

Course Abstract

If you need accommodations due to a disability, contact Disability Services in Edison Hall Room 100, 732.906.2546.

To foster a productive learning environment, the College requires that all students adhere to the Code of Student Conduct which is published in the college catalog and website.

Course ID and Name: LNC 123 Introduction to the Study of Human Language

Department:

Chairperson or Course Coordinator: Gary Abbott

Office Location: IRC 205

E-mail Address: gabbott@middlesexcc.edu

Telephone: (732) 906 2529

Prerequisites: None

Co-requisites: None

Course Description:

The course introduces and explores the areas of language acquisition, dialects, social variations of language, language and ethnicity, language and gender, and cross-cultural and multi-cultural perspectives of language. The student will get a broad understanding of phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics and pragmatics in the context of English and its history.

General Education Status: GE DIV

Credits:

3

Lecture Hours:

3

Lab Hours:

Supplemental

Learning Outcomes:

1. Approach linguistic questions the way linguistic analysts approach them.
2. Understand the difference between linguistic phenomena and social attitudes about language.
3. Appreciate the sense in which the study of language provides a window into understanding the nature of the brain.
4. Appreciate the sense in which the study of language provides a vehicle for deeper understanding of human relationships.
5. Appreciate the sense in which the study of language makes possible a deeper understanding of the intersection between scientific and religious thought.

Course Content Areas:

1. Introduction: What is language? What is linguistics? What do you know when you know a language?

2. Human Language and Animal communication: the birds and the bees, fiddler crabs and apes.
- 3 & 4. Phonetics: The Sounds of Speech.
- 5 & 6. Phonetics: The Value of Sounds.
7. Morphology: The minimal units of meaning : morphemes
- 8 & 9. Syntax: The Structure of Phrases and Sentences; Structure Rules; linear order, hierarchical structure; ambiguity; lexical categories.
10. Semantics: What is meaning? Meaning relationships.
11. Pragmatics: Meaning and Context.
Speech Acts; rules of conversation; language in advertising; writing systems.
12. Historical Linguistics: Language Change
A Brief History of English; English borrowings; Language Contact: Pidgin and Creole languages; language and social status.
13. Language Variation: Language and Ethnicity (AAE); language and region; speech style; language and socio-economic status.
14. Language in a wider context: an official language for the United States; language and computers.