

Introduction to the Study of Human Languages

LING 2301-002

Fall 2015

Instructor Information

Instructor: Mr. Daniel Scarpace

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Course Information

Section Information: LING 2301-002

Time and Place of Class Meetings: M/W/F 11:00 am – 11:50 am, Trimble 205

Required Textbook: Clark, Virginia P., Paul A. Eschholz, Alfred F. Rosa, and Beth Lee Simon. 2008. *Language: Introductory Readings*, 7th edition. Bedford / St. Martin's. ISBN: 0-312-45018-4

Description of Course Content: LING 2301 provides an overview of an inarguably fundamental human capacity: language. Students will consider a variety of language-related topics in the context of the physical sciences, cognitive sciences, social sciences, and humanities. Course readings provide students with exposure to many of the basic concepts and terms used in the study of language and linguistics. Lectures complement the readings by further elucidating key concepts and exemplifying these notions. This course satisfies the University of Texas at Arlington core curriculum requirement in Social and Behavioral Sciences.

Course Objectives: The goal of LING 2301 is to change students' relationship with language by challenging and enriching thinking about language and raising consciousness of the role that language plays in the minds and communities of humans. As the semester progresses, students should be increasingly prepared to enter into well-informed discussions about the primary themes of the course:

1. All languages are systematic, manifesting the complementary properties of rule-governance and creativity;
2. Language acquisition and use are rooted in both cognitive (internal) and social (external) factors; and
3. Languages reflect both our collective humanity and our socio-historical diversity; as such, all languages are worthy of study and respect.

These course themes are supported by reference to specific topics as covered in the readings, lectures, and class discussions.

Student Learning Outcomes: Upon successfully completing this course, students should be able to:

- identify and explain many of the basic questions investigated by linguists, in order to situate the discipline of linguistics in the broader intellectual landscape [Critical Thinking Skills objective],
- describe and illustrate the features shared by all languages, in order to distinguish those aspects of human language attributable to genetics/biology from those that are socially conditioned landscape [Critical Thinking Skills objective],
- analyze communicative signs (icons, words, sentences), in order to differentiate form, meaning, and function within a sign and to justify the use of a particular form in a specific context [Communication Skills objective],
- compare the characteristics of normative and non-normative/developing language behaviors in order to recommend appropriate measures when interacting with language-limited individuals (especially children and aphasic adults) [Empirical and Quantitative Skills objective],
- analyze the structure of interpersonal interactions, in order to assess the ways in which language both reflects and creates social relationships [Social Responsibility objective],
- identify major historical events that have shaped modern (American) English, in order to explain contemporary patterns of language use and sociolinguistic attitudes [Empirical and Quantitative Skills objective], and
- debate the relative merits of monolingualism vs. multilingualism, in order to make more informed decisions about relevant social, educational, and legal policies. [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.

Empirical and Quantitative Skills: To include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions.

Social Responsibility To include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national and global communities.

Descriptions of Major Assignments and Examinations:

Reading Quizzes (100 pts)

- Ten (10) reading quizzes will be administered over the course of the semester.
- Each quiz will be worth 10 points. Final quiz grade will be the total number of quiz points earned throughout the semester.
- Quizzes are noted on the syllabus and will be administered in class.
- Each quiz will be timed. Students have 10 minutes to complete each quiz individually, and then in their team.

Regular Homework Assignment (3 x 50 pts = 150 pts)

- Three (3) regular homework, each worth 50 points, will be assigned over the course of the semester. The specific content of each assignment will be announced in class; due dates are noted in the schedule.
- Homework assignments will be collected at the beginning of the class on which they are due, unless specified otherwise. Assignments submitted after the beginning of class may be deemed late at the instructors discretion.
- Under very few circumstances will any assignments be accepted late without penalty. If you know you will be gone the day an assignment is due, make arrangements to turn it in ahead of time. Late assignments will only be accepted up until a week past the due date and will be penalized 5 points, the equivalent of one letter grade.

- All assignments will be posted to Blackboard.

Signature Assignments (2 x 100 pts = 200 pts)

- Two (2) signature assignments, each worth 100 points, will be assigned over the course of the semester.
 - **The Second Language Interview Project:** a 2-3 page essay that reflects what the student has learned during a 30-minute interview with a non-native speaker of English. Each student will be responsible for finding their own interviewee and setting up a time for the interview. Due Wednesday, October 21.
 - **The OED Expedition Essay:** a 3-4 page essay that addresses how the English language has changed over time. This essay will be based off a series of questions and the answers found using the online version of the Oxford English Dictionary. Due Wednesday, December 2.
- Specific instructions for each essay will be provided later in the semester.

