

LING 2301-003: Introduction to the Study of Human Languages

Spring 2018

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Course Information

Section Information: LING 2301-003: Introduction to the Study of Human Language

Time and Place of Class Meetings: TuTh 3:30 pm – 4:50 pm, Trimble Hall 216 (TH 216)

Required Textbook and Other Course Materials:

- Yule, George. 2016. *The study of language*, 6th edition. Cambridge University Press. (ISBN 978-1-316-60675-9)
- Additional readings will be provided on Blackboard.

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.

Course Policies

Descriptions of major assignments and examinations: A number of assessments will be given throughout the semester to help assess the student's final grade in the course. The types of assessment are as follows:

- *Homework Assignments:* Eight (8) homework assignments will be given over the course of the semester. Homework assignments will assess the student's ability to apply terms and concepts or prepare them for upcoming lectures/signature assignments. **Each homework assignment will be worth 50 points (400 points total).**

- *Signature Assignment Essays:* Two (2) signature assignment essays will be given over the course of the semester. Signature assignment essays will assess the student's ability to apply the skills outlined by the four Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board objectives (see above) in relation to the course content. **Each signature assignment essay will be worth 100 points (200 points total).** The two signature assignment essays will consist of the following:
 - *Second Language Interview Project (SLIP):* The student will interview an L2 English speaker and write an essay based on the interview.
 - *Oxford English Dictionary (OED) Essay:* The student will research dictionary entries and write an essay based on patterns that they uncover.
- *Exams:* Three (3) exams will be given over the course of the semester. Two exams will be in-class, unit exams. The final exam will be a cumulative exam. **Each exam will be worth 150 points (450 points total).**

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:

- *General Attendance Policy:* A student can miss as many lectures as they like, as long as there is no exam on that day. Simply write a brief e-mail to the instructor explaining the real reason for the absence. The only requirement is that you tell the truth. Do not say you were ill if you overslept, for instance. Do not invade your own or another person's privacy in telling the truth (i.e., simply say you had a medical appointment — don't explain symptoms). Send the e-mail to the instructor before you miss the scheduled lecture or within 24 hours (by 5:00 pm of the following day). Note: Title your absence email "LING 2301 Absence". **Failure to submit an excuse by the deadline will result in an "unexcused" absence.**
- *Late Arrival/Early Departure:* In order to limit distractions, the first two tables along the wall next to the door will be reserved for students who arrive late or need to leave early. If you arrive late or need to leave early, use one of these reserved seats so that you may quietly slip into or out of class without disturbing the instructor or your fellow students. **Students who arrive late or depart early MUST submit an excuse just as if they were absent, following the directions above. Failure to do so will result in an "unexcused" absence.**
- *"Unexcused" Absence Policy:* A student's first two "unexcused" absences will not result in a penalty. **If you miss a third class without e-mailing an excuse, your final grade will drop by 50 points out of the possible 1050. For each subsequent, unexcused absence after the third, your final grade will drop by another 50 points.** (E.g., 6 "unexcused" absences will result in 4 separate 50-point penalties, resulting in an overall deduction of 200 points, the equivalent of two letter grades.)

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 based on the total number of points earned from assessments (1050 possible points) minus attendance penalties, if any. Your final grade will be the letter associated with the difference (TOTAL POINTS EARNED - PENALTIES) in the grading schema below.

Final Grade Schema	
A:	≥ 900 points
B:	800 – 899 points
C:	700 – 799 points
D:	600 – 699 points
F:	< 600 points

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

Late Assignments: Any assignment submitted after its deadline is late. Late assignments submitted within the 24-hour period after the deadline will be penalized by a flat 10% deduction (5 points for homework assignments/10 points for signature assignments). An additional 10% deduction will be applied for each 24-hour period that follows. Assignments not submitted within 5 days of the deadline will receive an automatic ZERO.

The instructor reserves the right to make assignment-specific adjustments that supersede the general late assignment policy above. Any assignment-specific adjustment that supersedes the general late assignment policy will be clearly noted on the assignment.

Make-up Exams: Students who miss an exam will receive an automatic ZERO on the exam. Make-up exams will only be available to students with legitimate absences (university-authorized absence, military service, religious holy day, illness, death in the family, or accident). Legitimate absences must be supported by appropriate documentation. A student with legitimate absence must contact the instructor via email within 48 hours to schedule a make-up exam. The make-up exam must be completed within 1 week of the original exam date.

Exam Grade Replacement: One (and only one) in-class, unit exam grade may be replaced by a higher score if the student shows improvement on that unit’s section of the final exam. The replacement exam grade will be calculated by multiplying 150 by the percentage score of the unit on the final exam ($150 * \text{Unit } \%$). If a student shows improvement on both the first and second sections of the final exam, the replaced grade will be the one that has the higher positive impact on final points. Exam grade replacement may apply to a missed exam score.

