

LING 3040-301 202410 Structure Of A Language

Structure of Kashaya

- Professor Gene Buckley
- Tues & Thurs 1:45–3:15
 - likely to change based on student schedules
 - possibly once a week in a seminar format
- Location TBA

NOTE: This content is from the [Canvas page](#) for the course. Click the link for additional information.

This Spring 2024 offering of Ling 3040 will cover **Kashaya**, an endangered indigenous language of northern California. I have studied Kashaya since 1989, when I was a graduate student, and currently I am working on a variety of pedagogical resources for the use of tribal members and others interested in the language. Some of its notable properties are a large inventory of consonants, intricate phonological patterns, complex morphology including extensive use of instrumental prefixes, heavy reliance on aspectual distinctions, agent-patient case marking, switch reference, and evidentials. As a member of the well established Pomoan family of seven languages, it also raises a number of issues in historical linguistics.

Although a great deal is known about the language, there is no general written grammar available. Our readings will be drawn from a variety of sources, including some that I will prepare myself. Since much remains to be learned about Kashaya, this course offers an opportunity to make a real contribution to scholarly knowledge. I plan to design some of the homework assignments as small research projects based on a corpus of texts and

sentences. For instance, certain topics in syntax and pragmatics have been covered more thoroughly in related Pomoan languages, and we will explore the extent to which Kashaya matches those patterns.

See the list of [modules](#) for lecture notes, links, and readings when this course was previously offered in Spring 2022. The details will no doubt change for the current offering, with a shift in emphasis depending on student interests.

For undergraduates, grades will be determined as follows:

- Weekly homework assignments (40%)
- Final paper (50%)
- Participation (10%)

Papers by graduate students will be judged by a higher standard and will count for 70% of the grade, with 20% from the homework assignments. Just about any topic that makes sense for this course should be able to count toward the language research requirement in the Linguistics PhD program.

For undergraduate students, since this is an advanced course, prior knowledge of fundamental areas such as phonology, morphology, and syntax is extremely useful. I will explain the necessary concepts as we go along, but if you have less background in some topics, you may need to do additional review.