

ELL101: Introduction to Language
COURSE SYLLABUS

Section:	ELL101.7359 (29199)
Instructor:	Chaya R. Nove
Email:	cnove@gradcenter.cuny.edu OR chayarnove@gmail.com
Office:	B234
Office Hours:	By appointment
Class Times:	Monday 1:00 – 3:15 / Tuesday 1:00 – 3:15 / Wednesday 1:00 – 3:15
Location(s):	Mon & Wed: Center 3 C-722 / Tues: Center 3 C-723

WHAT THIS COURSE IS ABOUT:

What is language?

What do you know when you know a language?

What do all human languages have in common?

These are some of the big questions we will explore in ELL101!

We will analyze the organization of sounds, words, sentence structure and meaning by applying theories from the core areas of linguistics: phonetics/phonology, morphology, syntax and semantics. We will study how language can vary on all of these levels and discuss what such variation can tell us about the social dynamics that exist amongst groups of speakers. We will also explore how our beliefs and attitudes about language are shaped and constrained by such differences.

Do not be concerned if these topics are unfamiliar to you. This is an introductory course and no prior training in linguistics is assumed. We are embarking on this learning adventure together.

WHAT YOU WILL BE ABLE TO DO when you complete this course successfully:

- Refute popular myths about language
- Explain the difference between prescriptive grammar and descriptive grammar
- Appreciate human language as an orderly, rule-governed system
- Utilize the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) to describe speech sounds
- Identify phonological, morphological, syntactic, and semantic features of language
- Understand how language functions in the real world
- Describe the relationship between language and society

This course bears 3 credits that count as Flexible Core (Scientific World) of the CUNY's new general education curriculum (Pathways).

HOW YOU WILL ACCOMPLISH THESE GOALS:

READ, READ, READ

To succeed in this course, **you must read the chapters assigned from the required text** (listed below). Each section should be read **before** the class shown next to it on the course calendar.

REQUIRED TEXT:

Yule, George. (2017). *The Study of Language*. (2017). 6th edition. Cambridge University Press. (ISBN: 978-1-316-60675-9)

Additional readings will be posted on the class web site on CUNY Academic Commons.

SHOW UP

Much of the learning in this course occurs during class discussions and group exercises. Therefore, regular attendance, punctuality and participation are required. Three absences are allowed without consequences. Additional absences and/or perpetual lateness will affect your final grade and may result in a failing grade for this course. As per the college's policy, absences are counted from the first day of class even if they are a result of late registration or change of program.

SPEAK UP

Participation will be assessed based on your verbal, nonverbal, online and written participation and feedback. Ultimately your grade will be based on my perception of you as a contributing member of this class.

TAKE QUIZZES

Several quizzes are scheduled. These may be listening quizzes and/or contain questions based on material covered in the previous classes. They are designed to reinforce your knowledge of the concepts you learn.

REFLECT

One short reflection paper will be assigned, designed to bring personal awareness to relevant language issues. The paper will be 1 – 2 pages in length and worth 5% of the final grade.

COMPLETE HOMEWORK

Homework assignments are short exercises. They are opportunities for you to practice the material covered in class and to prepare for the exams. Homework will be collected and issued a completion grade (as opposed to a content grade). These assignments may also be reviewed during class to prepare for exams.

TAKE EXAMS

There will be two exams. These are not cumulative. Each exam will be worth 20% of your final grade.

FINAL PROJECT: GLOBAL LEARNING

The final project is a 2-part written assignment focusing on language attitudes. You will be asked to consider how language use and attitudes relate to various dimensions of LaGuardia's Global Learning Competency. In the first part, you will describe attitudes you and others have about your language/dialect. In the second, you will research the attitudes that exist about another language/dialect. You will deliver a (very) short presentation based on the second part of your final project to the class. This project will be worth 25% of your final grade.

HOW YOU CAN ASSESS YOUR PROGRESS:

GRADING SYSTEM:

A: 93-100%	A-: 90-92%	B+: 86-89%	B: 83-85%	B-: 80-82%
C+: 76-79%	C: 73-75%	C-: 70-72%	D+: 66-69%	D: 63-65%
D-: 60-62%	F: -59%	WU: Unofficial withdraw (\approx F)		W: Withdraw

EVALUATION:	Participation	10%
	Reflection Paper/Quizzes/Homework	25%
	Midterm Exam	20%
	Final Exam	20%
	Final Project	25%

PRACTICES AND POLICIES TO HELP YOU SUCCEED:

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

LaGuardia Community College regards acts of academic dishonesty as serious offenses against values of intellectual honesty. You are expected to adhere to the college's standards of academic integrity, which is outlined [HERE](#).

COLLABORATION:

Working through homework assignments and study guides with your classmates is strongly encouraged. I only ask that you acknowledge others' contributions by including the names of the people you collaborated with on assignments submitted for credit.

