

ANTH 125 Investigations in an Unfamiliar Language Fall 2003

Meeting Time: MWR 1:10pm – 02:00pm (R 02:10pm - 03:00pm)
Location: Volen 106
Instructor: Barbara Citko
Instructor's Office: Volen 214
Office Hours: W 2:30pm-4:30 pm (and by appointment)
Office Phone: 6-3279
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Course Description:

This course will introduce you to the basic techniques of eliciting, recording and analyzing linguistic data solicited from a speaker of a language previously unknown to you. It will also cover some of the practical, theoretical and ethical issues on doing linguistic fieldwork.

Books:

Payne, Thomas. 1997. Describing Morphosyntax. A Guide for Morphosyntax. Cambridge University Press.
Newman, Paul, and Martha Ratliff (eds). 2001. Linguistic Fieldwork. Cambridge University Press.

Requirements:

This course requires active participation and a collective approach to doing research. During the course, you will focus on some aspect of the phonological, lexical, syntactic, or semantic system of the language under consideration, and produce an original research paper based on data gathered during the course. You will take turns leading elicitation sessions. Before your elicitation session, give each student a worksheet showing what you want to investigate during the session. A write-up of each elicitation will be due a week after your elicitation.

Grading Policy:

Class participation + attendance	10%
Elicitations (leading the class discussion + write-ups/homework assignments)	40%
class presentation	20%
final paper	30%
total	100%

Final grades will be based approximately on the following scale:

100-94%	A	76-74%	C
93-90%	A-	73-70%	C-
89-87%	B+	69-67%	D+
86-84%	B	66-64%	D
83-80%	B-	63-60%	D-
79-77%	C+	59-0%	F

Course Outline

The nature of the course makes it impossible to give a precise schedule. To some extent, you're responsible for the content of the course by finding the topics you want to investigate, carrying out the investigation, and sharing the results with the rest of us. In addition to the readings on the syllabus, there might be some additional readings that I will either distribute in class or put on reserve.

Week 1: Introduction. Practicalities, keeping field notes, ethics of fieldwork, meeting the consultant.

Readings: Morphosyntax Chapters 1-2, *Linguistic Fieldwork* Introduction, Chapters 3 and 9.

Weeks 2-3: Basic Lexicography. Names, greetings, body parts, color terms. Making sense of the initial data. Review of IPA. Towards a phonetic analysis.

Weeks 4: Grammatical Categories

Readings: Morphosyntax Chapter 4

Individual Meetings with instructor to discuss possible research/elicitation topics.

Weeks 5-6: Nouns and Related Matters: Number, Case, Articles, Determiners, and Demonstratives, Class and Gender, Possession, Predicate Nominals and Related Constructions

Readings: Morphosyntax: Chapters 5-6

Weeks 7-8: Verbs and Related Matters: Agreement, Tense/Aspect/Mode, Voice

Readings: Morphosyntax Chapters 8-9

Week 9: Word Order Typology

Readings: Morphosyntax Chapter 4

Week 10: Negation

Week 11-12: Clause Combinations: Serial Verbs, Complement Clauses, Relative Clauses, Coordination, Switch Reference

Week 13: Questions

Week 14: Student presentations

If you are a student with a documented disability on record at Brandeis University and wish to have a reasonable accommodation made for you in this class, please see me immediately.

You are expected to be honest in all of your academic work. The University policy on academic honesty is distributed annually as section 5 of the Rights and Responsibilities handbook. Instances of alleged dishonesty will be forwarded to the Office of Campus Life for possible referral to the Student Judicial System. Potential sanctions include failure in the course and suspension from the University. If you have any questions about my expectations, please ask.