LING 2001-EM6L: Introduction to Linguistics
Spring 2026
Monday/Wednesday 6:05-7:45 pm

Instructor: Matthew Stuck
Email: mstuck@gradcenter.cuny.edu
Office hours: by appointment
Location: Zoom / Passcode: **113894**

Course Description:
This course introduces students to the core fields within linguistics and the methods of linguistic analysis. We investigate how words and sounds are structured (morphology and phonology), how words are put together to form sentences (syntax), and the systematic ways these units convey meaning (semantics). We will also survey a variety of topics: pragmatics and discourse structure, brain and language, child language acquisition, adult language acquisition, and some sociocultural and dialectal aspects of language.

Course Goals:
Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to

- Solve elementary problems in phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics.
- Identify and describe key concepts in *brain and language*, *first vs second language acquisition*, and r*egional and social language variation.*

Required Texts:
A PDF of the 6th edition of the course text is freely available online and has been posted to BB under *'Readings'*. It is also accessible by clicking here. If you wish to purchase the most recent edition (ed. 8), information is provided below:
Yule, George. *The Study of Language 8th edition.* Cambridge University Press, 2022
ISBN-13: 978-1009233408
ISBN-10: 1009233408

Attendance:
Attend regularly, arrive on time and be prepared to participate. Get notes and assignments you missed from Brightspace or a classmate before contacting me with questions about the material. All homework assignments, keys and PPT slides are posted regularly on Brightspace. **You must have your camera turned on for the majority of class time, or you will be marked absent.**

If you need to miss class for religious reasons, please let me know ahead of time so we can make arrangements for you to make up any missed quizzes or assignments. Only **one quiz** throughout the semester may be made up, so long as the student has an approved excuse for missing it on the original date.

Evaluative Criteria:
The easiest way to pass this class is to show up and turn everything in. Each time we meet you will have a small homework assignment due at the beginning of the next class. While I expect you to have done the homework in advance of class, you may submit your homework before the end of class time on the day it is due **(by 7:45 pm)**. We will review answers to homeworks at the

top of class; this gives you an opportunity to get immediate feedback on how you did. You may make changes to your answers based on our in-class discussion before submitting.

I will not accept late submissions of assignments since we will review the answers during class and keys will be posted following the lecture. These assignments will be graded for **thoughtful completion.**

Final grades calculated as follows:

10 pts Attendance
15 pts Homework assignments (1pt/ HW)
25 pts Quizzes (5 pts/ quiz)
40 pts Exams (20 pts/ exam)
10 pts Lightning Talk (Details provided Week 8)

Refer to the following scale for letter grade translations (1pt = 1%):

A+ 100%	B+ 87-89%	C+ 77-79%	C+ 77-79%
A 94-99%	B 83-86%	C 73-76%10	D 63-66%
A- 90-93%	B- 80-82%	C- 70-72%	F 0-62%

Accommodations:
In order to receive disability-related academic accommodations students must first be registered with the Center for Student Disability Services. Students who have a documented disability or suspect they may have a disability are invited to set up an appointment with the Director of the Center for Student Disability Services, Ms. Valerie Stewart-Lovell at (718) 951-5538. If you have already registered with the Center for Student Disability Services, please provide your professor with the course accommodation form and discuss your specific accommodation with him/her.

Plagiarism Policy:
The faculty and administration of Brooklyn College support an environment free from cheating and plagiarism. Each student is responsible for being aware of what constitutes cheating and plagiarism and for avoiding both. The complete text of the CUNY Academic Integrity Policy and the Brooklyn College procedure for policy implementation can be found at www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/bc/policies. If a faculty member suspects a violation of academic integrity and, upon investigation, confirms that violation, or if the student admits the violation, the faculty member *must* report the violation.

Please don't plagiarize.

Email:
The best way to get a hold of me is by email. I will respond to all emails within 24 hours; if I haven't gotten back to you by then, assume I didn't receive the email and resend it. I will also contact you via email regarding class updates, and expect you to check the email account you have on file with CUNY regularly (at least once every 48 hours). Please only send messages via email (not via Brightspace).

Course Calendar – Spring 2026

Date	Topic	Quiz Dates
Week 1 26-Jan 28-Jan Asynchronous	**Syllabus + Intros** **Watch Video: Babies and Language**	
Week 2 2-Feb 4-Feb	Ch 1: **Origins of Human Language** Ch 2: **Animals and Human Language**	
Week 3 9-Feb 11-Feb	Ch 3: **Sounds**	
Week 4 16-Feb College Closed 18-Feb	No Class (February 16th) Ch 4: **Sound Patterns**	Quiz #1 (18-Feb): Chs 1-3
Week 5 23-Feb 25-Feb Asynchronous	Ch 4: **Sound Patterns Continued** **Watch Video: Sound Patterns Crash Course**	
Week 6 2-Mar 4-Mar	Ch 5: **Word Formation**	
Week 7 9-Mar - No Class 11-Mar	**Watch Videos: Morphology, Morphosyntax** Ch 6: **Morphology**	Quiz #2 (9-Mar): Chs 4-5
Week 8 16-Mar 18-Mar	Ch 7: **Grammar** Ch 8: **Syntax: Constituent Analysis**	
Week 9 23-Mar 25-Mar	Ch 8: **Syntax: Phrase Structure Rules** Midterm Review	Quiz #3 (23-Mar): Chs 6-7
Week 10 30-Mar 1-Apr	**Midterm Exam -Asynchronous (30-Mar)** **Spring Recess** (April 1st -April 9th)	
Week 11 6-Apr 8-Apr	**Spring Recess Continued**	
Week 12 13-Apr 15-Apr	Ch 9: **Semantics** Chs 10-11: **Pragmatics & Discourse**	
Week 13 20-Apr 22-Apr	Ch 12: **Brain & Language** Chs 13-14: **Language Acquisition**	Quiz #4 (20-Apr): Chs 8-9

Week 14 27-Apr Asynchronous 29-Apr	 Watch Video: Talking Black In America **Student Lightning Talks: Group A**	Quiz #5 (27-Apr): Chs 10-12
Week 15 4-May 6-May	 **Student Lightning Talks: Group B** **Student Lightning Talks: Group C**	
Week 16 11-May 13-May	 Final Review **FINAL EXAM-Asynchronous (13-May)**	

Special CUNY Dates:
2/12: College closed
2/16: College closed
2/16: Grade of W is assigned to students who officially withdraw from a course
2/17: No classes scheduled
3/20: No classes scheduled
4/1-4/9: Spring recess
4/13: Last day to drop a course with a grade of W
4/21: Classes follow Thursday schedule
5/25: College closed
5/26: End of spring term

Some of my favorite online linguistics sources:
Eric Singer: A dialect coach who knows much about accents and language variation
NativLang: A YouTube channel dedicated to exploring topics on grammar, language change, writing systems, etc.
Lingthusiasm: A linguistics podcast by Gretchen McCulloch and Lauren Gawne
Lexicon Valley: A linguistics podcast by John McWhorter
Taylor Jones A sociolinguist who posts videos on various language-related topics
MIT Courses: An introductory linguistics course by Prof. Norvin Richards of MIT