

Monterey Peninsula College/Linguistics
Ling 15 "Introduction to Linguistics" ~ Course Syllabus

Part 1: Course Information

Instructor Information

- **Instructor:** Richard Abend
- **Office:** HSS 123
- **Office Hours:** Tuesday & Thursday 10:30 - noon, Wednesday 1-3 pm
- **Office Telephone:** (831) 646-4112
- **E-mail:** rabend@mpc.edu

Course Description

This course introduces students to the science of language, focusing on its role in social interaction, identity, and world view. First- and second-language acquisition, sign language, writing, gendered language, dialects, and language change are also examined.

Linguistics is defined as the Science of Language and like all sciences, it has various branches. For example, the study of the sounds of language is one very large part of linguistics and is divided into two separate areas: phonetics and phonology. Linguistics also has branches that examine words (morphology), how words are combined into phrases and sentences (syntax), the meanings of words and phrases (semantics) and how context affects meaning (pragmatics). Other areas of linguistics focus on language use by specific groups of people (sociolinguistics) and the effect a language has on its users (linguistic anthropology). Language learning (language acquisition), sign language, written forms of language, and communicating without words (nonverbal communication) are other branches of the science of language. Linguistics also examines how languages are related to each other and how languages change over time (historical linguistics).

Our class will introduce each of these core areas of linguistics to you. Please, don't be intimidated! As a native speaker of a language, you possess tremendous knowledge about language. As a matter of fact, you already know more about your own language than the entire field of linguistics has discovered. Unfortunately, you are not consciously aware of what you already perfectly know! But, this class will help you see it.

Enjoy our class and please stay in contact with me and the rest of our group. It's too easy to get lost in cyber-space, and remember that you are not alone. We are all in this together! I enjoy teaching and especially enjoy linguistics, so please feel free to contact me as often as you like. I want you to succeed and also to enjoy our class. Let me help you do that.

To keep our class manageable, each week will be organized similarly. Each Monday morning by 8 am, the week's activities will be ready for you on our class' homepage. You will find links to that week's activities. There will also be links for you to submit assignments and take quizzes. We will exchange very few actual papers during the semester. Almost everything will be completed electronically. Of course, save all your files because things sometimes do get lost.

GE Areas

MPC C, D CSU C2, D7 IGETC 3B, 4G

Textbook

- Required Text: *A Concise Introduction to Linguistics*, Third Edition, Authors: Bruce M. Rowe and Diane P. Levine © 2012 Pearson

Course Requirements

- Internet connection (DSL, LAN, or cable connection desirable)
- Access to MPC Online

Online Course Structure

This is a fully-online course. All course activities and resources can be found through our course website on MPC Online. All of the learning activities are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. However, each activity has a time frame which is listed in the course. Please stay on schedule with the class.

MPC Online Access & Technical Assistance

Visit the [MPC Online login page \(http://mpconline.mpc.edu\)](http://mpconline.mpc.edu) and follow the instructions to login. To access this course on MPC Online you will need access to the Internet and a supported Web browser (Internet Explorer, Firefox, Safari). Visit the MPC Online Student Orientation & Support link for information about accessing MPC Online, tips to help you get started, and information about how to [Contact the MPC Online Help Desk](#) for support.

General Education Objectives

MPC Area C, Humanities:

Upon successful completion of this area, students will have demonstrated an ability to analyze and interpret human thought, achievement, and expression relevant to such branches of knowledge as philosophy, literature, and/or the fine and performing arts, and to communicate the results.

MPC Area D, Social Sciences:

Upon successful completion of this area, students will have demonstrated an ability to critically examine and comprehend human nature and behavior, social traditions, and institutions.

Student Learning Objectives

At the conclusion of this class, you will be able to

- Use the common vocabulary of linguistics
- Define Language and describe its systematic nature.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students have demonstrated the ability to:

1. Apply linguistic theory and methods to analyze the relationships among languages and cultures.
2. Explain meaning with a structural linguistic methodology.
3. Evaluate the role of nonverbal communication in both animals and humans.
4. Examine language in socio-cultural events.
5. Analyze spoken language using the International Phonetic Alphabet.
6. Compare and contrast spoken and signed languages.

You will meet the objectives listed above through a combination of the following activities in this course:

- Reading our required textbook
- Participating in weekly forums
- Completing Chapter Quizzes
- Writing the final project

Topic Outline/Schedule

Activity and assignment details will be detailed within each week's corresponding learning module. If you have any questions, please contact me rabend@mpc.edu

WEEK ONE - "The Nature of Communication"

After the successful completion of week one, you will be able to:

1. *Explain the difference in meaning between communication and language.*

Reading: Chapter One “The Nature of Communication”
Forum - “Self-Introduction”
Quiz Chapter One

WEEK TWO - *Phonetics is the study of speech sounds: their physical properties, the way they are received and decoded by the brain and the way they are produced.*

After the successful completion of week two, you will be able to:

- 1. Identify what parts of the respiratory and digestive systems double as speech organs.*
- 2. Explain how one consonant is differentiated from another consonant.*
- 3. Explain how one vowel is differentiated from another vowel.*

