Linguistics 2371-002: Language in a Multicultural USA

Tuesday & Thursday 9:30-10:50 a.m.
110 Trimble Hall

Instructor: Samantha Cornelius
Office: Trimble Hall 217E
Office Hours: Tuesdays & Wednesdays 11:00 AM -12:00 PM; also by appointment
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Prerequisites: A desire (or need) to learn about language diversity in America.

Required Text: English with An Accent: Language, Ideology, and Discrimination in the United States. 2nd edition. Rosina Lippi-Green. 2012. Routledge.

Course Description: This multiculturalism course examines the relationship of language in the U.S.A. to race, ethnicity, class, religion and gender. This course satisfies the University of Texas at Arlington core curriculum requirement in Language, Philosophy, and Culture. The range of issues covered may includes the following:

- Race: African American English ('Ebonics'), Native American languages, Asian Americans
- Ethnicity: European immigrant language communities, Hispanic Americans, Cajuns, 'Whites'
- Class: regional dialects, Jocks and Burnouts
- Gender: "women's language", masculinity, gay and lesbian speech (aka 'Queer Linguistics')

Student Learning Outcomes: Students who successfully complete LING 2371 should be able to do the following:

- Have developed awareness, appreciation and respect for the multitude of cultures in the U.S. and be able to describe the ways that these are both accurately and inaccurately portrayed [Personal Responsibility objective]
- Identify and demonstrate an understanding of the basic concepts and terms used in analyzing language and social variation [Critical Thinking Skills objective]
- Describe differences between descriptive and prescriptive approaches and attitudes toward language
[Communication Skills objective]
- Collect aspects of linguistic phenomena for description and analysis (i.e. conduct basic research) [Critical Thinking Skills objective]
- Reflect on different experiences of diversity and multiculturalism [Social responsibility objective]

These student learning outcomes align with the following four Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board objectives:

Critical Thinking Skills
To include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.
Communication Skills
To include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication.
Personal Responsibility
To include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making.
Social Responsibility
To include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national and global communities.

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Description of Assignments and Grading

Assignments	Percentage of Final Grade		Grading Policy	
Exam 1	20%		A	90-100 %
Exam 2	20%		B	80-89 %
Exam 3	25%		C	70-79 %
Homework	25%		D	60-69 %
Attendance and Participation	10%		F	59% or lower

Exams. There are three (3) exams, two non-cumulative tests and a cumulative final. The first two tests will be worth 20% each and the final will be worth 25%. The exam format will be announced one week prior to each test; formats may change from one exam to the next. (Please see below for exam make-ups.)

Homework. There will be six (6) homework assignments, all together making up 25% of your total grade. Homework is due at the beginning of class and will not be accepted late.

Attendance and Participation: Attendance will be taken in the course. Please be in class on time, ready to begin the day's activities. Participation will include in class discussion and posting about the readings on the discussion board on Blackboard. Students must make **at least** 5 blog posts (and therefore must participate in at least 5 different topic areas). Only on-topic and appropriate posts will count toward your final grade. Combined attendance and participation will make up 10% of your final grade.

Students will be required to read, consider, and comment upon a series of course-related topics posted on the class's discussion board.

- Contributions should be relevant, respectful, and substantive; for any topic, a student's initial comment must be at least 150 words long; subsequent comments on the same topic have no minimum.
- Posts must be CONTENTFUL discussion threads; students will only earn credit if it relates to the content of the course. Anything that only asks details about an assignment (or something else unrelated to lecture/readings/notes/videos) will receive zero points.
- Contributions must be original – no credit will be given to responses that repeat answers that others have given.
- The contribution must actively participate in the discussion, either offering information or seeking information. Think of this as an online discussion group that is a bit more laidback than the classroom setting.
- The opportunity to comment on a given topic will be limited. Once a topic has been closed, students may no longer contribute to the discussion.

Students are responsible for all information and assignments given out in class during the semester. Missing class does not absolve a student of this responsibility. Students should try to exchange email or telephone information with several classmates to have a resource in case of an absence. Failure to hear back on a request for information does not absolve a student from his or her responsibility for assignments or quizzes.

Excused absences include official university activities, military service, and/or religious holidays. Students must inform the instructor in writing at least one week in advance of an excused absence.

