



**BALL STATE
UNIVERSITY**

ENG 219-Introduction to Linguistic Science Ball State University

Spring 2026

Section 1- ENG 219 Course Information

Course Prefix & Number: ENG 219-003

CRN: 48245

Course Title: Introduction to Linguistic Science

Semester: Spring 2026

Modality: In-person

Meeting Times: Available on Canvas

Classroom: Available on Canvas

SECTION 2 — INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Professor: Dr. Reza Panahi

Title: Assistant Teaching Professor of English

Department: Department of English, Ball State University, Muncie, IN

Contact Information:

- **Email:** Available on Canvas
- **Main Office Phone:** 765-285-5293

Office Details:

- **Location:** Available on Canvas
- **Office Hours:** Available on Canvas

SECTION 3 — COURSE DESCRIPTION & PREREQUISITES

Course Description

This course introduces the basic concepts, terminology, and analytical tools of linguistic science. Students examine language at multiple levels—sounds, words, sentences, meaning, and use—and develop skills to describe, analyze, and interpret linguistic structures across languages.

Prerequisites

None

SECTION 4 — COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. Identify and categorize language components at various linguistic levels.
2. Analyze linguistic data and describe emerging patterns.
3. Interpret and evaluate linguistic arguments and analyses.
4. Explain linguistic structures and phenomena using course concepts.
5. Identify differences across languages and speech communities.
6. Connect linguistic knowledge to academic, professional, or personal goals.
7. Use technologies that support linguistic communication and analysis.

SECTION 5 — COURSE STRUCTURE & MODALITY

This course follows a weekly module structure. Each module includes:

- Assigned readings and videos
- A low-stakes quiz
- In-class lessons and activities
- Homework or discussion tasks
- Occasional Linguistics IRL (applied learning) activities

Assignment deadlines, updates, and all materials will be available on Canvas.

SECTION 6 — REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS

- Open Educational Resources (OER) provided on Canvas
- Supplemental readings on Course Reserves (Bracken Library)
- Access to Canvas and basic word-processing software

Optional Sources

Fromkin, V., Rodman, R., Hyams, N., & Collins, P. (2020). *An introduction to language* (11th ed.). Cengage Learning.

Lippi-Green, R. (2012). *English with an accent: Language, ideology, and discrimination in the United States* (2nd ed.). Routledge.

O'Grady, W., Archibald, J., Aronoff, M., & Rees-Miller, J. (2017). *Contemporary linguistics: An introduction* (7th ed.). Bedford/St. Martin's.

SECTION 7 — ASSIGNMENTS & EVALUATION

To fulfill the University's Core Curriculum requirement in Writing Program courses, students must earn a minimum grade of **C**; a **C-** is not considered acceptable. Writing Program courses may be repeated as needed, but:

- The first and all subsequent grades remain on the transcript.
- All grades except the first will count toward the GPA.
- A grade of **W** will not replace a previous grade.
- Credit hours apply only once toward graduation.

(See *Ball Point* for a complete explanation of these policies.)

Evaluation Method and Grading Criteria

Student performance in ENG 219 will be evaluated through a combination of exams, quizzes, homework, discussions, and a final academic summary. These assessments reflect the analytical, conceptual, and applied nature of linguistic science.

| Evaluation Method | Percentage | Description & Components |
|----------------------|------------|--|
| Homework Assignments | 40% | Periodic problem-solving tasks aligned with major course units. Includes Homework 1 (Morphology), Homework 2 (Syntax), Homework 3 (Phonetics), and Homework 4 (Phonology). Submitted on Canvas by the deadline. |
| Exams | 30% | Two major assessments: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Midterm Exam (15%): Covers phonetics, morphology, syntax, and descriptive vs. prescriptive approaches.• Final Academic Summary & Reflection (15%): A synthesis of course concepts, requiring explanation of linguistic phenomena using proper terminology. |
| Weekly Quizzes | 15% | A short quiz every Saturday covering weekly readings, lectures, and topics. Reinforces key concepts and prepares for major assessments. |

