and only in compliance with university guidelines for use of Incompletes.
3. Final Language Profile: December 16 (1:00 p.m.). NO EXCEPTIONS.
4. Extra credit: NONE
5. Makeup exams: It is important to note that the exams and quizzes for this class must be taken at the scheduled time. Hardly ever will alternative exams and quizzes to be allowed. In case a student cannot take an exam or a quiz, it is imperative that the Instructor be notified in advance. If this is not done or if the student's reason for not being able to take the exam or a quiz at the scheduled time is not legitimate, the student will NOT be allowed to make up the exam or the quiz.
6. Course changes: Students shall be responsible for all announcements and changes in the course program which are given in class, whether they attend the class in which the announcement is made or not.
7. Attendance: Attendance is mandatory because it is practically impossible to demonstrate preparation, initiative, participation, and contribution if one does not attend classes. However, if for some legitimate reason, you are unable to attend a class, it is your responsibility to arrange in advance to have a classmate pick up handouts, assignments, take notes, etc. for you. You can however come to the instructor for further information or clarification WHEN NECESSARY. Attendance will be taken at different times during the class; you are therefore strongly advised not to leave the class before the class ends. In case of necessity to leave early, be sure to obtain prior approval, even if it is a short notice.
8. Tardiness Policy: Students who arrive late to class distract both the instructor and other students from lesson. As a courtesy to your fellow students and your instructor, please make every effort to arrive on time for class.
9. Classroom Conduct: If you are creating a distraction in the classroom that will prevent other students from learning you may be asked to leave the classroom. The following is not an exhaustive list, but should provide you with a general idea of what is not acceptable during this class hours:

Listening to headphones; Sleeping; Reading or writing material that is not pertinent to class; Talking that is unrelated to the class; Talking on your cell phones during class.

10. Guest Speakers: There are some days in which there will be guest speakers. These professionals are coming on their own time and are not reimbursed in any way for their efforts; you are therefore expected to be courteous and attentive. Materials from guest speakers will be included on the exams.

11. Academic Integrity Statement

Intellectual integrity and a high standard of academic conduct are highly valued at Indiana University. IU is committed to academic integrity in all its practices. Any behavior and/or activities that violate academic integrity undermine the quality of instruction and diminish the value of educational achievement this course is intended to achieve. If you cheat on the quizzes, class assignments, class presentations, and final project, you violate Indiana University rules. Also, plagiarism as well as aiding and abetting with other students to gain an unfair advantage over other students (such as signing in another student for class when the student is absent) are viewed as academic dishonesty and construed as cheating. Do not cheat.

12: Religious Observation

Any student, who, as a result of a religious observation, wishes to receive an excused absence from class, must submit a request form available at the office of the Provost for each day you need to be absent from class. Please, present the form to me (the course instructor) by the end of the second week of the semester. It is important to note that a separate form must be submitted to the instructor for each day you miss a class due to religious observation. I will return the original form to you once I sign it and make a copy for myself.

* Check Oncourse for announcements and changes to the schedule.

TENTATIVE COURSE CALENDAR

Week 1	Aug. 26 Aug. 28	Introduction Genetic classification of languages
Week 2	Sept. 2 Sept. 4	Labor Day (No Class) Genetic classification of languages
Week 3	Sept. 9 Sept 11	Typological classifications of languages Typological classifications of languages
Week 4	Sept 16 Sept 18	Endangered Languages: Hale et. al. 1992; Ladefoged 1992. Endangered Languages: Class Debate
Week 5	Sept 23 Sept 25	Quiz 1 Swahili
Week 6	Sept 30 Oct 2	Swahili [Invited Speaker] [ASSIGNMENT 1 DUE] Japanese
Week 7	Oct 7 Oct 9	Japanese Chinese

Week 8	Oct. 14 Oct. 16	Chinese Maninka
Week 9	Oct. 21 Oct. 23	Maninka Russian (Comrie, B.)
Week 10	Oct. 28 Oct. 30	Russian Cape York Creole (Crowley, T. & Rigsby, B.)
Week 11	Nov 4 Nov 6	Cape York Creole/Malagasy Malagasy [ASSIGNMENT 2 DUE]
Week 12	Nov 11 Nov 13	Quiz 2 Mohawk (Mithun, M, & Chafe, W.L.)
Week 13	Nov. 18 Nov. 20	Mohawk Student Presentations of Final Projects
Week 14	Nov 24 Nov 26	Thanksgiving Recess Thanksgiving Recess
Week 14	Dec 1 Dec 3	Student Presentations of Final Projects Student Presentations of Final Projects
Week 15	Dec 8 Dec 10	Student Presentations of Final Projects Student Presentations of Final Projects
Week 16	Dec 16	Final Project Due 5:00 p.m. NO EXCEPTIONS

REFERENCES IN THE MAIN LIBRARY

- Comrie, B. 1987 *The World's major Languages* P371 W6 1987
- Katzner, K. 2012. *The Languages of the World*. London: Routledge.
- Pereltsvaig, A. 2012. *Languages of the World*. Cambridge: CUP
- Ruhlen, M. 1987. *A Guide to the World's Languages* P203 R8 1987
- Voegelin, C. and F. Voegelin 1977 *Classification and index of the World's Languages*. N.Y.: Elsevier. P203 V872 1977.