

24.S95 Linguistics in K–12 Education

Session 1: Introductions | Rationale for Linguistics in K–12 Education

Welcome to 24.S95
Linguistics in K-12 Education

Plan for today:

- Introductions
- Review the syllabus
- Plan for Spring Spark – We must register our course by tomorrow!
- Discussion: Rationale for Linguistics in K-12 Education
- Break from 3:30-3:45
- Meeting our partner teachers by Zoom
- Wrap-up

Introductions

A few prompts to consider:

- Who are you linguistically?
- What brings you to linguistics?
- What brings you to this class?

Introduction to the course

Basic premises:

- The study of language can be a means to develop young people's understanding of scientific inquiry and their understanding of human language.
- Native language knowledge is a rich, accessible database that can be used to give young learners the opportunity to become familiar with the methods, concepts, and attitudes of scientific inquiry.

The context and challenge of this course

- This course is offered in the context of a revitalized MIT Linguistics initiative to introduce linguistics into schools. A major objective of the initiative is designing an introductory high school linguistics course.
- Our challenge is to create teaching materials that will motivate learners of all ages to be inquisitive about their native language and about language in general, with a focus on students in grades 6-12.
- Our class will be a curriculum design lab. We will collaborate with one another and partner with teachers and work with their students.

Spring Spark

Today's "to do" list:

- Identify time slots when we are all available:
 - Block 1: one-hour time slots for Sat., March 18, 10am-5pm
 - Block 2: one-hour time slots for Sun., March 19, 9am-5pm
- Brief description of our one-hour course, *Language Science*
- Also, decide:
 - Format (lecture, seminar, discussion, activity)
 - Difficulty level
 - Max enrollment

Spring Spark, continued

By tomorrow, Thursday, February 9:

- Create an ESP account, identifying your role as Teacher
- Register to teach *Language Science* at Spring Spark

Later, Spring Spark organizers will inform you about:

- Attending a one-hour training session
- Applying for a MA Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI) check as required by the MIT Protection of Minors office

Rationale for linguistics in K-12 education

- Why linguistics?
 - ...in science, social studies, language arts
 - ...in K-12
- What purpose might linguistics education serve?
- What might it mean to be linguistically literate?
- What is the goal of education?

For next class:

Linguistics in Secondary Education

- Read the case studies with the UbD framework in mind. Ask yourself, do the authors:
 - Identify ‘desired results’
 - Present ‘evidence of understanding’
 - Present a ‘learning plan’ with ‘learning events’?

Understanding by Design (UbD)

- Before you read Wiggins & McTighe 2011, spend a few minutes reflecting on the question, **What is *understanding*?** Jot down your thoughts for class discussion.

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