Reading: Chapter Two - “Phonetics”
Forum
Quiz Chapter Two

WEEK THREE - *Phonology is the study of the sound system of a language.*

After the successful completion of week three, you will be able to:

- 1. Explain the terms phonemes and allophones*
- 2. Identify distinctive features*
- 3. Define the two major phonological processes*

Reading: Chapter Three - “Phonology”
Forum
Quiz Chapter Three

WEEK FOUR - *Morphology is the study of the structure and classification of words.*

After the successful completion of week three, you will be able to:

- 1. Explain how words are created from morphemes.*
- 2. Classify languages according to type.*
- 3. Describe ways new words are formed.*

Reading: Chapter Four - “The Morphological Component”
Forum
Quiz Chapter Four

WEEK FIVE - *Syntax is the study of how words are arranged into phrases and sentences.*

After the successful completion of weeks five and six, you will be able to:

- 1. Describe how language is rule governed.*
- 2. Discuss Noam Chomsky and his some of his contributions to linguistics*
- 3. Explain transformational rules*

Reading: Chapter Five - "Syntax" Part 1
Forum

WEEK SIX -

Reading: Chapter Five - "Syntax" Part 2
Forum
Quiz Chapter Five

WEEK SEVEN - *Semantics is the study of the meaning of morphemes, words, phrases, and sentences. Pragmatics is the effect of context on meaning.*

After the successful completion of week seven, you will be able to:

- 1. Name the various kinds of meaning*
- 2. Explain the semantic properties of a word*
- 3. Explain the various kinds of speech acts*
- 4. Define maxims of conversation*
- 5. Provide examples of how maxims of conversation differ cross-culturally*

Reading: Chapter Six - "Semantics and Pragmatics"
Forum
Quiz Chapter Six

WEEK EIGHT - *Sociolinguistics is the study of how language and social factors such as ethnicity and gender are related. Linguistic Anthropology looks at how language influences thought and experience.*

After the successful completion of week eight, you will be able to:

- 1. Define language community and dialect.*
- 2. Identify the key characteristics of African American English and Hispanic English.*
- 3. Explain pidgin, creole, and situational dialects.*
- 4. Explain code-switching*
- 5. Discuss how language establishes social identity and gender.*

Reading: Chapter Seven - "Sociolinguistics and Linguistic Anthropology"
Forum
Quiz Chapter Seven

WEEK NINE - *This week you will have the opportunity to follow your own linguistic interests by researching a topic of your choice and sharing your research with the class.*

"Share Your Research" Forum

WEEK TEN - *Week Ten focuses on how people acquire first and second languages.*

After the successful completion of week ten, you will be able to:

1. *Explain the major theories of language acquisition*
2. *Describe how children acquire phonology, syntax, morphology, and a lexicon.*
3. *Define the different forms of bilingualism.*
4. *Compare first and second language acquisition.*

Reading: Chapter Eight - "Language Acquisition"

Forum

Quiz Chapter Eight

WEEK ELEVEN - *Week Eleven focuses on Sign Language.*

After successful completion of week eleven, you will be able to:

1. *Explain that sign language is a natural human language.*
2. *List misconceptions about sign language.*
3. *Explain the main parameters of sign language.*
4. *Discuss Deaf Culture.*

Reading: Chapter Nine - "Sign Language"

Forum

Quiz Chapter Nine

WEEK TWELVE - *Week Twelve focuses on writing, the graphic representation of speech.*

After successful completion of week twelve, you will be able to:

1. *Name the three main graphic representations of speech.*
2. *Explain the English spelling functions.*
3. *Compare and contrast writing and speech.*

Reading: Chapter Ten - "Writing Systems"

Forum

Quiz Chapter Ten

Final Project Announced

WEEK THIRTEEN - *Nonverbal communication occurs between people by means other than spoken or written words or sign language.*

After successful completion of weeks thirteen and fourteen, you will be able to:

1. *Identify the difference between verbal and nonverbal communication.*
2. *Define some of the main categories of nonverbal communication.*
3. *Provide examples of differences in cross-cultural nonverbal communication.*

Reading: Chapter Eleven - "Nonverbal Communication" Part 1

Forum

WEEK FOURTEEN -

Reading: Chapter Eleven - “Nonverbal Communication” Part 2
Forum
Quiz Chapter Eleven

WEEK FIFTEEN - *Historical Linguistics is the study of how languages change over time and the relationship among different languages.*

After successful completion of week fifteen, you will be able to:

- 1. Name the main reasons languages change over time.*
- 2. Identify famous names in historical linguistics.*
- 3. Compare and contrast the family tree and wave models.*
- 4. Explain Grimm’s Law.*
- 5. Provide examples of morphological, sociocultural, and semantic change.*
- 6. Explain the world wide popularity of English.*

Reading: Chapter Twelve - “Historical Linguistics”
Forum
Quiz Chapter Twelve

WEEK SIXTEEN -

Forum
Submit Final Project

Part 4: Grading Policy

Graded Course Activities

Late Work Policy: Your responses to forum prompts are due by Thursday evening of each week, your replies to other students’ postings are due by Saturday evening of each week, and quizzes must be completed by midnight on Sunday. Please contact me immediately if you miss any of these deadlines.

