

# Cover Sheet: Request 13649

## LIN 2XXX Languages of the World

### Info

Process	Course New Ugrad/Pro
Status	Pending at PV - University Curriculum Committee (UCC)
Submitter	Martina Martinovic mmartinovic@ufl.edu
Created	2/19/2019 11:59:45 AM
Updated	7/22/2019 9:29:17 AM
Description of request	Request for a course number for Languages of the World.

### Actions

Step	Status	Group	User	Comment	Updated
Department	Approved	CLAS - Linguistics 011654000	Eric Potsdam		3/4/2019
uccconsult PC.pdf					2/19/2019
uccconsult (003).pdf					2/19/2019
College	Conditionally Approved	CLAS - College of Liberal Arts and Sciences	Joseph Spillane	The College Curriculum Committee conditionally approves this request, with the following: 1) add a grading scale; 2) make the course description consistent with style rules (see <a href="https://gov.clas.ufl.edu/files/College-Curriculum-Problems-Checklist.pdf">https://gov.clas.ufl.edu/files/College-Curriculum-Problems-Checklist.pdf</a> ); 3) change transcript title to include more of the word "languages"	3/27/2019
No document changes					
Department	Approved	CLAS - Linguistics 011654000	Eric Potsdam		6/13/2019
No document changes					
College	Approved	CLAS - College of Liberal Arts and Sciences	Joseph Spillane		7/22/2019
No document changes					
University Curriculum Committee	Pending	PV - University Curriculum Committee (UCC)			7/22/2019
No document changes					
Statewide Course Numbering System					
No document changes					
Office of the Registrar					
No document changes					
Student Academic Support System					
No document changes					

Step	Status	Group	User	Comment	Updated
Catalog					
No document changes					
College Notified					
No document changes					

## Course|New for request 13649

### Info

**Request:** LIN 2XXX Languages of the World

**Description of request:** Request for a course number for Languages of the World.

**Submitter:** Eric Potsdam potsdam@ufl.edu

**Created:** 6/13/2019 9:26:05 AM

**Form version:** 4

### Responses

**Recommended Prefix** LIN

**Course Level** 2

**Number** XXX

**Category of Instruction** Introductory

**Lab Code** None

**Course Title** Languages of the World

**Transcript Title** Languages of th World

**Degree Type** Baccalaureate

**Delivery Method(s)** On-Campus

**Co-Listing** No

**Co-Listing Explanation** N/A

**Effective Term** Fall

**Effective Year** Earliest Available

**Rotating Topic?** No

**Repeatable Credit?** No

**Amount of Credit** 3

**S/U Only?** No

**Contact Type** Regularly Scheduled

**Weekly Contact Hours** 3

**Course Description** Broad survey of the world's languages, their genetic affiliations, and current status. Addresses issues related to linguistic diversity and provides an overview of the major subfields of linguistics by acquainting students with linguistic properties of diverse languages and language families.

**Prerequisites** None

**Co-requisites** None

**Rationale and Placement in Curriculum** The course is meant to cater to different audiences. For students interested in linguistics, it provides an overview of a broad range of phenomena in a variety of languages, and gives them a solid base for studying various linguistic subdisciplines with a greater awareness of the distribution and importance of the linguistic phenomena studied. The course is also a good starting point for learning more about the growing field of language documentation, preservation, and revitalization. For all other students, who may not pursue further studies in linguistics, the course will offer a window into how various socio-cultural factors, government influence, other cultures, migration patterns, influence human language and what that means for the society in general. More importantly, by studying differences and similarities between the world's languages and raising awareness of and sensitivity to linguistic diversity and linguistic issues, the students will gain a better understanding of global social and cultural issues, which may ultimately help them to more effectively communicate with members of other nations and cultures.

**Course Objectives** By the end of the course, the students should be able to:

- Describe and give examples of the ways in which human languages are alike and how they differ.
- Use basic linguistic terminology.
- Identify the world's major and selected minor languages.
- Discuss different possible relationships between languages.
- Discuss the different roles language plays in society.

- Explain the importance of linguistic diversity to individuals and society.
- Discuss the pressures on linguistic diversity and the consequences of its loss.

**Course Textbook(s) and/or Other Assigned Reading** Pereltsvaig, Asya. 2018. Languages of the world: An introduction. 2nd edition. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

**Weekly Schedule of Topics** Week 1: Introduction. What is (a) language? Typological vs. historical (genetic) relatedness. Genetic relationship and language families. Some basic facts about language(s).

Week 2: Linguistic diversity and typology. How are languages similar and how are they different? How do linguists approach the study of this diversity?

Week 3: Indo-European languages. The basics of the comparative method in historical linguistics. Grammatical features: V2 in Germanic.

Week 4: Non-Indo-European languages of Europe, India and Eurasia. Language universals and parameters. Grammatical features: Case, vowel harmony.

Week 5: Languages of the Caucasus. Field linguistics.

Week 6: Language endangerment.

Week 7: Linguistic fieldwork and language documentation.

Week 8: Languages of Northern Africa, Middle East and Central Asia. Language contact and interaction.

Week 9: Languages of sub-Saharan Africa. Official language, trade languages.

Week 10: Languages of eastern Asia. Language change

Week 11: Languages of the South Sea Islands. The mystery of Malagasy.

Week 12: Socio-political factors, identity and language, prescriptivism, language policy and standardization.

Week 13: Aboriginal languages of Australia and Papua New Guinea.

Week 14: Native languages of the Americas. The Piraha controversy.

Week 15: Pidgins, Creoles, and signed languages.

Week 16: Back to language universals and typology.

**Links and Policies** Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in

this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at:  
<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, [www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/)) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation.

Information on current UF grading policies:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>.

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>.

The university's honesty policy regarding cheating, plagiarism, etc.:

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The Honor Code (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honorcode/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

**Grading Scheme** Graded components: Attendance and participation in lectures is obligatory. The students are required to pick a lesser-known language and become an "expert" on it during the semester. There are 5 assignments asking them to investigate various aspects of the language:

- its speakers, where it is spoken, and its basic grammatical properties (e.g. canonical word order and sound system)
- one or two interesting linguistic phenomena
- the larger language contact situation
- its genetic affiliation(s)
- its level of endangerment
- its social and political status

At the end of the course, the students summarize what they learned about the language they have been investigating, and connect it to the topics discussed in the class, in an essay of 10-15 pages. Each week there is an in-class quiz that addresses the readings.

The following percentages are assigned to each component of the grade:

- Class attendance and participation: 15%
- Quizzes: 15%
- Assignments: 40%
- Final essay: 30%

Grading scale:

A 93-100  
A- 90-93  
B+ 87-90  
B 83-87  
B- 80-83  
C+ 77-80  
C 73-77  
C- 70-73  
D+ 67-70  
D 63-67  
D- 60-63  
E <60

Additional information about the University's grade policies is available at <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>.

**Instructor(s)** Martina Martinovic  
Eric Potsdam

External Consultation Results (departments with potential overlap or interest in proposed course, if any)

Department	Name and Title
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Phone Number	E-mail
_____	_____
Comments	

Department	Name and Title
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Phone Number	E-mail
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