ENGL 2651 - Introduction to Language

Fall 2026 Syllabus, Section 03, CRN 40458,

Credit hours: 3

Instructor

Cynthia Vigliotti

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Public Instructor Information

Instructor Title: Senior Lecturer
Instructor Professional Qualifications: B.A. English (1998); B.A. Religious Studies (1998); M.A. English (2001); TESOL Certification (2001); Ed.D. (Exp. 2027).
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Course Description

2651. Introduction to Language. Introduction to language principally for prospective teachers, with emphasis on the nature and function of language and its history, variations, and acquisition. Student must qualify to take ENGL 1549 or ENGL 1550. 3 s.h.

Course Readings

Group	Title	Author	ISBN
Required	Understanding Language Structure, Interaction, and Variation, 3rd ed.	Brown, Attardo, & Vigliotti	9780472035410

Brown, S., Attardo, S., & Vigliotti, C. (2014). Understanding Language Structure, Interaction, and Variation, 3rd ed. University of Michigan Press ELT. https://doi.org/10.3998/mpub.5896147.

The course readings are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, research developments, current events, and/or to ensure better learning.

Schedule of Topics and Assignments

Week of	Reading(s)	Proposed Topic	Due/To Prepare for Class
8/24	Understanding Language Structure, Interaction, & Variation (ULSIV) 1-17	Intro to the Field	Weekly Assessment 1
8/31	Understanding Language Structure, Interaction, & Variation (ULSIV) 18-34	Phonetics & Phonology	Weekly Assessment 2
9/7	Understanding Language Structure, Interaction, & Variation (ULSIV) 35-47	Morphology	Weekly Assessment 3
9/14	Understanding Language Structure, Interaction, & Variation (ULSIV) 287-311	Grammar & Syntax	Weekly Assessment 4
9/21	No New Reading	Catch Up on Theoretical Linguistics	Early Bird
9/28	Understanding Language Structure, Interaction, & Variation (ULSIV) 72-105	Communicating Meaning	Weekly Assessment 5
10/5	Understanding Language Structure, Interaction, & Variation (ULSIV) 106-126	Language Variation	Midterm
10/12	Understanding Language Structure, Interaction, & Variation (ULSIV) 127-146	Language & Social Groups	Weekly Assessment 6
10/19	Understanding Language Structure, Interaction, & Variation (ULSIV) 147-168	Multilingualism	Weekly Assessment 7

10/26	Understanding Language Structure, Interaction, & Variation (ULSIV) 169-188	AAE & Other U.S. Dialects of English	Weekly Assessment 8
11/2	Understanding Language Structure, Interaction, & Variation (ULSIV) 189-207	Language & Gender	Weekly Assessment 9
11/9	Understanding Language Structure, Interaction, & Variation (ULSIV) 208-240	L1 Acquisition	Weekly Assessment 10
11/16	Understanding Language Structure, Interaction, & Variation (ULSIV) 241-259	L2 Acquisition	Weekly Assessment 11
11/23	No New Reading	Thanksgiving Week	
11/30	Understanding Language Structure, Interaction, & Variation (ULSIV) 241-259	Historical Linguistics	Weekly Assessment 12
12/7	No New Reading	Final Exam Review	Final Exam Linguists Project Youngstown Dialect Survey

The course schedule, policies, procedures, and assignments in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, by mutual agreement, and/or to ensure better learning.