Linguistics
Upward Bound Summer 2010

Welcome to Linguistics! In this class, you will:
• learn the basics of how language works and how people use it
• do hands-on research using experimental and observational methods
• explore the social meanings of linguistic diversity
• create positive public messages to debunk language myths

General info

Class meetings: TR 9:00-10:50, Rm FM 203
Instructor: Mark Myslín
Email: mmyslin@gmail.com
Office hours: TBD

Components of the course

Homework   25% of grade

Readings and short assignments will be given most days and will usually be due at the beginning of the next class session. I'll post the homework on MyCR after class every day should you need to double-check the assignment. Working together on homework is encouraged but everyone must turn in their own assignment. If you have questions about the homework, please ask before turning it in! I'll check for questions every day before collecting homework.

One of your assignments will be to post at least twice on our class blog, the Upward Bound Language Log, about anything you notice about language or cognition. (I'll give more info about this in class.) Posting more than twice or commenting on other posts is a very good thing and will earn you some extra credit ☺.

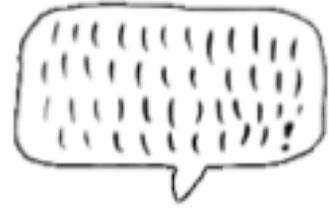Late policy: Assignments will be marked down 10% per day late.

Midterm   20%

A take-home midterm will be distributed on Tuesday, July 27 and due at 9:00 am Thursday, July 29.

Course project   35%

The course project is to create a short digital video or audio piece to be presented at the Upward Bound Showcase and submitted to the TRIO Media Quest competition. You may work individually or in groups, and can create either (1) an original linguistics research project, or (2) a positive public message about any widely held language myth. We'll talk a lot about this project during the entire course. If you want to propose an alternate project, I'm happy to accomodate you. **Absolute deadline:** Tuesday, August 10, 5:00 pm.

Participation   20%

Good participation means coming to class on time every day with a positive attitude, taking part in activities, and respecting all people and ideas in class. Good participation does not mean plagiarizing, making offensive comments or jokes about any person or group, having side conversations when someone has the floor, leaving to go to the bathroom more than once a week, or having iPods or phones out during class. Any kind of continued disruptive behavior will result in reductions to your participation grade and standard Upward Bound disciplinary protocol, which may include early in-room time, stipend deductions, or a conference with the program director.

Contacting me

I'm on campus most of the day and I'm always available to talk about questions you may have about the class, linguistics in general, college, or anything else you may want to talk about. Office hours is a great time to ask questions, do homework, or hang out. Email is another excellent way to get in touch with me; I try to reply immediately when I can. I'm open to your ideas about the content of the class and alternate assignments.

Course schedule

This shows only **major** deadlines. Smaller assignments and due dates will be announced in class and on MyCR.

Date	Class plan	Major deadlines
7/13/10	*Intro to linguistics.* What is language?	
7/15/10	*Human cognition.* Memory, consciousness, cue/category validity	
7/20/10	*Phonetics and phonology.* Articulatory gestures, exemplar models.	
7/22/10	*Morphology.* Word formation, frequency, analogy.	First blog due midnight
7/27/10	*Syntax and meaning.* Discourse, grammaticalization, constructions.	Midterm distributed.
7/29/10	*Sociolinguistics: regions and generations.* California English, texting, slang.	Midterm due 9:00 am.
8/3/10	*Ethnicity and multilingualism.* African American English, Spanglish.	
8/5/10	*Gender and sexuality.* (Case study TBD.) Project work time.	Second blog due midnight
8/10/10	Project work day.	Course projects due 5:00 pm
8/12/10	Present projects at UB Showcase.	