Viewing Grades in MPC Online

Points you receive for graded activities will be posted to the MPC Online Grade Book.

Select Grades from the Course Administration menu at the top of the screen to view your points. Quiz scores are updated immediately. Your Final Project score and Final Grade will be available three to four days after the class completes.

Letter Grade Assignment

Final grades assigned for this course will be based on the percentage of total points earned and are assigned as follows:

Letter Grade	Percentage	Performance
A	90-100%	Excellent Work
B	80-89%	Good Work
C	70-79%	Average Work
D	60-69%	Poor Work
F	0-59%	Failing Work

Grading Criteria

Forums = 10% of the final grade

Quizzes = 65% of the final grade

Final Project = 25% of the final grade

Important note: For more information about grading at Monterey Peninsula College, visit the [academic policies and grading section](#) of the university catalog.

Part 5: Course Policies

Course Communication: My first choice of communication with you is through email rabend@mpc.edu. I respond to emails seven days a week, usually within 12 hours. My second choice of communication is through my on-campus office phone (831) 646-4112. Leave a message and I will respond within a day, seven days a week. If you don't hear back from me within a day, please email or call me again.

Participation

Students are expected to participate twice weekly in online forum activities.

Build Rapport

If you find that you have any trouble keeping up with assignments or other aspects of the course, make sure you let your instructor know as early as possible. As you will find, building rapport and effective relationships are key to becoming an effective professional. Make sure that you are proactive in informing your instructor when difficulties arise during the semester so that we can help you find a solution.

Complete Assignments

All assignments for this course will be submitted electronically through MPC Online unless otherwise instructed. Assignments must be submitted by the given deadline or special permission must be requested from instructor *before the due date*. Extensions will not be given beyond the next assignment except under extreme circumstances.

All discussion assignments must be completed by the assignment due date and time. Late or missing discussion assignments will lower your grade.

Drop Policy: The number of times a student may attempt a class is limited to three times per class by the California Community College system. To prevent any future problems, if you have not completed at least one forum or quiz during the first two weeks of class, you will be dropped without any record of you having registered for the class. Beginning in the third week of the semester, a drop from the class is noted by a **W** on your official college transcript. The last day to drop a class is the 12th week of the semester. It is your responsibility to drop the class after the second week of the semester.

Incomplete Policy

Under emergency/special circumstances, students may petition for an incomplete grade. An incomplete will be assigned if the only assignment missing is the Final Project. All incomplete course assignments must be completed within one year.

Inform Your Instructor of Any Accommodations Needed

If you have a disability and would like to request accommodations, please contact the instructor during the first week of the semester so that your accommodations may be provided in a timely manner. [Supportive Services & Instruction](#) (SS&I) provides assistance in determining and facilitating appropriate accommodations for students with

verified disabilities. The SS&I office is located on the first floor of the Student Services building (STS 115).

Monterey Peninsula College's Academic Honesty Policy & Procedures

From the [MPC Academic Catalog](#): Academic honesty is a cornerstone of the educational community; therefore, students are expected to understand the standards of academic honesty as they pertain to students' behavior in the classroom.

Plagiarism

It is important for students to acknowledge sources that are used for completing classroom assignments. Plagiarism is a form of academic dishonesty.

Plagiarism may be any one of the following:

1. Verbatim copying without proper documentation of the source(s).
2. Paraphrasing without proper documentation of the source(s).
3. Unacknowledged appropriation of information or ideas from someone else.

If students have any questions about these forms of plagiarism or about an assignment they are preparing, they should ask their instructor for clarification rather than risk unintentional plagiarism.

Cheating

It is important for students to act in an honest and trustworthy manner. Work performed on examinations or other forms of evaluation must represent an individual's own work, knowledge and experience of the subject matter. Students are expected to follow the classroom rules established by the instructor.

Cheating may be any one of the following:

1. Unauthorized looking at or procuring information from any unauthorized sources or from another student's work during an examination or from any work that will be graded or given points.
2. Unauthorized acquiring, reading or learning of test questions prior to the testing date and time.
3. Changing any portion of a returned graded test or report and resubmitting it as an original work to be re-graded.
4. Presenting the work of another as one's own for a grade or points.
5. Knowingly assisting another student in cheating.

This list is not all-inclusive and the list itself is not meant to limit the definition of cheating to just these items mentioned.

Consequences of Academic Dishonesty

The disciplinary action for cheating or plagiarism is up to the discretion of the instructor. The instructor may select one or more of the following options:

1. Issue an oral or written notification and warn the student that further acts of this sort will result in additional disciplinary action.
2. Issue an “NP” or a failing grade (“F”) or “0” for the assignment in question.
3. Refer the student to the Vice President for Student Services for disciplinary action.