TERM: **Fall 2026**
COURSE TITLE: **Linguistics**

COURSE NUMBER: **MDLG 3400.01** **CRN 41591**
SECTION TIMES/DAYS: **3:40-5:20 p.m. MW**
INSTRUCTOR: **Prof. Yu Li**
CORE AREA: **EXPLORATIONS: Understanding Human Behavior**

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPAL TOPICS
Linguistics is the scientific study of language. In this introductory course, we will study several of its foundational sub-fields – phonetics, phonology, morphology, and syntax – and expand into several related areas: second-language acquisition, sociolinguistics, writing systems, and sign languages. Languages from various linguistic families will be analyzed and compared throughout the course in order to build your linguistic knowledge and raise your metalinguistic awareness.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES
Upon successful completion of the required coursework, you will be able to

- recognize the linguistic universals shared by human languages;
- identify the distinctive features among different languages;
- conduct simple analyses of a variety of linguistic data;
- critically examine and evaluate the linguistic beliefs and attitudes of your own and of others.

PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND
2000-level in 2 languages or consent of instructor.

REQUIRED TEXT
O'Grady, W., J. Archibald, M. Aronoff, & J. Rees-Miller. (2017). Contemporary linguistics: An introduction. 7th edition & Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's. ISBN-10: 1-319-03977-4.

RECOMMENDED TEXT
O'Grady, W., J. Archibald, M. Aronoff, & J. Rees-Miller. (2017). Study guide to contemporary linguistics: An introduction. 7th edition & Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's. ISBN-13: 978-1-319-03977-6.

COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS
Course work consists of preview assignments, review homework, midterm exams and a final project.

TERM:	**Fall 2026**	
COURSE TITLE:	**Chinatowns of the World**	
COURSE NUMBER:	**CHIN 4208.01 (for Chinese minors)**	**CRN 41571**
	MDLG 4998.01 (for everyone else)	**CRN 41605**
SECTION TIMES/DAYS:	**6:00-7:40 p.m. MW**	
INSTRUCTOR:	**Prof. Yu Li**	

CORE AREA (IF APPLICABLE): **INT: Interdisciplinary Connections**
FLAGS (IF APPLICABLE): **Engaged Learning**

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPAL TOPICS

Chinatowns are among the most visible, contested, and dynamic urban formations shaped by migration, race, colonialism, capitalism, and globalization. Far from being static ethnic enclaves, Chinatowns across the world—from San Francisco and Lima to Johannesburg, Paris, Singapore, and Sydney—are constantly remade through struggles over labor, language, heritage, tourism, gentrification, and belonging. This interdisciplinary course examines Chinatowns as lived spaces, symbolic landscapes, and transnational nodes. Drawing on ethnic studies, anthropology, sociology, history, linguistics, urban studies, and cultural geography, students will explore how Chinatowns emerge, transform, and circulate globally. Through readings, films, visual analysis, community-engaged learning, and collaborative projects, students will critically engage questions of power, representation, memory, and futurity.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of the required coursework, students will be able to

- Analyze Chinatowns as historically situated and politically contested urban spaces
- Compare Chinatowns across global, regional, and national contexts
- Understand how migration, colonialism, and capitalism shape Chinatown formations
- Critically interpret linguistic, visual, and material cultures in Chinatown spaces
- Communicate insights through writing, discussion, and creative or public-facing projects

PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND

CHIN 4208: CHIN 3605 or LMU Placement Exam
MDLG 4998.01: No prerequisite

REQUIRED TEXT

No textbook required. Electronic reading materials will be made available on Brightspace.

COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS

Coursework includes readings, quizzes, discussions, homework assignments, community-engaged learning activities, and a final project. Chinese minors will complete some coursework in Chinese. Non-Chinese-minor students will do alternative work in English.