**Department of Modern Languages**

MODL 5305: Methods of Modern Language Teaching

**Fall 2014**

# Professor: Dr. Sonia Kania Section: 001

# Email: [skania@uta.edu](mailto:skania@uta.edu) Classroom: PH 200

# Office: 323 HH Class schedule: M 5:00-7:50 p.m.

# Office hours: M 3:30-4:30 p.m.

# Mentis: [https://www.uta.edu/mentis/public/#profile/profile/view/id/1577/](https://www.uta.edu/mentis/public/#profile/profile/view/id/1577/category/1)

**Course description**: Methods of Modern Language Teaching is an applied linguistics course for modern language professionals, focusing on the application of research and theory in linguistics and second language acquisition to the classroom setting. May include specific methods, language learning strategies, cooperative language learning, component and performance skills, and intercultural communication.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

* Student will demonstrate knowledge of the most salient theoretical and methodological perspectives regarding the teaching of a foreign language.
* Students will gain practical skills in foreign language teaching through peer observation, textbook review, and lesson development.
* Students will put knowledge and skills into practice through micro-teaching lessons.
* Students will explore their own viewpoints regarding the learning and teaching of a foreign language, developing their individual teaching philosophy.

**Required texts:**

* Omaggio Hadley, Alice. 2001. *Teaching Language in Context*. 3rd ed. Boston: Heinle & Heinle.
* Articles (TBD)

**Components:**

**Attendance and participation:** Students are expected to attend class regularly and to participate actively in class; class participation should show the fact that the student has completed the readings and assignments for the day. Each student will receive a daily participation grade (0, 1, 2, or 3). Students are allowed a total of one (1) absence; missing class more than once will negatively affect the final grade in the course.

**Papers:** Students will write two short papers during the course of the semester. The first will involve a classroom observation of a teacher of a foreign language and a report of the experience. The second will be a critique of a foreign language textbook. Due dates are indicated below. Details are forthcoming.

**Midterm Exam:** The Midterm Exam will be based on the course content and class discussion of Weeks 1-6. The exam will emulate the format of an M.A. exam, i.e. students choose one of two questions and have 90 minutes to develop a written essay in response.

**Activity plans**: Students will design and submit two original activities from the following categories: 1) listening or reading activity, 2) communication activity, 3) writing activity, 4) cultural activity. Due dates are indicated below. Details are forthcoming.

**Presentations:** There will be three graded presentations in the course:the first twowill consist of the presentation of the planned activity, and the last will be a 20-minute micro-teaching session. See dates below.

**Portfolio:** Students will submit a final professional portfolio, in which they include a statement of teaching philosophy, reflection on course content, lesson plan from micro-teaching, an assessment, etc. Due date is indicated below. Details are forthcoming.

***N.B.:*** *Due dates and assignments may change slightly based on course progress and students’ needs. Any change will be announced in a timely fashion.*

**Final grade**:

The final grade for the course will be calculated by adding the average grade that the student receives in each course component, with the following percentage weights:

Attendance and participation 15%

Papers 20%

Midterm Exam 15%

Activity plans 10%

Presentations 20%

Portfolio 20%

**Grading scale:**

A = 90-100 B = 80-89 C = 70-79 D = 60-69 F = < 60

**Course schedule:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Week 1 | Topic/Reading/Class activity | Other HW |
| 25 Aug | Introduction. The Standards for Foreign Language Learning |  |
| **Week 2** |  |  |
| 1 Sept | Labor Day (no class) |  |
| Week 3 |  |  |
| 8 Sept | Ch. 1: On Knowing a Language: Communicative Competence, Proficiency, and the Standards |  |
| Week 4 |  |  |
| 15 Sept | Ch. 2: On Learning a Language: Some Theoretical Perspectives |  |
| Week 5 |  |  |
| 22 Sept | Ch. 3: On Teaching a Language: Principles and Priorities in Methodology |  |