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Course Policies

Exams. If you miss an exam, you will be allowed to take a make-up only if you can provide written documentation of an extreme and reasonably unforeseeable circumstance (e.g. sudden serious illness, major family crisis, etc.). Should you find yourself in such a predicament, you must contact the instructor by phone or e-mail BEFORE 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%).

Extra Credit and Make-up work. There will be various extra credit opportunities throughout the semester.

Classroom behavior. Class sessions are short and require your full attention. All cell phones, pagers, iPods, MP3 players, laptops, and other electronic devices should be turned off and put away when entering the classroom; all earpieces should be removed. Store homework from other classes, newspapers, crosswords, magazines, bulky bags, and other distractions so that you can concentrate on the readings and discussions each day. Note: I reserve the right to ask you to leave the classroom if you are being disruptive.

According to *Student Conduct and Discipline*, "students are prohibited from engaging in or attempting to engage in conduct, either alone or in concert with others, that is intended to obstruct, disrupt, or interfere with, or that in fact obstructs, disrupts, or interferes with any instructional, educational, research, administrative, or public performance or other activity authorized to be conducted in or on a University facility. Obstruction or disruption includes, but is not limited to, any act that interrupts, modifies, or damages utility service or equipment, communication service or equipment, or computer equipment, software, or networks" (UTA Handbook or Operating Procedures, Ch. 2, Sec. 2-202). Students who do not respect the guidelines listed above or who disrupt other students' learning may be asked to leave class and/or referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

And a further note on civility in the classroom: Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. In order to assure that all students have the opportunity to gain from time spent in class, unless otherwise approved by the instructor, students are prohibited from engaging in any other form of distraction. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result, minimally, in a request to leave class. Appropriate student behavior (whether online, in person, or over the telephone) creates a better environment for learning and teaching.

Because this class involves topics of multiculturalism and diversity, the professor requests that students choose their language with caution. It is very easy to become emotional in discussing these topics. Do not call names, use an abusive tone, call someone stupid or otherwise insult another person. Slurs or epithets in particular should be avoided whenever possible. Linguistic behavior is one way that members of different social groups express attitudes; be aware of this at all times in personal conduct. Disruptive or abusive behavior will not be tolerated.

Blackboard. This course will utilize Blackboard this semester. Handouts and other materials will be available via Blackboard. It can be accessed by logging into the Blackboard website: https://elearn.uta.edu. It is your responsibility to make sure that you are able to access Blackboard, and to check it regularly.

Electronic Communication Policy. All students must have access to a computer with Internet capabilities. Students should check email daily for course information and updates. I will send group emails through MyMav and/or through BlackBoard. I am happy to communicate with students through email. However, I ask that you be wise in your use of this tool. I check my email periodically during the school week and occasionally on the weekend. I do not monitor my email 24 hours a day; however, I do try to respond to emails within 24 hours of receiving them. If you don't have a response from me by email within 24 hours of sending it, please come see me in class or resend your email as there may be a chance it was lost in cyberspace. (Also, please make sure that you use your MavMail address—not your hotmail, gmail, yahoo, etc.

addresses—when emailing me.)

The University of Texas at Arlington has adopted the University "MavMail" address as the sole official means of
communication with students. MavMail is used to remind students of important deadlines, advertise events and activities, and permit the University to conduct official transactions exclusively by electronic means. For example, important information concerning registration, financial aid, payment of bills, and graduation are now sent to students through the MavMail system. All students are assigned a MavMail account. Students are responsible for checking their MavMail 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.

Syllabus and Schedule Changes. Instructors try to make their syllabuses as complete as possible; however, during the course of the semester they may be required to alter, add, or abandon certain policies/assignments. Instructors reserve the right to make such changes as they become necessary. Students will be informed of any changes in writing.

Important Academic and Administrative Policies

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://wweb.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.

As a student, your responsibility rests with informing the instructor in writing or email and providing the official documentation from the Office for Students with Disabilities no later than the end of the second week of classes.

Title IX: The University of Texas at Arlington is committed to upholding U.S. Federal Law "Title IX" such that no member of the UT Arlington community shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity. For more information, visit www.uta.edu/titleIX.

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.

While the Department of Linguistics and TESOL hopes to foster a sense of community in which students can enhance their educational experience by conferring with each other about the lectures, readings, and assignments, all work submitted must be the product of each student's own effort. Students are expected to know and honor the standards of academic integrity followed by American universities; ignorance of these standards is not an excuse for committing an act of academic dishonesty (including plagiarism). If you have questions, please speak with your instructor, your academic advisor, or the department chair.

