

LING 2301-001: Introduction to the Study of Human Language

Fall 2016

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or by appointment

Section Information: LING 2301-001

Time and Place of Class Meetings: Trimble Hall 101, MWF 10:00–10:50 am

Required Textbook: Yule, George. 2014. *The study of language*, 5th edition. Cambridge University Press. ISBN 978-1-107-65817-2

Description of Course Content: An introduction to the scientific study of human language, using English as an example. Topics in the course include how sounds are produced, how words and sentences are structured, how and why language changes, how language is acquired by children and adults, how the brain processes language, and how language and society intersect.

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]
- 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: Over the course of the semester, students will complete the following assignments and exams:

- **Homework Assignments:** Eight (8) regular homework grades will be given over the course of the semester. Regular homework assignments will assess the student's ability to apply terms and concepts OR prepare them for future lectures or assignments. **The average homework assignment grade accounts for 35% of the final grade.**
- **Signature Assignments:** Two (2) larger assignments, the Second Language Interview Project and the Oxford English Dictionary Exploration Essay, will be given out in Units 2 and 3. Signature assignments will require students to collect data and craft an essay based on the data. **Each signature assignment accounts for 7.5% of the final grade (15% combined).**
- **Quizzes:** A number of in-class pop quizzes will be given over the course of the semester. Quizzes will be administered during the first or final five minutes of the class meeting. Pop quizzes may cover the required reading, previous day's lecture, or current day's lecture. The lowest two (2) quiz grade will be dropped. Make-up quizzes will **NOT** be allowed, and students arriving late will **NOT** be given additional time to complete quizzes. **Quizzes account for 10% of the final grade.**
- **In-class Exams:** Two (2) in-class exams will test the student's knowledge and ability to recognize and apply terms and concepts. In-class exams will independently cover materials from Units 1 and 2. **Each in-class exams account for 10% of the final grade, (20% combined).**
- **Final Exam:** The final exam will be cumulative and will test the student's knowledge and ability to recognize and apply terms and concepts covered since the beginning of the semester. **The final exam accounts for 20% of the final grade.**
- **Extra credit:** Students can earn extra credit by attending approved colloquia or local conference presentations, participating in linguistics lab experiments or studies, or completing an end-of-semester extra credit assignment. Details and requirements for extra credit opportunities will be provided as they become available. **The maximum extra credit a student can earn is 3%.**

Late Assignments: Homework and signature assignments will **NOT** be accepted late (automatic zero). Each student may request a maximum of two (2) assignment extensions over the course of the semester. Students requesting an extension **must email the instructor no later than 5:00 pm the day before the assignment is due.** Approved extensions will give the student 48 hours to complete the assignment.

Make-up Exams: A student 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 this occur, the student **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 above will receive a grade of zero (0).

Attendance: At The University of Texas at Arlington, taking attendance is not required but attendance is a critical indicator in student success. 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 taken at the beginning of class.
- Failure to attend a class session will count as **one (1) absence**.
- Arriving late (after lecture/discussion has begun) OR departing early will incur a **half (1/2) absence**. Students who arrive late should check-in with the instructor at the end of class to be marked as present, else they will be marked as fully absent. Students who need to depart early should notify the instructor at the beginning of class.
- If a student has six (6) or fewer combined absences AND has turned in all homework and signature assignments, then that student will have their lowest regular homework score dropped. (This **CANNOT** be applied to a signature assignment grade.)

However, while UT Arlington does not require instructors to take attendance in their courses, the U.S. Department of Education requires that the University have a mechanism in place to mark when Federal Student Aid recipients "begin attendance in a course." UT Arlington instructors will report when students begin attendance in a course as part of the final grading process. Specifically, when assigning a student a grade of F, faculty report the last date a student attended their class based on evidence such as a test, participation in a class project or presentation, or an engagement online via Blackboard. This date is reported to the Department of Education for federal financial aid recipients.

Grading: Final grades will be calculated based on the weighted average of assignments provided below:

Assignment Type (#)	Course Weight	Weighted Grade	Final Grade
Homework Assignments (8)	35%	$\geq 90\%$	A
Signature Assignments (2)	15%	80-89.9%	B
Quizzes (TBD)	10%	70-79.9%	C
In-class Exams (2)	20%	60-69.9%	D
Final Exam	20%	$< 60\%$	F
Extra credit (optional)	+3%		

Extra credit will be added after the weighted course grade has been calculated, e.g., *78% weighted grade plus 2.5% extra credit would result in an 80.5% for the course.*

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.

