Dates: 3/2/09

1. **ACADEMIC UNIT:** School of International Letters and Cultures

2. **COURSE PROPOSED:** SLC 201 "Introduction to Language and Linguistics" 3.0
   (prefix) (number) (title) (semester hours)

3. **CONTACT PERSON:**
   - Name: Dan Devitt
   - Phone: 7-0098
   - Mail Code: 0202
   - E-Mail: ddevitt@imap3.asu.edu

4. **ELIGIBILITY:** New courses must be approved by the Tempe Campus Curriculum Subcommittee and must have a regular course number. For the rules governing approval of omnibus courses, contact the General Studies Program Office at 965-0739.

5. **AREA(S) PROPOSED COURSE WILL SERVE:** A single course may be proposed for more than one core or awareness area. A course may satisfy a core area requirement and more than one awareness area requirements concurrently, but may not satisfy requirements in two core areas simultaneously, even if approved for those areas. With departmental consent, an approved General Studies course may be counted toward both the General Studies requirement and the major program of study. (Please submit one designation per proposal)

   **Core Areas**
   - Literacy and Critical Inquiry-L
   - Mathematical Studies-MA
   - Humanities, Fine Arts and Design-HU
   - Social and Behavioral Sciences-SB
   - Natural Sciences-SQ

   **Awareness Areas**
   - Global Awareness-G
   - Historical Awareness-H
   - Cultural Diversity in the United States-C

6. **DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED.**
   1. Course Description
   2. Course Syllabus
   3. Criteria Checklist for the area
   4. Table of Contents from the textbook used, if available

7. **In the space provided below (or on a separate sheet), please also provide a description of how the course meets the specific criteria in the area for which the course is being proposed.**

   CROSS-LISTED COURSES: X No ☐ Yes; Please identify courses: ______________________________

   Is this a multisection course?: ☐ No X Yes; Is it governed by a common syllabus? Yes

   **Robert Joe Cutter**
   Chair/Director (Print or Type)
   Date: 3/5/09

   Chair/Director (Signature)

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New Course
Course description: Examines the nature and diversity of world languages, linguistic structures and functions of language, language variation, pragmatics, and language acquisition.

Enrollment requirements: None
SLC 201
"Introduction to Language and Linguistics"
Spring 2009
TTh 3:00PM – 4:15PM
Durham Languages & Literature 275

INSTRUCTOR: Dan Devitt
E-MAIL: ddevitt@imap3.asu.edu
OFFICE: LL 649C
OFFICE HOURS: MW 3:30 - 5:30, or by appointment

Course Description:
This course offers a broad overview of language and the social and psychological phenomena associated with its use. Our aim is to identify elements that are shared by all languages, as well as the range of devices and strategies that different languages use to perform the same function. We will examine the definitional characteristics of language and general aspects of its structure and organization. We will also delve into issues related to the use of language, including how language users construct conversations, why and how languages develop dialects, and how language is learned and organized in the brain.

This course is a requirement for all majors in the School of International Letters and Cultures.

Required Text:
Language Files: Materials for an Introduction to Language and Linguistics (10th Edition) by Department of Linguistics, the Ohio State University. Columbus, OH: The Ohio State University Press.

The textbook is available at the ASU Bookstore.

Course Objectives:
Students in this course will:
- understand the definitional properties of language
- develop a critical awareness of explanations for language-related phenomena
- learn a vocabulary for talking about language and linguistic phenomena
- develop basic knowledge of procedures in linguistic analysis
- develop general academic skills in critical thinking, technological literacy and communication

Course Requirements:
The final grade in the course will be based on the student’s performance in the following areas:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Written Assignments</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thematic quizzes</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
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</table>
Explanation of course requirements

Attendance and Participation (10% each):

- Students are expected to come to class and to participate actively in the course. Therefore, this grade will be based on a general evaluation of students’ participation in terms of (a) attendance and punctuality, and (b) class, group, and pair discussions.