In-class Exams (2 x 150 pts = 300 pts)

- Two (2) in-class exams, each worth 150 points, will be administered during the course of the semester.
- The first exam will be administered on **September 30**. This exam will test the student's knowledge and application of materials covered in the first section of the course.
- The second exam will be administered on **November 4**. This exam will test the student's knowledge and application of materials covered in the second section of the course.
- A study guide will be provided one week prior to each exam. The format of each exam will be noted on the study guide.

Final Exam (200 pts)

- The final exam is worth 200 points. The exam will be administered from 11 am to 1:30 pm on **Wednesday, December 16**, as set by the University's final exam schedule.
- The final exam will be cumulative, requiring students to be able to recall and apply materials discussed since the beginning of the semester.
- A study guide will be provided one week prior to the final. The format of the final will be noted on the study guide.

Attendance (50 pts)

- Attendance policies are listed below

Course 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 following attendance policy:

- Attendance will be recorded at the beginning of each class.
- Arriving to class late or departing early will result in a half absence. Students who arrive late are responsible for checking in with the instructor after class has ended to be recorded. Students who need to leave early are responsible for alerting the instructor prior to the beginning of class.
- Students with 3 or fewer total absences may be eligible for a final grade adjustment; see "Grading".
- This attendance policy goes into effect on the first day of class. Students added to the course after the start date will incur an absence for each day missed.

While poor attendance on its own will not negatively impact a student final grade, students are **strongly** encouraged to attend. 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.

Grading: Grades will be calculated based on the accumulation of points earned for above listed requirements and extra credit. Final grades will be assessed by comparing the students total points with the 1000-point scale given below.

Points Earned	Final Grade
≥ 900	A
800-899.9	B
700-799.9	C
600-699.9	D
≤ 600	F

Students who are within 20 points of a higher grade, have 3 (or fewer) absences, AND have submitted all homework assignments (regular homeworks and signature assignments) will automatically be bumped up to the higher grade. *Example: A student has 880 points (normally a B), has turned in all assignments, and has 3 absences. This student's points will be bumped to an A (900 points).*

Students are expected to keep track of their performance throughout the semester and seek guidance from available sources (including the instructor) if their performance drops below satisfactory levels; see "Student Support Services," below.

Make-Up Exams: Students will be allowed to take a make-up exam only if the absence occurs as the result of an extreme and reasonably unforeseeable circumstance (e.g. sudden serious illness, major family crisis). Should the student and himself/herself in such a predicament, he/she must contact the instructor by phone or e-mail before 5:00 p.m. 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).

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://web.uta.edu/aao/fao/>).

Disability Accommodations: UT 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)*, *The Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act (ADAAA)*, and *Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act*. 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 disability. Students are responsible for providing the instructor with official notification in the form of a letter certified by the **Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD)**. Students experiencing a range of conditions (Physical, Learning, Chronic Health, Mental Health, and Sensory) that may cause diminished academic performance or other barriers to learning may seek services and/or accommodations by contacting:

The Office for Students with Disabilities, (OSD) www.uta.edu/disability or calling 817-272-3364.

Counseling and Psychological Services, (CAPS) www.uta.edu/caps/ or calling 817-272-3671.

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.

Title IX: *The University of Texas at Arlington does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, disabilities, genetic information, and/or veteran status in its educational programs or activities it operates. For more information, visit uta.edu/eos. For information regarding Title IX, visit 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 down the hallway to the left upon exiting 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.

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 <http://www.uta.edu/universitycollege/resources/index.php>.

The English Writing Center (411LIBR): Hours are 9 am to 8 pm Mondays-Thursdays, 9 am to 3 pm Fridays and Noon to 5 pm Saturdays and Sundays. Walk In ***Quick Hits*** sessions during all open hours Mon-Thurs. Register and make appointments online at <http://uta.mywconline.com>. Classroom Visits, Workshops, and advanced services for graduate students and faculty are also available. Please see www.uta.edu/owl for detailed information.

Librarian to Contact: Jody Bailey (jbailey@uta.edu)

<p>Emergency Phone Numbers: In case of an on-campus emergency, call the UT Arlington Police Department at 817-272-3003 (non-campus phone), 2-3003 (campus phone). You may also dial 911. Non-emergency number 817-272-3381.</p>
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