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). Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. 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. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability.
- **Counseling and Psychological Services, (CAPS)** www.uta.edu/caps/ or calling 817-272-3671 is also available to all students to help increase their understanding of personal issues, address mental and behavioral health problems and make positive changes in their lives.

Non-Discrimination Policy: 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.

Title IX Policy: The University of Texas at Arlington (“University”) is committed to maintaining a learning and working environment that is free from discrimination based on sex in accordance with Title IX of the Higher Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in educational programs or activities; Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VII), which prohibits sex discrimination in employment; and the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (SaVE Act). Sexual misconduct is a form of sex discrimination and will not be tolerated. *For information regarding Title IX, visit www.uta.edu/titleIX or contact Ms. Jean Hood, Vice President and Title IX Coordinator at 817-272-7091 or jmhood@uta.edu.*

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 in their courses by 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. Additional information is available at <https://www.uta.edu/conduct/>.

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>.

Campus Carry: Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes as prohibited. Under the new law, openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/news/info/campus-carry/>.

Student Feedback Survey: At the end of each term, students enrolled in face-to-face and online classes categorized as “lecture,” “seminar,” or “laboratory” are 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 via the SFS database is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. Students’ anonymity will be protected to the extent that the law allows. UT Arlington’s effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law and aggregate results are posted online. Data from SFS is also used for faculty and program evaluations. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

Final Review Week: for semester-long courses, 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 to the right 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.

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 IDEAS Center (2nd Floor of Central Library) offers **free** tutoring to all students with a focus on transfer students, sophomores, veterans, and others undergoing a transition to UT Arlington. To schedule an appointment with a peer tutor or mentor email IDEAS@uta.edu or call 817-272-6593.

The English Writing Center (411LIBR): The Writing Center offers free tutoring in 20-, 40-, or 60-minute face-to-face and online sessions to all UTA students on any phase of their UTA coursework. Our hours are 9 am to 8 pm Mon.-Thurs., 9 am-3 pm Fri. and Noon-6 pm Sat. and Sun. Register and make appointments online at <http://uta.mywconline.com>. Please see www.uta.edu/owl for detailed information on all our programs and services.

The Library’s 2nd floor Academic Plaza offers students a central hub of support services, including IDEAS Center, University Advising Services, Transfer UTA and various college/school advising hours. Services are available during the library’s hours of operation. <http://library.uta.edu/academic-plaza>

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

Course Schedule

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.

-Daniel G. Amy

				26-Aug	Syllabus and Overview
29-Aug	What is Language	31-Aug	Origins of Language ch. 1	2-Sep	Properties of Language ch. 2
5-Sep	Labor Day No class	7-Sep	Language Sounds ch. 3 Homework 1 Due	9-Sep	Sounds, cont.
12-Sep	Structure of Words pp. 57, 65-69	14-Sep	Words, cont. Homework 2 Due	16-Sep	Structure of Sentences ch. 7
19-Sep	Sentences, cont.	21-Sep	System of Meaning pp. 113-119 Homework 3 Due	23-Sep	Meaning, cont.
26-Sep	Computing Language Homework 4 Due	28-Sep	Review	30-Sep	Exam 1
3-Oct	1 st Lang. Acquisition ch. 13	5-Oct	FLA, cont.	7-Oct	FLA, cont.
10-Oct	2 nd Lang. Acquisition ch. 14 Homework 5 Due	12-Oct	SLA, cont.	14-Oct	SLA, cont.
17-Oct	Language and Brain pp. 154-159, 161-164 SLI Essay Due	19-Oct	Aphasia pp. 160-161	21-Oct	Metroplex Conference No class
24-Oct	Language Processing Homework 6 Due	26-Oct	Processing, cont.	28-Oct	Signed Languages ch. 15
31-Oct	Written Languages ch. 16	2-Nov	Review	4-Nov	Exam 2
7-Nov	Historical Linguistics pp. 226-230, 232-236	9-Nov	History of English pp. 230-232	11-Nov	English, cont. Homework 7 Due
14-Nov	Languages Contact pp. 250-251	16-Nov	Contact, cont.	18-Nov	Bilingualism pp. 247-249
21-Nov	Language and Culture ch. 20 Homework 8 Due	23-Nov	OED Workshop	25-Nov	Thanksgiving Break No class
28-Nov	Language Policy pp. 248-249 OED Essay Due	30-Nov	Lang. Endangerment	2-Dec	Lang. Revitalization
5-Dec	To be determined...	7-Dec	Final Review	9-Dec	Study Day No class
12-Dec	FINAL EXAM 8:00 to 10:30 am				

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.