Linguistics 183: The Linguistics of *Game of Thrones* and the Art of Language Invention
Syllabus
UC Berkeley, Summer Session A, 2017
MTuWTh 3:10 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Class#: 15669   Room: Moffitt Library 106

Professor: David Peterson   Office Hours: 1-3 TuW 1307 Dwinelle
E-Mail: djpquery@gmail.com   Twitter: @Dedalvs
Instructor Web Page: http://artoflanguageinvention.com/
Course Web Page: http://artoflanguageinvention.com/cal/
Course Slack: http://gotaoli.slack.com/

Prerequisites: 1 of the following 3 is required:
- Linguistics 5
- Linguistics 100
- Instructor Permission

Required Texts: *Available on course reserve!*
- Peterson, David J. *The Art of Language Invention*. Penguin Books, 2015.
    ‣ *Available wherever books are sold. Audio and Kindle editions available.*

Recommended Texts: *Available on course reserve!*
- Bybee, Joan, Revere Perkins, and William Pagliuca. *The Evolution of Grammar: Tense, Modality, and Aspect in the Languages of the World*. University of Chicago Press, 1994.
- Campbell, Lyle. *Historical Linguistics: An Introduction*. 3rd edition. MIT Press, 2013.
- Heine, Berndt and Tania Kuteva. *World Lexicon of Grammaticalization*. Cambridge, 2002.
- Lakoff, George and Mark Johnson. *Metaphors We Live By*. 2nd edition. University of Chicago Press, 2003.

Useful Websites:
- Language Creation Society homepage: http://conlang.org/
- Conlang Atlas of Language Structures: http://cals.conlang.org/
- World Atlas of Language Structures: http://wals.info/
- Fiat Lingua: http://fiatlingua.org/
- Online Etymology Dictionary: http://etymonline.com/
- A Dravidian Etymological Dictionary: http://dsal.uchicago.edu/dictionaries/burrow/

- The Art of Language Invention (YouTube): http://bit.ly/DJPAoLI
- Small Glossary of Linguistics: https://www.uni-due.de/ELE/LinguisticGlossary.html

Course Description:
- This is a college level introduction to language creation (conlanging) and language study. Language creation lies somewhere between the realms of art and science, drawing heavily on both. Students will acquire the fundamentals of the scientific study of language, and will be encouraged to take that information and employ it creatively in the field of conlanging. This course will feature in class lectures, group discussion, classroom activities, and at home study.

Student Learning Outcomes:
Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to
- Command the basics of some fundamental subdisciplines of linguistics: phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, and pragmatics.
- Speak knowledgeably about the history of language creation.
- Identify and employ strategies of linguistic evolution as they apply to language creation.
- Create their own languages with a clear understanding of what variables are in play in the construction of a naturalistic language, what the limits of human communication systems are, and how precisely they can improve their own craft.

Course Requirements:
- Come to class *on time* and be ready to participate. Missing class more than three times during the course of the semester may result in your being dropped from the course. *Note: If you miss the first or second class period, you may be dropped from the course*.
- Participate in class and in the online course Slack chat regularly.
- Read assigned readings *before* the class period in which they'll be discussed, and, if applicable, bring them to class, so that they can be referred to during discussion.
- Complete practice assignments assigned throughout the course, each graded on a credit/no credit basis.
- Complete mastery assignments graded on a twenty (20) point scale. Included in the set of mastery assignments are the four stages of your final conlang grammar.
- Do one in-class presentation on your conlang (sign up for presentation slot).
- Complete one conlang writeup (final).

Grade Breakdown:

- Class/Slack Participation: 5%
- Practice Assignments: 25%
- Mastery Assignments: 25%
- Conlang Presentation: 10%
- Final Conlang Writeup: 35%

  Total: 100%

Grading Scheme:

A+	98% ~ 100%	C	74% ~ 77.9%
A	94% ~ 97.9%	C-	70% ~ 73.9%
A-	90% ~ 93.9%	D+	68% ~ 69.9%
B+	88% ~ 89.9%	D	64% ~ 67.9%
B	84% ~ 87.9%	D-	60% ~ 63.9%
B-	80% ~ 83.9%	F	< 60%
C+	78% ~ 79.9%		

General Guidelines:

- In order to create a good language, you need to know *a lot* about language. Use whatever resources you can to get up to speed, including: studying the grammars of other languages; reading language descriptions on Wikipedia; looking at online grammars of other constructed languages; reading papers in an area of linguistics that interests you; watching television in other languages; reading text in other languages; studying other languages. No information is wasted!
- Any assignment that requires more than one sheet of paper *must* be stapled if turned in physically. I will *not* accept unstapled work.
- For our class, you should use either Noto Sans or Noto Serif 12 point font. You can download the Noto suite of fonts here: https://www.google.com/get/noto/

Class Conduct:

During class, please be present: no outside reading; no internet surfing; no checking cell phones. Eating and drinking is fine, so long as it's not too loud (n.b. chips are too loud. So are Grape-Nuts). There will be plenty of time to discuss the course content and ask questions, so please be sure not to speak over anyone else (including the professor!), whether or not your comment is on topic.

