

**LING 3311: Introduction to Linguistic Science
Fall 2013**

Instructor: Jeffrey Witzel

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Office Hours: Tuesday 2-3PM

Section Information: LING 3311-002

Time and Place of Class Meetings: TuTh 12:30PM - 1:50PM, PKH 107

Teaching Assistants:

Nathan Eversole

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Description of Course Content: Introduction to linguistic analysis, primarily including core areas such as the sound patterns of languages (Phonetics and Phonology), words and word formation (Morphology), sentence structure (Syntax), and meaning (Semantics and Pragmatics). Drawing upon data from a variety of languages, this course will emphasize the methods of linguistic analysis and ability to solve problems in each of the above areas.

Student Learning Outcomes: This course has four goals: i) to teach you something about language; ii) to teach you how to draw generalizations based on accurate and concise observations about linguistic data; iii) to teach you how to reason analytically and how to provide explanations for an observed pattern; and iv) to provide you with training in writing up your observations, analyses, and explanations.

Required Textbook and Other Required Materials:

Mihalicek, V., & Wilson, C. (2011). *Language files: Materials for an introduction to language and linguistics*. 11th edition. Columbus: Ohio State University Press. ISBN: 978-0-8142-5179-9 (referred to below as *Files*).

Specific reading assignments are listed below. Please note: Although this textbook is required and you are responsible for knowing its content, we will often go beyond this text in the classroom, and homework assignments will often be based on the content and details of the lectures rather than the book. The book, in other words, is not a substitute for coming to class.

You are also responsible for checking the Blackboard site for this class regularly to access class notes, handouts, updates, assignments, grades etc. (login at <https://elearn.uta.edu/webapps/login/>).

Descriptions of major assignments and examinations:

10 Homework Assignments (5% each, 50% total). Homework assignments are the most important component of this class, not only for developing a deeper grasp of the content but also in terms of your overall grade. Plan to devote a fair amount of time to these assignments and make sure that what you submit is your best work. Assignments will typically be handed out on a Thursday, due the following Thursday in class, and returned to you by the following Tuesday, when we will usually discuss them as a class. (See the projected course schedule below for a complete list of assignment due dates.) Homework assignments will range from fairly straightforward problems to more challenging and difficult ones. For the more challenging problems, there may not always be one correct answer. What is important, however, is that you arrive at a plausible solution and present the reasons for your analysis in logical, clear, and concise prose. All homework assignments must be typed or neatly hand-written, except where otherwise indicated. You are encouraged to work with your classmates on all assignments. However, you must write up your answers on your own and in your own words (failure to do so will be considered academic dishonesty). Note that this entails also that you may not share printed or electronic copies of any part of the actual write-up of your homework with other students (including students in your discussion group).

Midterm Exam (20%). There will be a midterm examination on 10/8. The format will resemble that of your homework.

Final Exam (20%). There will be a final examination on 12/12. Like the midterm, the format of the final exam will resemble the format of your homework assignments.

Attendance Participation (10%). Attend all classes (and show up on time) and participate in class discussion/activities. You will lose participation points if you are late or absent from class.

Grading Policy: Your grade on each component of the class will be determined on the basis of the percentage of points earned to points possible: 100-90% = A, 89-80% = B, 79-70% = C, 69-60% = D, 59-0% = F. Your final grade will be determined in the same fashion but taking into account the weightings described above (repeated here for the sake of complete clarity).

Homework Assignments:	50%
Midterm Exam:	20%
Final Exam:	20%
Attendance/Participation:	10%

Students are expected to keep track of their performance throughout the semester and seek guidance from available sources (including the TAs and the instructor) if their performance drops below satisfactory levels.

Late Submission of Assignments: Turn in all assignments on time. Late assignments may be accepted (at the instructor's discretion) but with a grade penalty. Assignments submitted late are unlikely to be returned to you in a timely manner, and they will not receive the same amount of feedback as an assignment handed in on time.

Make-up Exams: You will be allowed to take a make-up exam only if your absence occurs as the result of an extreme and reasonably unforeseeable circumstance (e.g. sudden serious illness, major family crisis). Should you find yourself in such a predicament, you must contact the instructor by phone or email before 8.00PM of the exam date to request a make-up. Students who miss an exam but do not notify the instructor as specified herein will receive a grade of zero (0).

Attendance Policy: Class attendance is required. You are responsible for the material presented in class lectures and for any handouts passed out in class; so for your own benefit, come to class. But if you must miss a class, get notes and information from another student, do the reading, and do the assignments. Assignments are due on the day listed on the schedule, and no later, unless you make arrangements with me prior to the due date.

