LING200
Summer Session I, 2004 (6/01/04 – 7/09/04)
2:00-3:20pm, 1108B MMH

Instructor: Lisa Pearl
llsp@wam.umd.edu
1413 MMH, CNL Lab
Office Hours: after class & by appointment

***Brief* Description of Course**:
     Language. It's a funny thing. It's made up lots of different bits of knowledge that all humans seem to have at their immediate – and nearly unconscious – disposal. All humans have an intricate knowledge of the sounds of their language, the patterns these sounds form, the structures of the words, exactly the ways in which words can go together, and the meanings of words and sentences – among other things. Children are remarkably good at learning language, particularly at a time when they're really not so good at other things. Computers, on the other hand, have a rather rough time of it – which just goes to show how much humans unconsciously know.
     This course aims to step through the different bits and pieces of knowledge that make up a language, and that every human being seems to learn with notable ease. We will also explore the melding of computer technology with linguistics and examine psycholinguistic methods which help us understand how the human brain works as it does for language.

Required Book:
    Contemporary Linguistics: An Introduction. (4th edition) 2001. O'Grady et al. (editors).

Class Web Page:
    http://www.wam.umd.edu/~llsp/LING200.html

Requirements:
    Readings in the book, homework assignments, *short* paper, weekly quizzes, midterm, final.

Grade Breakdown:
    Final exam: 20%
    Midterm exam: 10%
    4 quizzes: 5% each, 20% total
    Research Paper: 10%
    Homework: 30%
    Class Participation: 10%

Details:
    Readings: Daily. Worth doing.
    Homework Assignments: Daily, and short. Also worth doing, especially since they're checked for correctness and are worth quite a bit of your grade.
    Quizzes: Weekly, except during the weeks of the midterm and final.
    Paper: On a topic (in the book) not covered in class or more in-depth coverage of a topic we do discuss in class. Two additional sources besides the O'Grady book are required. Topics due 6/14/04. Papers due 7/9/04. *Short* – ideally around 5 pages, double-spaced, 12 point. Use your spell-checker.
    Midterm & Final: Cumulative. Midterm on 6/18/04. Final on 7/9/04.

Try not to miss class. Really. If you must, see me or contact me at llsp@wam.umd.edu and we'll make arrangements.

Tentative schedule posted on the class web page.