

Introduction to Language (Problematizing language)

ELL 101.0355 (35440) - Fall 2018
LaGuardia Community College, CUNY

Instructor: Inés Vañó García
Class schedule: Monday 10:30-11:30am Room C-714
Wednesday 9:15-11:30am Room C-128
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Office hours: I am available before & after class, please email me!

Course Objectives

- What does it mean to “know” a language?
- What does learning a language imply?
- What type of preconceptions do we have about people based on how they speak?
- How do our languages/language practices influence the way we interact with people?
- How does language relate to our role in society?

By the end of the semester, students are expected to be able to

- explain ways in which language and society are related
- question how linguistic practices influence socio-political issues.
- (critically) explain what it means to know a language
- describe ways that language changes over time and the ways language change is studied
- compare and contrast the nature of the first and second language acquisition
- describe the nature and general properties of language
- identify phonological, morphological, syntactic and semantic features of language

Flexible Core Objectives: Scientific World: The course bears 3 credits that count as Flexible Core (Scientific World) of the CUNY's new general education curriculum (Pathways).

Course Description

The course “Introduction to Language” will explore the structure of language and what it means to “know” a language. By covering the basic subfields of language (phonetics/phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, sociolinguistics), we will build self-assurance and confidence in our language practices. We will also stress the development of our agency in the process of building relationships between language and sociopolitical issues and establish connections between our own lives and the world(s) we live in. Therefore, we will encourage ourselves to question and think critically about the connection between language and power in order to challenge the established societal *status quo*.

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Prerequisites: CSE099,
ENA/ENG/ESAO99,
ENC/ENG101

Readings:

There is no required book for this class. Readings will be available on the site and students must complete the readings and prepare a *contribution* for the group discussion. All the students must bring a critical question, a selected passage or ideas from each of the readings that are meaningful for them and to describe, as fully as possible, the reasons, relating questions, passages and ideas to personal experience, other readings, etc. For some readings, guiding questions and/or instructions will be provided.