Punctual attendance is required unless a student has a legitimate excuse (e.g., documentation of a medical or other type of emergency). Students who are absent or late are responsible for finding out what they have missed. Repeated unexcused absences or lateness will result in a significant deduction in the final total of points for attendance.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Students critically assigned</th>
<th>Zero or one absence</th>
<th>10 points</th>
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<tr>
<td>Two absences</td>
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<td>Three absences</td>
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<td>Four absences</td>
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<td>Five absences</td>
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<td>Six absences</td>
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<td>Seven or more absences</td>
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must come to class prepared to engage in the material covered in the readings in small groups or with the whole. Throughout the semester, will collaborate to solve problem out mini-projects and answer discussion questions. For most major themes treated in the course, students will participate in a discussion on a topic related to the theme using the Discussion board function in Blackboard. Further guidelines will be distributed.

Written assignments (20%):

- Throughout the semester students will be expected to complete written assignments, which may take the form of responding to guiding questions from readings, applying new knowledge (e.g., problem-solving activities), making identifications or giving definitions, critically reviewing materials, writing essays or reflections on concepts discussed in class, and comparing/contrasting key concepts.

There are two main types of written assignments: exercises from the textbook and written projects. The exercises from *Language Files* listed in the course calendar are intended to expose you to data and concepts we discuss in class. Answers to these exercises should be written out and handed in. These assignments will be graded on a pass/fail basis. The other assignment type is the written project. There will be three projects over the semester, and they will require you to collect and organize data and react to critical questions. Specific guidelines for each project will be made available on the dates indicated on the calendar. The projects will be evaluated on a five-point scale, based on effort (thoroughness of development of thoughts), completeness of assignment, evidence of critical thinking, organization, creativity, and use of academic English.

Students’ punctual submission of assignments is required unless (a) a student makes prior arrangements with the instructor, or (b) a student has a legitimate excuse (e.g., documentation of a medical or other type of emergency). Unexcused missed deadlines will result in a deduction in the grade for the assignment.
Quizzes (40%)
- There will be quizzes given quarterly to test students’ command of major concepts in the course content. Quizzes will be administered through Blackboard, and they will include questions in a variety of formats: multiple choice, fill-ins, matching, definitions, data analysis and/or essays.

Final Exam (20%)
- The final exam for this course will also be given online through Blackboard. The exam will be comprehensive, and the format will be similar to that of the quizzes.

