1. What is a language document?

2. Some issues related to assembling language documents

- **Linguistics**: language data itself as an object of scientific inquiry
- **Other fields** that potentially use language data: language teaching, anthropology, psychology, history, folklore, community of native speakers
- **Endangered languages**: preserve diversity, record information before it is lost forever
- **Documentation and description**: types of data, range of data, selection of data, organization and presentation of data, audience for data
- **Field work**: methods and issues in language data gathering
- **Preservation and availability of documents**: types of documents, formats for documents, storage of documents

The course will ultimately focus on the asterisked points:

- **Linguistics**: gathering and presenting data for which linguists would be the primary consumers

  **Documentation vs. description**: critically examine the field of *documentary linguistics*, which draws a distinction between *documentation* (a comprehensive record of the linguistic practices of a community) and *description* (analysis of selected formal properties exhibited by a language)

3. African languages

A brief overview of language in Africa, mainly to situate the focal languages.

- **Language families of Africa**: Afroasiatic, Nilo-Saharan, Niger-Congo, Khoisan (and Malayo-Polynesian on the island of Madagascar)
- **The Chadic language family**: four branches—West, Biu-Mandara, Masa, East
- **The languages of Yobe State, Nigeria**: Duwai, Bade, Ngizim; Karekare, Ngamo, Bole, Maka; HAUSA (Chadic), KANURI (Saharan), FULFULDE (Atlantic branch of Niger-Congo)

4. The Yobe Languages Research Project

- **Background**: work on six languages of the Chadic family in Yobe State in Northeastern Nigeria
- **Documentation and description**: using work on these six languages to make the bullet points above concrete