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| Discussions & Participation | 15% | <p>Combined grade for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussions & Applied Activities: Canvas posts, Linguistics IRL activities, and short in-class responses. Graded on engagement, accuracy, and terminology. • In-Class Participation: Active engagement in group work, discussions, and problem-solving. Attendance is required for this component |
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Rubrics & Evaluation Standards

Rubrics for homework, discussions, and exams will be posted on Canvas. All assessments evaluate:

- Understanding and accurate use of linguistic terminology
- Ability to analyze linguistic data systematically
- Application of course concepts to real-world language use
- Clear, logical explanation of reasoning
- Growth across the semester in analytical and interpretive skills

Details, instructions, and rubrics will be posted on Canvas.

| Letter Grade | Range |
|--------------|------------|
| A | 100% - 94% |
| A- | <94% - 90% |
| B+ | <90% - 87% |
| B | <87% - 84% |
| B- | <84% - 80% |
| C+ | <80% - 77% |
| C | <77% - 74% |
| C- | <74% - 70% |
| D+ | <70% - 67% |
| D | <67% - 64% |
| D- | <64% - 61% |
| F | <61% - 0% |

SECTION 8 — ATTENDANCE POLICY (STRICT)

Attendance is required for every class. Writing is a social process, and regular attendance is essential for success in this course. 20% of your grade (200 points) is based on in-class participation, including discussions, peer reviews, and in-class writing.

Unexcused Absences:

You have three (3) unexcused absences without penalty. Each additional unexcused absence beyond three will result in a one-third letter grade deduction (e.g., B to B-). Unexcused absences may not be made up.

Excused Absences:

University-approved absences will be honored upon presentation of documentation. Excused absences, per university guidelines, include:

- Disability accommodations
- Pregnancy, hospitalization, or medical leave
- Bereavement leave
- Religious observance
- Jury duty or court witness leave
- Military leave
- Ball State-approved events

Documentation and Make-Up Work:

Students must notify the instructor in advance when possible. For excused absences, provide documentation and complete the assigned make-up work as designated by the instructor. Communicate with the instructor promptly if you anticipate multiple absences.

SECTION 9 — ACADEMIC INTEGRITY & GENERATIVE AI

Academic Integrity

All work submitted must be your own. Plagiarism, cheating, unauthorized collaboration, or the submission of others' work violates the university's academic ethics policy. Consequences may include a zero on the assignment or further action per university policy.

Generative AI Policy — No Use Permitted

Generative AI tools may not be used to complete any part of graded coursework. Using AI to generate or revise content counts as academic dishonesty.

SECTION 10 — Email Communication Policy

All emails to the instructor must follow academic formatting and include the following details in the subject line or opening lines: Full Name, Class Name, and Course Section

Example:

Subject: Question about Assignment

Hello/Dear Professor [Last Name],

My name is [Your Name], and I am a student of ENG 219, Section [Your Section].

[Your polite, concise message here.]

Sincerely,

[Your Full Name]

SECTION 11 — REQUIRED UNIVERSITY STATEMENTS

University Statement

Ball State is committed to a respectful learning environment that values diverse experiences and viewpoints.

Disability Statement

Students needing accommodations should contact the instructor and Disability Services (765-285-5293).

Title IX Statement

The instructor is a mandatory reporter. Resources are available at bsu.edu/titleix.

FERPA and Privacy

Student educational records are protected by federal privacy law.

SECTION 12 — STUDENT SUPPORT RESOURCES

- Learning Center (tutoring & academic coaching)
- Writing Center (feedback on writing projects)
- Counseling Center (mental health support)
- Speaking Center (presentation coaching)
- Basic Needs Hub (food, housing, financial assistance)
- Technology HelpDesk: online@bsu.edu

SECTION 13 — SPRING 2026 COURSE SCHEDULE OVERVIEW

- **Classes Begin:** Monday, January 5, 2026
- **MLK Jr. Day (No Class):** Monday, January 19, 2026
- **Spring Break:** March 1–8, 2026

- **Classes Resume:** Monday, March 9, 2026
- **Last Day of Classes:** Monday, April 27, 2026
- **Final Exam Period:** April 28–May 1, 2026

Syllabus Changes

This syllabus may be adjusted during the semester to meet course needs. Students will be notified of any updates on Canvas.