Tentative Schedule of Topics
(subject to revision)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>READING</th>
<th>ASSIGNMENTS/PROJECTS</th>
<th>TESTS &amp; NOTES</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WEEK 1</td>
<td>Introduction to the course; Some preliminaries about language:</td>
<td>LF 1.1 - 1.4</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- what language is</td>
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<td>- what language isn’t</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Animal communication vs. human language:</td>
<td>LF 14.1 - 14.3</td>
<td>LF 1.6 - Exercise #7, 9, 12, 20</td>
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<td>- How are they the same?</td>
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<td>- How are they different?</td>
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<tr>
<td>WEEK 2</td>
<td>Language diversity:</td>
<td>LF 12.2; 11.6</td>
<td>PROJECT #1 handed out</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Why are there different languages?</td>
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<td>- Why are we losing languages?</td>
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<td>- What is lost when a language dies?</td>
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<td>- What should the response to language loss be?</td>
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<td>WEEK 3</td>
<td>Language Structure: Phonetics – the science of speech sounds</td>
<td>LF 2.1 - 2.4</td>
<td>LF 2.8 – Exercise # 8 (a-d), 18, 19(b-i), 20 (b-f)</td>
<td>QUIZ #1 deployed on Blackboard</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Making human sounds</td>
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<td>- “Exotic” noises – sample sounds from other languages</td>
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<td>- Pitch, tone and intonation</td>
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<td>WEEK 4</td>
<td>Language Structure: Phonology – the psychology of sound systems</td>
<td>LF 3.1; 3.3</td>
<td>PROJECT #1 due</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- The notion of “phoneme”</td>
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<td>- Determining the status of sounds in a language you don’t know</td>
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<td>- Common phonological processes</td>
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<td>- The structure of syllables: onsets rhymes and codas</td>
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<td>WEEK 5</td>
<td>Language Structure: Morphology-what’s in a word?</td>
<td>LF 4.1; 4.2; 4.3; 4.5</td>
<td>LF 4.6 – Exercise # 4 (a-d), 6, 30</td>
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<td>- The variability of words cross-linguistically</td>
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<td>- The notion of “morpheme”</td>
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<td>- Code-breaking: Analyzing words in a language you don’t know</td>
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<td>- Common processes of word-building</td>
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</table>
| WEEK 6 | Language Structure: Syntax-the structure of sentences  
- The independence of syntactic structure  
- Lexical classes as universal categories  
- Parameters of syntactic description: word order and case marking  
- Grammatical roles and cross-linguistic variability | LF 5.1 – 5.6 | LF 5.7 – Exercise # 1, 10, 16 (a-b), 21 | QUIZ #2 deployed on Blackboard |
| WEEK 7 | Language Structure: Semantics-what do you mean by that?  
- The nature of linguistic meaning  
- How to describe meaning  
- Lexical semantics and sense relations  
- Propositional semantics and “fuzzy” meaning  
- The interpretation of metaphor | LF 6.1; 6.2; 9.5 | LF 6.6 – Exercise #3, 7, 12, 13, 19  
PROJECT #2 handed out |
| WEEK 8 | Writing systems: giving speech permanence  
- Written language vs. spoken language  
- The nature of writing  
- The history of writing  
- Types of writing  
Pragmatics: Meaning in Its Communicative Context  
- Speaker meaning vs. literal meaning  
- The description of speech acts | LF 13.4 |  |
| WEEK 9 | Intercultural (Mis)Communication  
- The rules of conducting a conversation  
- Discourse routines and genres  
- How to apologize in English, Russian and Hebrew  
- The linguistic expression of politeness  
- Cultural stereotypes through discourse patterns | LF 7.4 – 7.5 | LF 7.6 – Exercise #3, 7, 14, 34, 40  
QUIZ #3 deployed on Blackboard |
| WEEK 10 | Language Variation: dialects and standards  
- How is a dialect different from a language?  
- How and why do dialects develop?  
- Who determines the standard variety? | LF 10.1 –10.4 | LF 10.5 – Exercise #4, 12, 13, 14, 15, 23 |
| WEEK 11 | Bilingualism, multilingualism and language contact  
- 6000 languages ÷ 200 countries: the ubiquity of multilingualism  
- Is multilingualism a problem or an | LF 11.1 – 11.4, 13.1 | PROJECT #3 handed out |
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<tr>
<th>WEEK 12</th>
<th>Language, Culture and Thought</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• The relation between language and culture: Does the language you speak determine your view of the world?</td>
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<td>• Linguistic relativity/the Sapir-Whorf Hypothesis</td>
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<td>• Some potential examples of grammaticalized cultural values</td>
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<td>• Experimental investigations into linguistic relativity: time, space, shape and color</td>
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<td></td>
<td>LF 13.3</td>
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<td>QUIZ #4 deployed on Blackboard</td>
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<tr>
<th>WEEK 13</th>
<th>Language and the brain: neurolinguistics and psycholinguistics</th>
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<td></td>
<td>• What part(s) of the brain are involved in language?</td>
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<td>• The impact of experience: monolinguism vs. bilingualism</td>
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<td>• Figuring out language processing through psychological testing</td>
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<td>• What slips of the tongue reveal about language processing</td>
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<td>LF 9.1 – 9.3</td>
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<td>LF 9.8 – Exercise #2, 4, 8, 9, 13</td>
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<th>WEEK 14</th>
<th>First Language Acquisition</th>
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<tr>
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<td>• Nature vs. nurture: how do babies learn language?</td>
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<td>• The Innatist view of first language acquisition</td>
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<td>• Milestones in child language development</td>
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<td>• The significance of children’s linguistic inventions</td>
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<td>LF 8.1 - 8.3</td>
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<td>PROJECT #3 due</td>
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<tr>
<th>WEEK 15</th>
<th>Second Language Acquisition</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Why is it harder for older learners to acquire proficiency?</td>
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<td>• Is second language acquisition different from first language acquisition?</td>
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<td>• Methods of language teaching</td>
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<td>• Minority language rights and language policy</td>
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<td>• Bilingual education, heritage languages and language maintenance</td>
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<td>LF 8.5</td>
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<td>LF 8.6 – Exercise #1, 3, 6, 8, 16, 22</td>
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Examples of past projects assigned in
SLC 201
SLC 201 - Introduction to Language and Linguistics
Project #3 - Slang

As has been mentioned, dialect differences may be noted in all levels of language—vocabulary, pronunciation and grammar. Of these three major components of variation, the vocabulary, or *lexical variation*, is probably the area in which people note these differences most readily. Slang is an example of this kind of lexical variation. The variation often goes along with other divisions that occur within speech communities, i.e. they occur along regional, social, ethnic or generational lines.

