COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This is a basic course in linguistic field methods that introduces students to the methodology of elicitation, transcription, organization, and analysis of linguistic data of a language not known to the teacher or the students. With the help of a native speaker of a lesser-known and understudied language, we collectively envisage to discover structure of the language at all levels of grammar: phonological, morphological, syntactic, and semantic, as well as use of the language in the society. The emphasis is to explore the characteristic features of the language on the basis of the first-hand collected data and to determine how different or similar the language is to the language/s generally known to us. This will be achieved by using structured questionnaires and by analyzing oral texts.

Students will be trained to prepare a small grammatical sketch and dictionary of the language by working on individual topics. Training to use software to prepare talking dictionaries such as Lexique Pro or Flex will be given.

The course is participatory in nature and requires zeal of exploration on behalf of students. Our objective by the end of the course is to obtain substantial understanding of the language structure and indigenous knowledge-system that it contains. In addition, we hope to archive the collected data in a digitized format on the SFU server.

The name of the language and the contact person/native speaker will be informed on the first day of the class.

Required textbooks (available on-line at SFU Library):

Required on-line resource (available on the internet):

Recommended textbooks (will be on reserve at SFU Library):
• Vaux, Bert & Justin Cooper. 1999. *Introduction to Linguistic Field Methods*. München: LINCOM EUROPA.

In addition, students will be required to read general and specific topic–related articles.

These books will be on reserve at the library. Additional reading materials will be made available on the course webpage.

**COURSE GRADING:**

- Exams: Mid Semester 25%
- Participation: 25%
- Assignments: Field Report on individual topics 50%

Students should familiarize themselves with the Department's [Standards on Class Management and Student Responsibilities](http://www.sfu.ca/linguistics/undergraduate/standards.html).

Please note that a grade of “FD” may be assigned as a penalty for academic dishonesty.

All student requests for accommodations for their religious practices must be made in writing by the end of the first week of classes or no later than one week after a student adds a course.

Students requiring accommodations as a result of a disability, must contact the [Centre for Students with Disabilities](778-782-3112 or csdo@sfu.ca).