ENG 219 –Spring 2026 Course Schedule

| WEEK 1: Introduction to Language and Linguistics | |
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| Mon, Jan 5 | <p>Session One (Part 1 of 2)</p> <p>Syllabus and Schedule</p> |
| | <p>Session One (Part 2 of 2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to Chapter 1: What Is Language? |
| Wed, Jan 7 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What Grammars Are and Are Not |
| Fri, Jan 9 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Studying Language Scientifically |
| Sat, Jan 10 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz 1: Week 1 Content |

| WEEK 2: Morphology — Word Structure | |
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| Mon, Jan 12 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What Is Morphology? • Morphemes • Learning Guide: Morphology • Roots, Bases, and Affixes |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Derivational and Inflectional Morphology |
| Wed, Jan 14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Morphology Trees • Discussion: Morphology Tree Builders |
| Fri, Jan 16 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Morphological Processes (Canvas) • What Is a Portmanteau? |
| Sat, Jan 17 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz 2: Week 2 Content |

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| WEEK 3: Morphology in Use |
| Mon, Jan 19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MLK Day – No Class |
| Wed, Jan 21 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What Are Dialects? • Morphological Innovation: Slang and Word Creation • Canvas Activity: Dialects and Slang in Real Life |
| Fri, Jan 23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3-3: Applying Morphology: Solving Problems and Understanding the Lexicon • Discussion: Linguistics IRL – The Lexicon • Week 3 Videos: Understanding Dialects and Slang Trends |
| Sat, Jan 24 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz 3: Week 3 Content |

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| WEEK 4: Syntax — Sentence Structure |
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Mon, Jan 26

- Morphosyntax
- What Is a Predicate?
- Discussion: Morphosyntax Reading

Wed, Jan 28

- Syntax Trees
- Linguistics IRL – Syntax
- Syntax tree video
- Activity: Syntax Trees

Fri, Jan 30

- Complements vs. Adjuncts
- Linguistic Tests for Complements vs. Adjuncts
- Syntactic Properties
- Discussion: Complements vs. Adjuncts

Assignment 1: Morphology

Sat, Jan 31

- Quiz 4: Week 4 Content

WEEK 5: Syntax Continued → Phonetics Begins

Mon, Feb 2

- Structural Ambiguity in Syntax
- Syntax Review
- Activity: Structural Ambiguity

Wed, Feb 4

- Phonetics I – Consonants
- Learning Guide: Phonetics

Fri, Feb 6

- Classifying Consonants (Review)

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consonant Classification Quiz |
| Sat, Feb 7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz 5: Week 5 Content |

| WEEK 6: Phonetics — Speech Sounds |
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| Mon, Feb 9 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding Vowels: Definition, Examples, and Rules • Introduction to Articulatory Phonetics (Vowels) (Text and video) |
| Wed, Feb 11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Classifying Vowels <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vowel Articulation: Height, Backness, and Rounding (Text and Video) • Discussion: Vowel Articulation |
| Fri, Feb 13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Vowel Grid, Additional Phonetic Sounds, and Non-Pulmonic Consonants • Quiz: Vowels • Quiz: Vowel Grid |
| Assignment 2: Syntax |
| Sat, Feb 14 <p style="text-align: center; color: red;">NO Quiz</p> |

| WEEK 7: Phonology — Sound Systems |
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| Mon, Feb 16 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing Does Not Reflect Speech • Exploring Core Components of Linguistic Structure: Phonology, Orthography, and Morphology (Activity) |
| Wed, Feb 18 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phonology • Group Activity: Thinking Phonologically |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz: Phonology |
| Fri, Feb 20 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phonemes and Allophones • Group Activity: Phonemes vs. Allophones • Follow-up Quiz: Phonemes and Allophones |
| Sat, Feb 21 Quiz 7: Week 7 Content |