Another point we made is that most slang terms aren’t usually around long enough to enter the mainstream; therefore, you can’t look them up in dictionaries or usage guides. Despite that fact, people do develop usage patterns that suggest they have an awareness of constraints on usage. In this project, you’ll examine contemporary slang and attempt to do a basic lexicographic description of them.

1. Think of at least five slang terms that you use yourself or that you observe your peers using. For each term, offer a preliminary definition in your own words. (Also as you do this, think of what makes these examples of slang. How do you know that they are slang?)

2. Ask five of your peers what the term means, i.e. have them define the word for you in other words. In addition, have them use the word in a sentence (or if at all possible, recall an actual use of the term.)

3. Try to uncover the connotations of each term. Do people think of it as having positive connotations (Do you use it to praise people or show admiration?), negative connotations (Do you use it to insult people?) or neutral connotations?

4. Try to uncover the register of each term. As slang terms, all are going to be considered informal, but see if you can get people to differentiate between them in terms of whether they are *polite* (acceptable in use with acquaintances), *familiar* (only used with intimate friends) or *vulgar* (cannot be used, e.g. with members of the opposite gender or members of the older generation).

5. Compile your findings into a mini-dictionary. (Remember: dictionaries are descriptive grammar.) For each entry, indicate part of speech, a generalized sense (based on what seems to be common to all the definitions you collected), an example of the term in use, and descriptive notes of its connotations and register.

6. Ask three older people what the five terms mean and collect their responses. Ask them for two terms they think of as slang.

7. Write a reflective essay reacting to the process and what it tells you about slang. You can comment on any aspect that impresses you, but you should be sure to include some discussion on the following points:
   - what is slang?
   - how much variation did you find in definitions offered by your peers for the slang terms? was there general agreement or wide variation? what does that tell you about lexical knowledge in a speech community?
   - how does slang relate across generations? were older speakers aware of your generation’s slang? did you know the slang terms the older respondents offered up? are they, in your opinion, slang? if someone uses those slang terms, does it sound funny? what does that suggest about the life cycle of slang terms?
Do ONE of the following:

Option 1
Investigate Spanglish. There seems to be a difference of opinion among linguists as to what the linguistic status of Spanglish is. Is it a dialect of Spanish? A dialect of English? A pidgin? A creole? Ask several Spanish-English bilinguals their opinion of Spanglish. (Try to get a range of respondents—different ages, different backgrounds) What do they think it is? Do they have a positive opinion of it, a negative opinion, or a neutral opinion? What is their impression as to who uses Spanglish? What is the function of Spanglish? In your reflective essay, report the general trends that you noted from your interviews. Do the answers help you make a decision as to what the status of Spanglish is?

Option 2
Watch two hours of television (I told you that linguistic data is everywhere), changing the channel every half hour. For each half hour segment, make notes about the different dialects you hear. Try to identify one example of from each of the levels of dialect variation we talked about in class (accent, lexicon, sentence structure). Summarize your findings in a table, and write a reflective essay reacting to the exercise. In your reflective essay, address the following points:

- do the dialect features seem authentic? (e.g., do the people who are supposed to be about your age talk like you, use the slang terms you use, etc. We also talked about some features of African-American vernacular. Do African-American characters seem to be using those features as they’ve been described by linguists?)
- are dialects used to convey information about characters (e.g. in class we mentioned the commonly observed correlation between the Southern accent and implied lack of intelligence), and if so, what correlations can you note.
- what do you feel is the purpose of any dialect features used in the examples you viewed? are they there for comic effect? do they add authenticity to the dialogue? would the program, have been effective without the dialect features? explain why or why not.