LATE OR MISSED ASSIGNMENTS:

Makeup exams will be given only when prior notice of absence is received. Quizzes cannot be made up, and no late homework will be accepted. Written assignments that are not submitted on their due dates will receive one full grade penalty for being one day late (e.g. from A to B). Written assignments that are submitted more than one week late will not be accepted. All homework and written assignments must be submitted in hard copy format unless permission is given to submit an electronic copy.

DIGITAL DEVICES:

Cell phones and laptops are great tools, but they have limited use within a classroom. Use of these electronic devices at inappropriate times is both disruptive and rude.

Laptops may be used for note taking during class lectures. They should NOT be used for Internet access unrelated to class activity. Cell phone use is not permitted at any time in the classroom, in either text or audible mode (unless they are required for a class activity, as specified by your instructor). Your phone should be out of sight and turned OFF (not set to vibrate) while you are in class. iPhones have an automatic DO NOT DISTURB function you can use for this purpose. If you are expecting an emergency phone call, please let me know before class begins. You can then set your phone to vibrate and sit close to the door so that you can leave quickly and quietly if necessary.

Students seen using cell phones or laptops inappropriately will be reminded once of this policy. Continued cell phone use will result in a 10-point penalty per offense and/or my holding of cell phones until the end of class.

ACCESSIBILITY, COUNSELING & IMMIGRATION SUPPORT

The Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD), located at 31-10 Thomson Ave, Room M102, offers reasonable accommodations and assistance to students who need them. For more information on services available to LaGuardia students, please call the OSD 718-482-5279, visit in person, or visit them online [HERE](#).

The LaGuardia Wellness Center provides counseling and support. If you would like to speak with someone, please visit The Wellness Center in room C-249, online [HERE](#), email WellnessCenter@lagcc.cuny.edu, or phone 718-482-5471.

Free and confidential immigration assistance is available through CUNY Citizenship Now, linked [HERE](#), and CUNY CLEAR, linked [HERE](#).

During the course of the semester, if you experience any issues (physical, mental, logistical, legal, financial, etc.) that interfere with your ability to learn, please do not hesitate to reach out to me, in person or via email. I will do my best to help you, and to direct you to available resources.

ONLINE COURSE MANAGEMENT TOOL: CUNY ACADEMIC COMMONS

Course materials will be posted on a special web site hosted by the CUNY ACADEMIC COMMONS. This site will be used to post important course-related announcements and distribute supplementary materials, and homework assignments. To access the class site, you will need to:

- Register for an account on the CUNY Academic Commons by following this [LINK](#) or going directly to <https://commons.gc.cuny.edu/register/>
 - You will need to choose a **user name**; enter your **email**; choose a **password**; add a **profile picture** (optional, but recommended), your full **name** and a brief **descriptor**; select **LaGuardia Community College** from a drop-down menu; check “**Undergraduate Student**” under ‘Role;’ and agree to the **Terms of Service**.

Once you are registered, click on this [LINK](http://cuny.is/group-ell101-fa2019) (<http://cuny.is/group-ell101-fa2019>), or search for “ELL101: Introduction to Language FA2019” and request to join the group. Then click on ‘Site’ in the bar on the left.

- Please ensure that the email address you register with is one you check regularly, since I will be using this group list for all course-related correspondence.

COURSE CALENDAR

*The following course calendar is tentative and subject to change. Changes will be announced in class and posted online. Please read the schedule carefully and make sure that you do not miss any important days. Pay special attention to the dates in **bold**.*

Make sure to check the course calendar on CUNY Academic Commons on a regular basis.

WEEK	DATE	TOPIC	READING	ASSIGNMENTS
1	1/5	Introduction Language Myths		Needs Analysis (on class site)
2	1/7	Prescription and Description Assign Reflection Language, Mind, & Thought	Fromkin Ch. 1 (on class site)	
	1/8	Phonetics: Consonants	Yule Ch. 3	
	1/9	Phonetics: Vowels		Homework #1 out
3	1/14	Phonetics: Practice		Reflection due
	1/15	Phonology	Yule Ch. 4	Homework #1 due
	1/16	Phonology		Homework #2 out
4	1/21	NO CLASSES – COLLEGE CLOSED		
	1/22	Phonology: Practice Sociolinguistics: Regional Variation	Yule Ch. 18	Homework #2 due
	1/23	Sociolinguistics: Social Variation Assign Final Project Midterm Review	Yule Ch. 19	
5	1/28	Midterm		Midterm Exam
	1/29	Cont. Sociolinguistics: Social Variation Word Formation	Yule Ch. 5	
	1/30	Word Formation / Morphology	Yule Ch. 6	
6	2/4	Morphology		Homework #3 out
	2/5	Grammar	Yule Ch. 7	Final Project 1 due
	2/6	Syntax	Yule Ch. 8	Homework #3 due
	2/7 Thurs	Syntax		Homework #4 out
7	2/11	Semantics	Yule Ch. 9	Homework #4 due
	2/12	NO CLASSES – COLLEGE CLOSED		
	2/13	Last class: Final Project (Part II) Presentations		
8	2/18	NO CLASSES – COLLEGE CLOSED		Final Project 2 due
	2/19	Final Exam		Final Exam
	2/20	Conferences		