

**William Paterson University  
College of Humanities and Social Sciences  
Department of Languages and Cultures**

**COURSE OF STUDY**

**COURSE TITLE:** TBED 539 **General Linguistics**

**NUMBER OF CREDITS:** 3 Credits

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

A study of the nature of language relevant to teachers involved with other languages and cultures. The course covers the basic techniques for analyzing phonological, morphological, syntactic and semantic structures. It also examines language in its social context and acquisition, writing systems, and universals.

**PREREQUISITES:** none

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

1. To understand a range of topics in the field of linguistics.
2. To analyze the phonological, morphological, syntactic, and semantic features of English.
3. To sensitize students to the similarities and contrasts of sound and structure in different language systems.
4. To understand linguistic concepts and definitions as they relate to other languages and other disciplines.
5. To develop transcription skills.
6. To make acquainted with different writing systems and theories of universal grammar.
7. To foster students' mastery of New Jersey Professional Teaching Standards (NJPTS) 1 (Subject Matter Knowledge) and 8 (Communication).

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

At the completion of this course, students are expected to:

1. define of a range of topics/concepts in the field of linguistics.
2. distinguish basic linguistic units and features (e.g. phonemes, morphemes, phrase structure, semantic features) at the sentence level.
3. illustrate ways of investigating similarities and differences between two languages.
4. explain how a scientific method of language investigation contributes to other disciplines (e.g. psychology, sociology).
5. transcribe a simple text using phonetic symbols.
6. categorize different writing systems and describe universal grammar.

7. Demonstrate increased mastery of mastery of New Jersey Professional Teaching Standards (NJPTS) 1 (Subject Matter Knowledge) and 8 (Communication).

## **COURSE CONTENT**

### Unit One: Nature of Language

1. Historical approaches
2. Modern approaches

### Unit Two: Phonetics

1. Different types of phonetics
2. Prosodic features
3. International Phonetic Alphabet

### Unit Three: Phonology

1. Identification of phonemes and allophones
2. Sound structures
3. Phonological rules

### Unit Four: Morphology

1. Identification of types of morphemes
2. Phrase structure rules
3. Transformational rules

### Unit Six: Semantics & Pragmatics

1. Semantic features and properties
2. Presupposition and entailment
3. Literal vs. non-literal meaning
4. Direct vs. indirect speech act

### Unit Seven: Linguistics and Other Disciplines

1. Language and Psychology: Language Acquisition
2. Language and Sociology: Language Contact, Change, and Varieties

### Unit Eight: Language Universals and Writing System

1. Writing systems
2. Typological universals
3. Universal grammar

## **TEACHING/LEARNING METHODS**

Lecture and Transparencies  
 Classroom/group discussion  
 Computer Search and Student presentation  
 Analysis of language samples

## **EVALUATION METHODS**

Student learning will be assessed through (a) two exams on linguistic concepts, transcription, analysis in the areas of phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics (b) an essay and short-answer mid-term examination on pragmatics, and (c) a cumulative final exam.

## **RECOMMENDED TEXTS/READINGS**

1. Cipollone, Nick, Steven Hartman Keiser, and Shrvan Vasishth (Eds. 1998: seventh edition). *Language Files*, Ohio State University Press.
2. Fromkin, Victoria and Robert Rodman (1998: sixth edition). *An Introduction to Language*, Harcourt Brace College Publishers.

**PREPARER'S NAME AND DATE:** Dr. Keumkil Kim Yoon 6/1/91

**DEPARTMENT APPROVAL DATE:** 10/1/91

**REVISER'S NAME AND DATE:** Dr. Keumkil Kim Yoon 1/3/00, Dr. Bruce Williams 12/9/04.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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Jellicoe, John (1983). *Explanatory Models in Linguistics*, Princeton, Princeton University Press.

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Skousen, Royal (1989). *Analogical Modeling of Language*, Boston: Kluwer Academic Publishers.

Smith, Neil and Deirdre Wilson (1980). *Modern Linguistics: The Results of Chomsky's Revolution*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press.

Spolsky, Bernard (1973). *Educational Linguistics*, Rowley, Mass: Newbury House.

Wilkins, Wendy (Ed. 1988). *Syntax and Semantics: Thematic Relations*. San Diego: Academic Press.

Wunderlich, Dieter (translated by Roger Lass, 1979). *Foundations of Linguistics*, Cambridge Mass: Cambridge University Press.