

LING 2301: Introduction to the Study of Human Languages
Spring 2018

Instructor: Rongchao Tang

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Office Hours: Wednesday 2-4PM or by appointment

Section Information: LING2301 Section 004

Time and Place of Class Meetings: Monday and Wednesday 4:00PM–5:20PM; TH 21

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 and in-class activities 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.

Student Learning Outcomes: 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 three primary themes of the course:

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

Required Textbooks and Other Course Materials:

1. Yule, George. 2016. The Study of Language. Sixth Edition
2. Additional Readings will be provided on Blackboard.

Descriptions of major assignments and examinations:

Quizzes ($8 \times 1\% = 8\%$). Reading quizzes will be taken at the very beginning of class, first individually (5 minutes) and then with your team (5 minutes). Your score will be the individual scores. These questions cover the very basic concepts from the assigned reading.

Homework ($6 \times 2\% = 12\%$). The homework assignments make up a significant number of points in this course. They are usually due at the end of the week (Sundays) and cover material from the previous topic. You are allowed to discuss the homework with other students in the class, but you must submit your own responses. Any writing that is clearly copied from another student's work or from any source other than the textbook without citation is considered plagiarism. All homework assignments will be submitted via Blackboard. Many assignments can be typed directly into Blackboard; for others, you must submit your responses as a PDF in order to preserve images, fonts, etc. No other file types will be graded.

Midterm and Final Exams (15% + 15% +20% = 50%). There will be two midterm exams and one final exam. The final exam is cumulative. The format of the exams will be roughly 50% multiple choice and 50% short answer. For the two midterm exams, the exam will be held at the normal class time, **but the final exam will NOT be held at the normal class time.**

Essays (20%). There will be two essay assignments.

SLA Interview Essay (10%): Students will be required to conduct a short interview with a second language speaker of English and analyze it according to what they have learned so far in class about language and language acquisition. Details will be provided later in the semester. You will submit an electronic copy in PDF format via Blackboard.

OED Expedition Essay (10%): Students will be required to write a 3-4 pages essay exploring the history of words in English. The content of this essay will be based on a previous homework assignment and class discussions. Specific instructions will be given out in class later in the semester. You will submit an electronic copy in PDF format via Blackboard.

Extra Credit. A small number of extra credit questions will show up on exams and homeworks. There will also be extra credit opportunities throughout the semester.

Attendance: As the instructor of this section, course engagement refers to regular on-time attendance, participation in discussion, and physical as well as mental presence in the classroom. Your participation grade will be reported to you on Blackboard each week, out of 4 points. ***Due to the interactive nature of the course, more than one unexcused absence will negatively affect your letter grade.***

Grading: 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 listed below:

Grading Breakdown	Points (500 total)	% of total score (100% total)
Attendance	50	10%
Homework	60 (6 × 10 pts)	12%
Quizzes	40 (8 × 5 pts)	8%
Essay 1 - SLA Essay	50	10%
Essay 2 - OED Essay	50	10%
Midterm 1	75	15%
Midterm 2	75	15%
Final	100	20%

Make-up 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 needing a make-up exam, you must contact the instructor by 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%).

Explanation of how the day-to-day class works: The format of this class is called Team-Based Learning, which is highly related to other student-driven pedagogies such as Active Learning and Problem-Based Learning. Instead of a lecture format in which the instructor reads or explains the material while the students passively take notes, in this course the students are actively involved in the learning process. While the instructor (me) will often give some relevant explanation or model sample problems in class, there will be little-to-no formal lecturing. Instead, class time is for practice and discussion – something you wouldn't be able to do on your own at home. The students (you) will be working through activities and problem sets with your teammates in order to develop and solidify your understanding of the material. The instructors will circulate during the class period to answer questions and point you in the right direction if you get stuck. This style of learning has been found to be beneficial in educational research. Please talk to me if you would like more information about how the class is run, I would love to discuss it with you!

Basic format of classes/units:

1. Assigned reading (to be done at home)
2. Quiz on assigned reading (individual and team) to make sure you are prepared for the activities
3. Recap of quiz
4. Some short lecture of material not in the reading / videos / demonstration
5. Team activities
6. Review

Expectations for Out-of-Class Study: Beyond the time required to attend each class meeting, students enrolled in this course should expect to spend at least an additional 7 hours per week of their own time in course-related activities, including reading required materials, completing assignments, preparing for exams, etc.