Please be advised that departmental policy requires instructors to formally file charges with the Office of Student Conduct, following procedures as laid out for faculty (http://www.uta.edu/studentaffairs/conduct/faculty.html), as well as notify the department chair of the filing of the charges.

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.

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.

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.

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 current 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.

Librarians to Contact: The reference librarians for Linguistics and TESOL are Jody Baily <jbailey@uta.edu> and Derek Reece <dreece@uta.edu>.

Writing Center: The Writing Center, 411 Central Library, offers individual 40 minute sessions to review assignments, *Quick Hits* (5-10 minute quick answers to questions), and workshops on grammar and specific writing projects. Visit https://uta.mywconline.com/ to register and make appointments. For hours, information about the writing workshops we offer, scheduling a classroom visit, and descriptions of the services we offer undergraduates, graduate students, and faculty members, please visit our website at www.uta.edu/owl/.

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 to the right. 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.

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Projected Course Schedule

It is my intention to stick to the schedule found below as much as possible; however, as the instructor I reserve the right to adjust it at any time. If the reading is marked (Bb), you will need to log on to Blackboard and go into the Readings folder to access it.

	Class Topic	*Readings and Assignments*
Week 1		
8/21	Course Overview/Intro to Linguistics	none
Week 2		
8/26	Intro to Linguistics, *cont.*	**Read:** Introduction, Chapter 1 (The linguistic facts of life)
8/28	Standard Language Myth	**Read:** Chapter 3 (The myth of non-accent) **Hand out Homework 1**
Week 3		
9/2	Standard Language Myth	**Read:** Chapter 4 (The standard language myth)
9/4	Language Change	**Read:** Chapter 2 (Language in motion) **Homework 1 due**
Week 4		
9/9	Language Change	**Read:** Articles on internet language (Bb)
9/11	Language and Institutions	**Read:** Chapter 5 (Language subordination) **Hand out Homework 2**
Week 5		
9/16	Language and Institutions	**Read:** Chapter 6 (The educational system)
9/18	Language and Institutions	**Read:** Chapter 8 (The information industry) **Homework 2 due**
Week 6		
9/23	**Review**	none
9/25	**Exam 1**	Study all material up to this point.
Week 7		
9/30	Language and Ethnicity	**Read:** Chapter 13 (The other in the mirror) **Hand out Homework 3**
10/2	Language and Ethnicity	**Read:** Chapter 10 (The real trouble with Black language) and Hip Hop Nation Language on Bb
Week 8		
10/7	Language and Ethnicity	**Read:** Chapter 14 (¡Ya Basta!) **Homework 3 due**
10/9	Language and Ethnicity	**Read:** Chapter 15 (The unassimilable races)
Week 9		
10/14	Regional Variation	**Read:** Chapters 3 and 26 on Bb **Hand out Homework 4**
10/16	Regional Variation	**Read:** Chapter 11 (Hillbillies, hicks, and Southern Belles)
Week 10		
10/21	Indigenous languages and English	**Read:** Chapter on Native American languages (Bb) **Homework 4 due**
10/23	Languages in Contact	**Read:** Chapter on Creoles (Bb) and Chapter 12 (Defining Paradise: Hawai'i)
Week 11		
10/28	**Review**	none
10/30	**Exam 2**	Study all material between Exam 1 and this point.
Week 12		

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11/4	Social class	**Read:** Chapter on Social Varieties of English (Bb) **Hand out Homework 5**
11/6	Adolescent Language	**Read:** Chapter on Adolescent Language (Bb) and Chapter on Slang (Bb) **Bring several examples of slang to class to discuss.**
Week 13		
11/11	Language in Media	**Read:** Chapter 7 (Teaching children how to discriminate) **Homework 5 due**
11/13	Gender and Language	**Read:** Chapter on Language, Gender and Sexuality (Bb)
Week 14		
11/18	Gender and Language	**Read:** TBA **Hand out Homework 6**
11/20	Language and Sexuality	**Read:** TBA
Week 15		
11/25	TBA	**Homework 6 due**
11/27	**No Class – Thanksgiving Break**	
Week 16		
12/2	**Last Class day - review**	

Useful dates to note:

Monday 9/8	Census date (last day to add a class)
Wednesday 10/29	Last day to drop classes; submit requests to advisor prior to 4:00 pm
Thursday 12/11	Final Exam 8 AM – 10:30 AM