Option 3
Investigate attitudes about dialects. Ask ten to twelve people to identify the regions of the U.S. where the people speak the best English and the worst English. (This recreates a research project done by Professor Dennis Preston in a clip we saw from Do You Speak American? You can download materials at the shows website: http://www.pbs.org/speak/speech/mapping/map.pdf.) I compiling data, be sure to collect background information about your respondents (i.e., age, native region (where did they grow up), language background). You should also ask respondents to describe the characteristics of the regional dialects that they consider to be the best and the worst. Also ask respondents to evaluate their own language: do they speak standard English? Finally, ask respondents whether it’s important to speak standard English and why/ why not, and whether dialects have any function. Summarize the responses in a table and write a reflective essay on the results. Your essay should address the following points:
• Is there an identifiable trend in people’s attitudes about different dialects of American English? (is there a particular region all or most people associate with incorrect usage or correct usage? Does it relate to the respondents’ native region?)

• What are the ramifications of the responses you get? What does a negative attitude about the dialect of a particular region imply? If respondents’ don’t evaluate their own dialect highly, what does that mean? How might such negative attitudes play out in real life?

• Are the attitudes linguistically valid? Do respondents’ answers seem to accurately describe actual features of the regions they identify, or are they stereotypes? Do respondents maintain that there are people who always speak standard English?
SLC 201 “Introduction to Language and Linguistics”
FIRST PROJECT – The Loss of Linguistic Diversity

In class we talked about the difficulties of getting an exact count of languages in the world, and one of the more reasons why it is difficult to get an accurate count is the rate at which languages are disappearing. For this first project you will be looking into language loss and reacting to your findings.

The primary resource you will consult for this project is Ethnologue, an encyclopedic collection of information about languages, their genetic affiliation and their speakers. A web-based version of Ethnologue can be found at http://www.ethnologue.com/web.asp.

1. For the first part of the project you are going to collect some basic numerical information and summarize it in a table.
   a. To get a general sense of the range of diversity and language spread, go to the Statistical Summaries (right side of the page under “Table of Contents”) and click on the summary “by World Region.” Which region of the world has the largest number of languages? Which region has the smallest number? Record this information in the first column of a table arranged from the highest to the lowest.
   b. Go back to the Table of Contents and click on “Nearly Extinct Languages.” In the second column of the table, record the values for each of the regions in the appropriate row.
   c. One might argue that it is possible to compare regions on their rates of language extinction. In a third column, figure out the rate of extinction as a simple ratio of the number of nearly extinct languages divided by the number of living languages.
   d. Go down the list of nearly extinct languages and for each region (i.e. Asia, Africa, etc.) identify the endangered language that has the largest number of remaining speakers. Record this information in a fourth column in the table. (For purposes of this exercise, only use confirmed speaker numbers. Ignore figures given for “ethnic population” since this typically means that, although the people can be identified as ethnically distinct, most of them no longer use their heritage language.)

2. Some scholars suggest that the numbers of speakers that Ethnologue indicates as marking “nearly extinct” languages are misleadingly low, and that languages with much larger populations of speakers can still be considered endangered. For the second part of the project we’ll focus on one particular sub-region: North America (Canada, US, and Mexico). Create a second table in which you summarize the following information: (All of this information is available in the individual entries for each of the countries.)
   a. How many living languages are spoken in each country?
   b. How many of those living languages have 10,000 or more speakers?
   c. How many of those living languages have 100,000 or more speakers? (for this category, also record the names of the individual languages)
   d. How many of the languages listed are extinct?

3. Write a brief essay reflecting on the issue of language endangerment and your impressions from sifting through the data available in Ethnologue. In your essay, you are free to comment on anything relevant to the issue of language death and linguistic diversity, but you should make a point of saying which of the three approaches to language endangerment discussed in class – Conservationist, Preservationist, or Evolutionist – you would consider to best reflect your attitude and why, and how (or whether) your ideas about language diversity have changed over the course of looking into this issue.

The project should typewritten. It can be submitted wither in hard form in class or in digital form through email. It is due by February 20th.
Arizona State University Criteria Checklist for

SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES [SB]

Rationale and Objectives

The importance of the social and behavioral sciences is evident in both the increasing number of scientific inquiries into human behavior and the amount of attention paid to those inquiries. In both private and public sectors people rely on social scientific findings to assess the social consequences of large-scale economic, technological, scientific, and cultural changes.

