

Introduction & Linguistic Diversity

Gabriel Correa

LINGUIST 101 People and Their Language
Sections AA & AB
Fall 2026

September 11, 2026

Plan for Today

- 1 Introductions
- 2 Course Organization
- 3 Linguistic Diversity Survey

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About me



Gabriel Correa (he/him)

[ga.bɾi'ɛʝ ko'heɪ.ɐ]

- I was born and raised in Brazil! My native language is Portuguese, and I also speak (very little) German and Spanish
- My research is on **syntax** and **semantics**: I study the grammatical rules of human language and the relationship between grammar and meaning
- In my free time, I like going to Amherst Cinema and looking for linguistics books in used bookstores

About Michi



Your turn!

- Name and pronouns (if you'd like to share)
- Year and major
- What languages do you speak? What languages would you like to learn?
- What do you hope to learn in this class?

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General Info

- Meeting times
 - Lecture: MWF 1:25-2:15
 - Discussion: F 11:15-12:05 (AA); 12:20-1:10 (AB)
- Grading
 - Discussion Attendance (10 x 1% = 10%)
 - Assignments (12%), Writing Project (6%), Exams (72%)
- Syllabus
- Canvas

General Info

- Office Hours
 - TTh 1-2 & by appointment (email me! gbcorrea@umass.edu)
 - N431A (Linguistics Department, ILC 4th floor)
- Section Website
 - <https://gabriel-correa.com/101-f26/>

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Housekeeping

- Linguistic Diversity Survey
 - Due: Mon, Sep 21
 - Part I: Survey
 - Part II: Report
- “Official” name of a language
- Who counts as a fluent speaker?
- Resources
 - Wikipedia
 - Glottolog
 - Ethnologue
 - Wikitongues
- **Important: cite your sources!**

Linguistic Diversity

- How many languages are there? How do we count?
- What is the difference between a language and a dialect?
- Why are languages different from one another?