1 General info

- **TA:**
  I am here to help you with the class. If you have any questions or issues, please contact me.
  - Email: lihofman@ucsc.edu
  - Website: https://people.ucsc.edu/~lihofman/
  - Office hours: Tue 2-3, Stevenson 265 (Fall 2019)

- **Sections:**
  Sections accompanying the lectures. They are a space to discuss and recap things that you need clarification on. Sections are discussion-based and the most learning will happen if there is an active and lively participation in the discussion.

- **Office hours:**
  You can go to the office hours of any of the TAs or the professor’s. Take advantage of this!

- **Contact:**
  If possible, limit questions to the time in section or office hours. If you need to contact me outside of that, you can email me.

- **Participation:**
  - Section attendance is mandatory. If you can’t make it to section, let me know in advance, but if you are sick, you don’t need to provide a doctor’s note. (You can do this up to two times per quarter, after which you need to make special arrangements with the instructor.)
  - Active participation in sections is encouraged. I understand that different people are more or less comfortable speaking up in class. BUT: try to force yourself to say something at least once during section.
  - If there is anything (really anything) that doesn’t make sense to you (even if it’s just the meaning of a word, or something that was mentioned before), ask clarification questions.

- **Classroom atmosphere:**
  You are encouraged to ask any questions you would like in sections and office hours. Please do not think that your questions are not sophisticated enough or something like that. There are no dumb questions here. If you feel uncomfortable or concerned with something and would like to bring it up with the class or with me personally, please feel free to do that at any time. You can also email me anonymously, e.g. if you set up an email account with the username ling50_randomnumbers@gmail.com and email me from there.

2 Some claims about language

Here are some things that came up in the class?
Which ones of these are surprising? Why or why not?

1. There are no primitive languages.
2. No language is inherently harder/easier to learn than another.
3. Writing is secondary to speech.
4. Prescriptive rules of grammar are not really about language.

3 Phonetics

Articulation: How a speech sound is pronounced.

- Place of articulation: Where in the mouth a speech sound is produced.
- Which sounds are pronounced...
  - ...using the lips?
- ...using the teeth?
- ...using both the lips and the teeth?
- in the front of the palate? (at the alveolar ridge)
- in the middle of the palate?
- in the back of the palate? (at the velum)
- in the throat?

• Which English words use that sound? at the beginning/end?

• Do you speak a language with sounds that are hard to pronounce for English speakers? What’s the sound? How/where is it produced?