

LING 1101/COGST 1105: Introduction to Linguistics

Spring 2026

MoWeFr 10:10AM-11:00AM Goldwin Smith G64-Kau

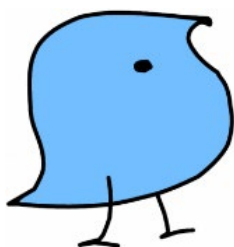
updated: 1/20/2026

Prof. Sam Tilsen

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[Course Canvas site](#)

Introduction to Linguistics (2026SP)



Faolán Mar Boyd

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amb698@cornell.edu
Office loc: 226E Morrill Hall
Office hours: Th 9-11am

Sections:

W 3:35-4:25 (201)
W 11:15-12:05 (202)

Alison Yu

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cy537@cornell.edu
Office loc: 226F Morrill Hall
Office hours: M 11:30-1:30pm

Sections:

W 1:25-2:15 (204)
W 12:20-1:10 (205)

Qi Han

Pronouns: she/her
qh246@cornell.edu
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Office hours: Th 8-10am

Sections:

W 11:15-12:05 (203)
W 1:25-2:15 (206)

Lisa Zhao

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fz227@cornell.edu
Office loc: 226F Morrill Hall
Office hours: Tu 2-4pm

Sections:

W 11:15-12:05 (207)
W 3:35-4:25 (208)

Course description

Language is the basis of communication, culture, and thought. It enables science and technology. It is used for social purposes. It changes over time. It is physically grounded in our bodies and brains. The discipline of Linguistics is the scientific study of all of aspects of human language. This course provides a survey of the core subfields of linguistics—phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, and pragmatics—and explores other areas including language acquisition, language variation, historical linguistics, the relation between language and cognition, and the role of language in artificial intelligence.

Linguistics 1101 has no prerequisites and welcomes students from all disciplines. The course fulfills the College of Arts and Sciences KCM-AS, ETM-AS, and SSC-AS distribution requirements and is a prerequisite for most other Linguistics courses. It also provides a foundation for further study in philosophy, psychology, computer science, cognitive science, and other fields.

Required Text

Language Files: Materials for an Introduction to Language and Linguistics, 13th Edition, The Department of Linguistics at The Ohio State University, Ohio State University Press, 2022. ISBN-13: 978-0814258354. This textbook is available at the Cornell Store and online. There is also a companion website: <https://linguistics.osu.edu/research/pubs/lang-files> with links, sound files, and errata.

Canvas

There is a Canvas site for this course (LING 1101/COGST1105), where you can find this syllabus, the most recent version of the schedule, assessment practice exercises, and other materials.

Attendance

There is no attendance requirement for this course. However, you should be aware that there is a strong correlation between attendance and assessment scores: the concepts and examples explained in lecture are designed to help you perform well on learning assessments.

Grading

The course grade is based on:

- 75% In-class assessments (5 x 15%)
- 25% Final exam
- Extra credit (up to 5% boost of course grade)

The following mapping of final grade scores (p = proportion of total points) to grade letters is used:

A+	$0.98 \leq p$	B+	$0.88 \leq p < 0.90$	C+	$0.78 \leq p < 0.80$	D+	$0.68 \leq p < 0.70$	F	$p < 0.60$
A	$0.92 \leq p < 0.98$	B	$0.82 \leq p < 0.88$	C	$0.72 \leq p < 0.78$	D	$0.62 \leq p < 0.68$		
A-	$0.90 \leq p < 0.92$	B-	$0.80 \leq p < 0.82$	C-	$0.70 \leq p < 0.72$	D-	$0.60 \leq p < 0.62$		

In-class assessments

There are 7 in-class assessments. Your two lowest assessment grades will be dropped. Missed assessments cannot be made-up, unless you have a university-approved absence or your absence has been excused by your advising dean. Personal travel and late course additions are unapproved absences. Learning assessments are designed to test your understanding of concepts taught in lecture. Practice exercises for the assessments are available on Canvas and your TAs will review these in sections. No electronic devices should be present during in-class assessments. Students with an electronic device visible will receive a zero.

Academic Integrity

All students are expected to adhere to the Cornell University Code of Academic Integrity (<https://cuinfo.cornell.edu/aic.cfm>). Any students who violate the Code of Academic Integrity will be reported to the Dean of Faculty and will undergo a primary hearing.

Extra Credit

Participation in Linguistics studies

You may register through Sona-Systems: <https://cornellpsych.sona-systems.com/> to participate in in-person or online Linguistics studies to earn extra credit. When you register for SONA, you must

include your netID, otherwise you will not receive credit for participation. The maximum Sona credits you can receive extra credit for is 4 (1 credit = 30 min of participation), and each credit is worth 1.25% of the course grade. The study must be a Linguistics study. There is no guarantee that study slots will be available, and sign-ups are first-come, first-served.