LINGUISTICS 200:
Introduction to Linguistic Thought

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Today

- Introductions
- Course goals
- Syllabus overview
- Questions

Readings: 1.1-1.2

sections in Language Files related to the material being discussed.
Introductions
Course Goals

- Broaden understanding of human language: What it is, How it works, How it is used
- Recognize the *universal* qualities of language, as well as its *diversity*
- Become familiar with major subfields of linguistic research
- See how linguistics can be used in related fields as well as in everyday life
Syllabus

- Assignments
- Policies
- Calendar
- Resources
  - Ling200 Website, at:
    http://faculty.washington.edu/~wassink
  - Practice problems in Language Learning Center, rm108, Denny Hall Basement or,
No Thursday sections this week

1. Complete assigned reading and student questionnaire
   http://courses.washington.edu/ling200/questionnaire.doc
   2. Email questionnaire to your TA

Friday’s class

The Human Language Series, vol. 1
Intro: Part the second

- What is Linguistics?
- Descriptive vs. Prescriptive grammar
- Linguistic competence vs. performance

Readings: 1.3-1.4, 2.1
Why study language?

- Language is a uniquely human characteristic
- It is a means of understanding what it is to be human.
What is Linguistics?

The scientific study and analysis of human language.
Concerned with the human capacity for language.
Linguistics is NOT...

...the study of how to speak properly