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://www.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. 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. Evacuation plans may be found at http://www.uta.edu/campus-ops/ehs/fire/Evac_Maps_Buildings.php. Students should also be encouraged to subscribe to the MavAlert system that will send information in case of an emergency to their cell

phones or email accounts. Anyone can subscribe at <https://mavalert.uta.edu/> or <https://mavalert.uta.edu/register.php>

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>.

University Tutorial & Supplemental Instruction (Ransom Hall 205): UTSI offers a variety of academic support services for undergraduate students, including: 60 minute one-on-one [tutoring sessions](#), [Start Strong Freshman](#) tutoring program, and [Supplemental Instruction](#). Office hours are Monday-Friday 8:00am-5:00pm. For more information visit www.uta.edu/utsi or call 817-272-2617.

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. Students can drop in, or check the schedule of available peer tutors at www.uta.edu/IDEAS, or call (817) 272-6593.

The English Writing Center (411LIBR): The Writing Center offers **FREE** tutoring in 15-, 30-, 45-, and 60-minute face-to-face and online sessions to all UTA students on any phase of their UTA coursework. Register and make appointments online at <https://uta.mywconline.com>. Classroom visits, workshops, and specialized services for graduate students and faculty are also available. 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: Jodi Bailey (jbailey@uta.edu)

Projected Course Schedule

		Topic	Readings/Assignments
UNIT I: The Structure of Human Language			
Week 1	1/17	Intro / Sillyabus	
Week 2a	1/22	Prescriptivism & Descriptivism Dialects	Online Reading (The Language Mavens) Ch.18 pp. 269-272
Week 2b	1/24	The origin of language Design features of language Animal Communication	Ch.1 Ch.2 Quiz #1
	1/28		Homework #1 due at 11:59PM
Week 3a	1/29	Phonetics, Phonology	Ch.3 Ch.4 (skip 'Natural Classes', 'Phones and Allophones', read 'Minimal Pairs and Sets', 'Phonotactics', 'Syllables' and 'Consonant Clusters')
			Quiz #2
Week 3b	1/31	Morphology	Ch. 6 pp. 72-76
	2/4		Homework #2 due 11:59PM
Week 4a	2/5	Syntax	Ch.7 Quiz #3
Week 4b	2/7	Semantics	Ch.9 pp. 129-134
	2/11		Homework #3 due 11:59PM

Week 5a	2/12	Review	
Week 5b	2/14	Midterm Exam 1	Study all materials in Unit I
UNIT II: Language and Cognition			
Week 6a	2/19	Language & The Brain	Ch.12
Week 6b	2/21	Language & The Brain	Ch.12
Week 7a	2/26	First Language Acquisition	Ch.13 <i>Quiz #4</i>
Week 7b	2/28	First Language Acquisition	Ch.13
	3/4		<i>Homework #4 due 11:59PM</i>
Week 8a	3/5	Second Language Acquisition	Ch.14 <i>Quiz #5</i>
Week 8b	3/7	Second Language Acquisition SLA Essay	Ch.14
Week 9a	3/12	SPRING BREAK	
Week 9b	3/14	SPRING BREAK	
Week 10a	3/19	SLA Essay Workshop	
Week 10b	3/21	Sign Languages	Ch.15 <i>Quiz #6</i>
	3/25		<i>SLA Essay due 11:59PM</i>
Week 11a	3/26	Language Processing	
Week 11b	3/28	Computational Linguistics	Online Reading
	4/1		<i>Homework #5 due 11:59PM</i>
Week 12a	4/2	Review	
Week 12b	4/4	Midterm Exam 2	Study all materials from Unit II
UNIT III: Language Change			
Week 13a	4/9	Language History and Change	Ch.5 pp. 55-61 Ch.17 (skip pp.254-255) <i>Quiz #7</i>
Week 13b	4/11	Language History and Change	
Week 14a	4/16	Language History and Change OED Essay	<i>OED Essay Preparation Assignment due before class</i>
Week 14b	4/18	Language History and Change	
Week 15a	4/23	Language and Culture Language and Thought Endangered Languages	Ch.18 pp.273-277 Ch.20 <i>Quiz #8</i>
Week 15b	4/25	Language and Culture Language and Thought Endangered Languages	
	4/29		<i>OED Essay due 11:59PM</i>
Week 16a	5/1	Writing Systems	Ch.16
Week 16b	5/3	Review	
			<i>Homework #6 due 11:59PM</i>
Week 17	5/11 Friday 2-4:30 PM	Final Exam	Study all materials from all Units

Other important dates: 1/31 – Census Day; 3/30 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. –Rongchao Tang.”

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