E.g., A student earns 96 points (64%) on Exam 1 and 123 points (82%) on Exam 2. On the final exam, the student earns an 80% (120-point equivalent) on the Unit 1 section and an 86% (129-point equivalent) on the Unit 2 section. This student’s Exam 1 grade will be replaced as its benefit, 24 points (120-96), is greater than the benefit associated with replacing Exam 2, 6 points (129-123).

Plagiarism, Collusion, Cheating: Students are expected to submit their original work for all assessments. Instances of plagiarism, collusion, and/or cheating on an assessment will result in an automatic ZERO on the given assessment. Additionally, the violation will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct (see Academic Integrity below).

Extra Credit: The grading policies and schema established for this course provide built-in opportunities for students to improve their final grade outcome. **As such, NO extra credit will be offered or made available.**

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 6 hours per week of their own time in course-related activities, including reading required materials, completing assignments, preparing for exams, etc.

Blackboard: This course will use Blackboard (<https://elearn.uta.edu/>) for the purpose of posting announcements, handouts, homework, reviews, grades, etc. All homework and signature assignment submissions must be uploaded to Blackboard in PDF format, unless stated otherwise in the individual assignment. In the event of a Blackboard outage, email the instructor with the PDF attached before the assignment's deadline AND post your submission to Blackboard once it is back online.

Email: Course-wide emails will be sent through Blackboard. These emails will have subject lines that start with **2182-LING-2301-003-STUDY-OF-HUMAN-LANGUAGE--2018-Spring**. Do NOT disregard these emails as they contain course updates, important announcements, clarification on homeworks, etc.

While email does allow for instant communication between individuals, it should be noted that the instructor is not on-call 24/7. During the workweek, the instructor will make efforts to respond to emails within 24 hours of receipt. Emails received after 5:00 pm will not be addressed until the following business day.

Late Additions: Students added to the course after the first day of class are responsible for learning the materials covered in their absence and completing assignments given before they entered the class. Late additions to the class have 1 week (from the first class period after enrollment) to complete all assignments given prior to their addition in the course. **Late additions MUST also schedule and attend an office appointment with the instructor within 1 week of being added to the course; failure to do so will result in an “unexcused” absence (see Attendance above).**

University Policies, Resources, 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, Â§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 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.

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

Important Dates to Remember:

- *Census date:* Wednesday, January 31
- *Spring break:* Monday, March 12 – Friday, March 16
- *Last day to drop:* Friday, March 30
- *Final exam:* Thursday, May 10, 2:00 pm – 4:30 pm

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

Wk	Day	Topic	Reading	Due
1	Tues. 16-Jan Thur. 18-Jan	Introduction & Syllabus Overview What is Language?	Yule, ch. 1, 2	
2	Tues. 23-Jan Thur. 25-Jan	Phonetic Phonology	Yule, ch. 3 Yule, ch. 4	HW 1
3	Tues. 30-Jan Thur. 1-Feb	Word Units Morphology	Yule, ch. 5 Yule, ch. 6	HW 2
4	Tues. 6-Feb Thur. 8-Feb	Grammar Syntax	Yule, ch. 7 Yule, ch. 8	HW 3
5	Tues. 13-Feb Thur. 15-Feb	Semantics Writing Systems	Yule, ch. 9 Yule, ch. 16	HW 4
6	Tues. 20-Feb Thur. 22-Feb	Review Exam 1		
7	Tues. 27-Feb Thur. 1-Mar	First Language Acquisition FLA, cont.	Yule, ch. 13	
8	Tues. 6-Mar Thur. 8-Mar	Second Language Acquisition SLA, cont.	Yule, ch. 14	HW 5
Spring Break (March 12-16)				
9	Tues. 20-Mar Thur. 22-Mar	Language and the Brain Brain, cont.	Yule, ch. 12	SLIP
10	Tues. 27-Mar Thur. 29-Mar	Computers and Language Language Processing	O'Grady (1989) Field (2015)	HW 6
11	Tues. 3-Apr Thur. 5-Apr	Review Exam 2		
12	Tues. 10-Apr Thur. 12-Apr	Regional and Social Variation Language Change	Yule, ch. 18, 19 Yule, pp. 251-255	
13	Tues. 17-Apr Thur. 19-Apr	History of English English, cont.	Yule, pp. 256-261 Roberts (1958)	HW 7
14	Tues. 24-Apr Thur. 26-Apr	Language and Culture Bilingualism	Yule, ch. 20 Garcia (2008)	OED Essay
15	Tues. 1-May Thur. 3-May	Language Policy Review	Fasold (1987)	HW 8
FINAL EXAM: Thursday, May 10, 2:00 pm – 4:30 pm				

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.