Social scientists' observations about human behavior and their unique perspectives on human events make an important contribution to civic dialogue. Today, those insights are particularly crucial due to the growing economic and political interdependence among nations.

Courses proposed for General Studies designation in the Social and Behavioral Sciences area must demonstrate emphases on: (1) social scientific theories and principles, (2) the methods used to acquire knowledge about cultural or social events and processes, and (3) the impact of social scientific understanding on the world.
**ASU-[SB] CRITERIA**

A SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE [SB] course should meet all of the following criteria. If not, a rationale for exclusion should be provided.

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<th>YES</th>
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1. Course is designed to advance basic understanding and knowledge about human interaction. Syllabus, Course Description

2. Course content emphasizes the study of social behavior such as that found in:
   - ANTHROPOLOGY
   - ECONOMICS
   - CULTURAL GEOGRAPHY
   - HISTORY
   Linguistics Syllabus, Course Description

3. Course emphasizes:
   a. the distinct knowledge base of the social and behavioral sciences (e.g., sociological anthropological).
   OR
   b. the distinct methods of inquiry of the social and behavioral sciences (e.g., ethnography, historical analysis).

4. Course illustrates use of social and behavioral science perspectives and data. Syllabus, examples of past assignments

THE FOLLOWING TYPES OF COURSES ARE EXCLUDED FROM THE [SB] AREA EVEN THOUGH THEY MIGHT GIVE SOME CONSIDERATION TO SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE CONCERNS:

- Courses with primarily fine arts, humanities, literary, or philosophical content.
- Courses with primarily natural or physical science content.
- Courses with predominantly applied orientation for professional skills or training purposes.
- Courses emphasizing primarily oral, quantitative, or written skills.
### Course Prefix | Number | Title | Designation
--- | --- | --- | ---
SLC | 201 | Introduction to Language and Linguistics | SB

Explain in detail which student activities correspond to the specific designation criteria. Please use the following organizer to explain how the criteria are being met.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria (from checksheet)</th>
<th>How course meets spirit (contextualize specific examples in next column)</th>
<th>Please provide detailed evidence of how course meets criteria (i.e., where in syllabus)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The course is designed to advance basic understanding and knowledge about human interaction.</td>
<td>The course focuses on human language as a communicative tool and investigates the form of language, its psychological underpinnings and various aspects of its social function.</td>
<td>The syllabus covers such topics as distinguishing language from other forms of communication (WEEK 1), the use and interpretation of language in social settings (WEEKS 9 &amp; 10), the development of linguistic diversity in the world and variants within speech communities (WEEKS 2, 11&amp;12), and aspects of the transmission and acquisition of language from generation to generation or from speech community to speech community (WEEKS 14-15). In addition, students consider the cognitive aspects of language structure (WEEKS 3-8) through concepts like the phoneme, the morpheme, grammatical roles and the relation between phoneme and grapheme.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The course content emphasizes the study of social behavior such as is found in anthropology, economics, etc.</td>
<td>The course emphasizes the study of social behavior as it relates to the use and transmission of language.</td>
<td>Students in the course learn to critically examine assumptions about language use in its social contexts. In particular, they consider the role of the standard variety and assumptions about its well-formedness (WEEK 1), differences in discourse practices between cultures (WEEK 9), the evolution and function of linguistic varieties (WEEK 10 &amp; 11), and the relation between the cultural variation and linguistic differences (WEEK 12).</td>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>The course emphasizes the distinct knowledge base of the social and behavioral sciences or the distinct methods of inquiry of the social and behavioral sciences.</td>
<td>The course provides an introduction to social and psychological issues and an introduction to standard methods of linguistic analysis through lectures, readings and projects.</td>
<td>The course emphasizes the centrality of linguistic data and instructs students on standard methods used at all levels of linguistic analysis throughout the semester. In addition to lectures and reading, students have the opportunity to apply these concepts in written projects that explore these issues first hand. In the past, students have done projects in which they do such things as collecting and analyzing the use of slang, identifying examples of variation in American English among family and friends or in movies and on television, and analyzing social attitudes.</td>
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towards bilingualism and non-standard linguistic varieties.
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