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Week 6** |  |  |
| 29 Sept | Ch. 4: The Role of Context in Comprehension and Learning. Discussion of observation | **Paper 1** |
| **Week 7** |  |  |
| 6 Oct | Midterm |  |
| **Week 8** |  |  |
| 13 Oct | Ch. 5: A Proficiency-Oriented Approach to Listening and Reading |  |
| **Week 9** |  |  |
| 20 Oct | Presentation of listening/reading activity. Ch. 6: Developing Oral Proficiency | **Activity 1** |
| **Week 10** |  |  |
| 27 Oct | Presentation of communication activity. Ch. 7: Becoming Proficient in Writing | **Activity 2** |
| **Week 11** |  |  |
| 3 Nov | Presentation of writing activity.Ch. 8: Teaching for Cultural Understanding | **Activity 3** |
| **Week 12** |  |  |
| 10 Nov | Presentation of cultural activity. Ch. 9: Classroom Testing | **Activity 4** |
| **Week 13** |  |  |
| 17 Nov | Discussion of textbook review. Preparation for micro-teaching | **Paper 2** |
| **Week 14** |  |  |
| 24 Nov | Micro-teaching |  |
| **Week 15** |  |  |
| 1 Dec | Micro-teaching. Summary |  |

**Portfolio due:** Friday, December 5, 2014 by 5:00 p.m.

**Official University 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](http://www.uta.edu/disability) or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

**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](http://www.uta.edu/titleIX).

**Academic Integrity:** Students enrolled all UT Arlington courses 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.

**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 toward the 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 individuals with disabilities.

**More policies:**

Attendance:At The University of Texas at Arlington, taking attendance is not required. Rather, each faculty member is free to develop his or her own methods of evaluating students’ academic performance, which includes establishing course-specific policies on attendance. As the instructor of this section, I have established the attendance policy described above (see “Attendance and participation”), to wit: I take attendance on a daily basis, and students are assigned a daily participation grade, which is factored in the “Attendance and participation” portion of the final grade. Any absence above one (1) will negatively impact this portion of the grade.

E-Culture Policy:

Email may be used for the following reasons in this course:

* For the professor to inform and remind students of assignments, deadlines, events, and activities
* For the professor to deliver class assignments and exercises
* For students to set up a face-to-face appointment with the professor if they wish to ask questions regarding course materials, clarification, or concerns about their progress in the course
* For students to inform the professor of absences

Please do not use email for the following:

* To request class notes from the professor or that s/he email students course handouts
* To ask the professor what students missed in class

When sending email messages, please consider the following:

* Use salutations at the beginning and signatures at the end of the messages.
* Try to use proper punctuation and capitalization (email and texting are different!).
* Be courteous.

Classroom Comportment Policy**:** Students should come to class prepared with their textbooks or assigned reading and maintain a respectful disposition toward the learning process. Sleeping during class, texting, and otherwise disrupting class (e.g. getting up and leaving while class is in session) is not acceptable behavior in a University environment.

**COURSE CONTRACT**

**MODL 5305**

**­­­­­­­­­­­Dr. Sonia Kania**

**Fall 2014**

**Note to the Student**: please acknowledge your understanding of the information contained in the course syllabus by initialing and signing the following items.

**Print your name**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ I acknowledge having read and understood the policies contained in this syllabus pertaining to grades and absenteeism.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ I acknowledge having read and understood the Academic Integrity section of the syllabus, as well as the “Academic Integrity” sheet on Blackboard (in the Syllabus folder).

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that borrowing language and ideas from a website, a published article, a book, or another person without properly indicating my source is considered plagiarism. Discipline for this offense may include academic probation, suspension, or expulsion from the University.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ I acknowledge the stipulation that submission for credit of work attributable to a computer program, such as electronic or Internet translators, is also academic dishonesty.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ I acknowledge having read and understood the classroom comportment policy, as well as the “Class Policies” sheet on Blackboard (in the Syllabus folder).

**Your Signature**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_