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| WEEK 8: Phonology Continued |
| Mon, Feb 23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solving Phonology Problems: A Step-by-Step Approach • Group Activity: Solving a Phonology Problem • Quiz: Solving Phonology Problems 1 |
| Wed, Feb 25 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phonotactics and Natural Classes • Phonotactics Detective: Group Activity • Quiz: Phonotactic Constraints and Natural Classes (5 pts) |
| Fri, Feb 27 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beyond Basic Sounds: Other Articulatory Processes & Describing Signs • Quiz: Phonological Processes (5 pts) |
| Assignment 3: Phonetics |
| Sat, Feb 28 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz 8: Week 8 Content |

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| WEEK 9: SPRING BREAK |
| March 1–8 — No Classes, No Quiz |

WEEK 10: Phonology Wrap-Up

Mon, Mar 9

- Linguistics IRL – Phonology
- Applying Phonological Concepts to Real-World Data
- (accent variation, pronunciation patterns, language change, and “everyday phonology”)
- Linguistics IRL: Phonology Quiz

Wed, Mar 11

- Linguistic Law Enforcement
- Phonological Evidence and Pattern Detection
- Quiz: Linguistic Law Enforcement

Fri, Mar 13

- Phonology Review
- Integrating Phonemes, Allophones, Phonotactics, and Rules
- Phonology Integration Workshop

Sat, Mar 14

- Quiz 10: Week 10 Content

WEEK 11: Semantics — Meaning

Mon, Mar 16

Midterm Exam

Wed, Mar 18

- Semantics
- Learning Guide: Semantics
- Exploring Semantics Through Video

Fri, Mar 20

- Mental Lexicon (7.4)
- Sense and Reference
- How do our brains process speech?
- Quiz: Sense and Reference

Sat, Mar 14

- Quiz 11: Week 11 Content

WEEK 12: Semantics Continued

Mon, Mar 23

- Compositional Semantics
- Entailment
- Quiz: Compositional Semantics and Entailment

Wed, Mar 25

- Lexical Semantics
- Discussion: Lexical Semantics (Video)
- Quiz: Lexical Semantics

Fri, Mar 27

- Lexical Meaning
- Quiz: Meaning
- Discussion: Linguistics IRL – Synonymy

Sat, Mar 28

- Quiz 12: Week 12 Content

WEEK 13: Pragmatics — Language in Context

Mon, Mar 30

- Ling Space: Pragmatics
- Gricean Maxims

Wed, Apr 1

- Direct and Indirect Speech Acts

Quiz: Direct and Indirect Speech Acts

Fri, Apr 3

Applying Pragmatics in Real Interaction

From Theory → Use → Analysis

Quiz: Applying Pragmatics in Real Interaction

Sat, Apr 4

- Quiz 13: Week 13 Content

WEEK 14: Pragmatics Continued

Mon, Apr 6

- Cooperative Principle

Assignment 4: Meaning in Context

Wed, Apr 8

- Language in Context
- Quiz: Language in Context

Fri, Apr 10

- Cross-Community Differences in Discourse

Sat, Apr 11

- Quiz 14: No Quiz

WEEK 15: Discourse and Professional Application

Mon, Apr 13

- Politeness and Discourse
- Discussion: Linguistics IRL – Politeness

Wed, Apr 15

- **Final Assignment/Assignment 5**
- Prompt: Final Linguistics Reflection and Analysis

Fri, Apr 17

- Assignment 5: Outline (Planning Workshop)

Sat, Apr 18

- **NO Quiz**

WEEK 16: Course Wrap-Up

Mon, Apr 27 — Last Class Meeting

- Assignment 5 draft

FINAL EXAM PERIOD

Will be announced on Canvas

Registrar-Assigned Time Block