Academic Honesty:

As stated previously, language creation straddles the boundary of art and science. In an academic course, the urge to cheat is simply explained: If student performance is evaluated in part on the student's ability to correctly demonstrate some skill acquired during the course, copying another student will save the cheater time. Language creation, though, is an artform. Many of the assignments given to students in this course will have no "correct" answer, just as in a poetry class, there is no "correct" poem one can submit. Language, as an object or activity, is naturally the result of collaboration, and students are encouraged to bounce ideas off one another, but when it comes time to set pen to paper (or finger to keyboard), it is an absolute requirement that each student's work be the product of their own imagination. Where a student benefits from a discussion

with another student or draws inspiration from another work (or from another language *created or natural*), **the student will be required to cite that discussion and/or work** (see <u>Citation</u> below). Failure to follow these guidelines will result in expulsion from the course, and a failing grade. There will be no warnings beyond this one given out on the first day of class.

<u>Citation:</u>

As mentioned above, students *must* cite any source that helped them or inspired them in their own assignment. This is not an English course, though, so in citation, what I need to know is: (a) who/what you got your information/inspiration from, and (b) where I can find that information. Consequently, if you worked with a fellow student, their name will suffice. It's a person outside our class, please tell me who that person is, how you know them, and who they are or what they do (friend, professor, family member). For a language, please give the name of the language, and a reference for where you got information on it (if a website, the url will do; if you happen to be fluent, state that). For anything that goes back to a book or article, please list the author(s), the title, the website (if applicable), and the edition. Especially in linguistics, many linguists will post drafts of their papers on their site. It's important to know what stage of the draft you looked at in case it changes later. If you find yourself having questions about how to cite a work or person, simply use APA style (standard in linguistics).

<u>Accommodations:</u>

If you require accommodations for any physical, psychological, or learning disability, please contact me via email, or set up a meeting to discuss your situation with me in person. UC students are permitted to miss lectures, quizzes, or exams if they coincide with holidays pertaining to that student's religion or creed. Students may also, under certain circumstances, miss quizzes or exams if they coincide with important extra-curricular activities, such as musical performances, interviews, or team activities. Please bear in mind, however, that late homework will not be accepted, as homework assignments can be completed ahead of time.

Note that absences due to religious holidays or extra-curricular activities will only be excused if the student notifies me <u>two weeks prior</u> to the date of their intention to miss class. In addition to notifying me in person, the student must send me an email, which will serve as a record of the notification. Note that students remain responsible for material presented during their absence.

Late Work:

The policy on late work is as follows:

- Due to the brevity and pace of the course, <u>late work will not be accepted</u>.
- Homework is due by the beginning of the class period on its specified due date. It may be turned in online as long as the timestamp is prior to the beginning of the class period in which its due.
- Much work in the course outside of the final project and homework will happen in class. In class activities and assignments, by their very nature, cannot be made up. If you anticipate being late to or missing a particular class period, <u>please contact me ahead of time</u>, so we can make arrangements to get your work turned in on time.

Tardies:

Please be on time. Emergencies happen from time to time, of course, but excessive tardies may result in your removal from course.

Disclaimer:

I'm indebted to Dr. Jessie Sams, Dr. Doug Ball and Dr. Lev Michael, whose syllabi I consulted in preparing this syllabus.

Class Contacts:

If you ever miss class and want to get the notes from someone who was there, you may want to jot down their contact information here:

Name	Phone Number	E-Mail

Tentative Schedule:

Topics
Week 1: Introduction to Conlanging; Phonetics and Phonology
Week 2: Nominal Morphology
Week 3: Verbal Morphology
Week 4: Syntax and Pragmatics; Typology
Week 5: Orthography
Week 6: Translation and Final Preparation

Language Case Studies
Week 1: Dothraki
Week 2: High Valyrian
Week 3: Low Valyrian
Week 4: Irathient
Week 5: Castithan
Week 6: Class Conlangs

Assignments
Note: Conlang presentations will happen throughout the course.
Week 1: Mastery Assignment (MA) 1, MA 2
Week 2: MA 3, MA 4
Week 3: MA 5, MA 6
Week 4: MA 7, MA 8
Week 5: MA 9, MA 10
Week 6: Final Due

Reading
Note: AoLI = The Art of Language Invention. Final reading assignments will be posted on the class website. Other readings (TBD) will be provided in PDF format.
Week 1: AoLI Chapter I: Sounds; Case Study: The Sound of Dothraki
Week 2: AoLI Chapter II: Words, pp. 97-135; Case Study: High Valyrian Verbs
Week 3: AoLI Chapter II: Words, pp. 136-152
Week 4: AoLI Chapter III: Evolution; Case Study: Irathient Nouns
Week 5: AoLI Chapter IV: The Written Word; Case Study: The Evolution of the Castithan
      Writing System
Week 6: —