Electronic Devices: Please turn off and keep off all pagers, electronic games, MP3 and CD players, and cell phones. If you are using a laptop, please use it only for course related matters; failure to do so will negatively affect your participation grade.

Projected Course Schedule:

Week 1 (8/22) / Class Introduction

Week 2 (8/27 & 8/29) / What is language? What is linguistics?

Reading: Files 1.0; 1.1; 1.2; 1.3; 1.4.

Assignment 1: Handed out Thurs 8/29; DUE Thurs 9/5 in class.

Week 3 (9/3 & 9/5) / Morphology

Reading: Files 4.0; 4.1; 4.2; 4.3; 4.4; 4.5.

Assignment 2: Handed out Thurs 9/5; DUE Thurs 9/12 in class.

Week 4 (9/10 & 9/12) / Phonetics (1)

Reading: Files 2.0; 2.1; 2.2; 2.3.

Assignment 3: Handed out Thurs 9/12; DUE Thurs 9/19 in class.

Week 5 (9/17 & 9/19) / Phonetics (2)

Reading: Files 2.4; 2.5.

Assignment 4: Handed out Thurs 9/19; DUE Thurs 9/26 in class.

Week 6 (9/24 & 9/26) / Phonology (1)

Reading: Files 3.0; 3.1; 3.2.

Assignment 5: Handed out Thurs 9/26; DUE Thurs 10/3 in class.

Week 7 (10/1 & 10/3) / Phonology (2)

Reading: Files 3.3; 3.5.

Week 8 (10/8 & 10/10) / Midterm Exam, Exam Review

Midterm Exam: 10/8; Exam Review: 10/10

Week 9 (10/15 & 10/17) / Syntax (1)

Reading: Files 5.0; 5.1; 5.2; 5.3.

Assignment 6: Handed out Thurs 10/17; DUE Thurs 10/24 in class.

Week 10 (10/22 & 10/24) / Syntax (2)

Reading: Files 5.4; 5.5.

Assignment 7: Handed out Thurs 10/24; DUE Thurs 10/31 in class.

Week 11 (10/29 & 10/31) / Semantics (1)

Reading: Files 6.0; 6.1; 6.2.

Assignment 8: Handed out Thurs 10/31; DUE Thurs 11/7 in class.

Week 12 (11/5 & 11/7) / Semantics (2)

Reading: Files 6.3; 6.4.

Assignment 9: Handed out Thurs 11/7; DUE Thurs 11/14 in class.

Week 13 (11/12 & 11/14) / Pragmatics (1)

Reading: Files 7.0; 7.1; 7.2; 7.3.

Assignment 10: Handed out Thurs 11/14; DUE Thurs 11/21 in class.

Week 14 (11/19 & 11/21) / Pragmatics (2)

Reading: Files 7.4; 7.5.

Week 15 (11/26) / Pragmatics Review**Week 16 (12/3) / Final Exam Preview**

*** Final Exam: 12/12 11:00AM-1:30PM ***

Other important dates:

9/9 Census Day

10/30 Last day to drop classes

As the instructor for this course, I reserve the right to adjust this schedule in any way that serves the educational needs of the students enrolled in this course. –Jeffrey Witzel.

Drop Policy: Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance.** Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (<http://web.uta.edu/aao/fao/>).

Americans with Disabilities Act: The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including the *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*. All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Any student requiring an accommodation for this course must provide the instructor with official documentation in the form of a letter certified by the staff in the Office for Students with Disabilities, University Hall 102. Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

Academic Integrity: Students enrolled in this course are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington's tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.

I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.

UT Arlington faculty members may employ the Honor Code as they see fit in their courses, including (but not limited to) having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System *Regents' Rule* 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university's standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student's suspension or expulsion from the University.

Student Support Services: UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to resources@uta.edu, or view the information at www.uta.edu/resources.

Electronic Communication: UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php>.

Student Feedback Survey: At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as "lecture," "seminar," or "laboratory" shall be directed to complete an online Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student's feedback enters the SFS database anonymously and is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. UT Arlington's effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law; students are strongly urged to participate. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

Final Review Week: A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week *unless specified in the class syllabus*. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

Emergency Exit Procedures: Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit, which is located immediately to your left as you exit the classroom. When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator but should use the stairwells. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist handicapped individuals.

Auditors: The Department of Linguistics and TESOL has a "no audit" policy. However, with instructor permission, Department of Linguistics and TESOL faculty, staff, and students enrolled in a linguistics/TESOL program may be able to sit in on a course. These courses cannot be used to satisfy any degree or program requirements/electives, nor will any credit (including retroactive credit) be granted.