

Linguistics 2371-001: Language in a Multicultural USA – Spring 2018

MW 1-2:20 PM
PKH 302

Instructor: Dr. Daniel Scarpance
Office: Hammond Hall 125
Office Hours: Wednesday 3-4 PM, Thursday 1-2 PM; also by appointment
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Prerequisites: A desire (or need) to learn about language diversity in America.

Required Text: English with An Accent: Language, Ideology, and Discrimination in the United States. 2nd edition. Rosina Lippi-Green. 2012. Routledge.

Do You Speak American? Robert MacNeil and William Cran. (Selected readings distributed online)

Course Description

The relationship between language in the U.S. and social power. This course explores how negative attitudes toward some language varieties and languages spoken in the U.S. arise from social factors, rather than features of the languages themselves. In addition to studying language varieties, the course shows how American institutions such as the educational system and the media reinforce these negative attitudes and contribute to discrimination. This course satisfies the University of Texas at Arlington core curriculum requirement in Language, Philosophy, and Culture.

Student Learning Outcomes: Students who successfully complete LING 2371 should be able to do the following:

- Have developed awareness, appreciation and respect for the multitude of cultures in the U.S. and be able to describe the ways that these are both accurately and inaccurately portrayed [Personal Responsibility objective]
- Identify and demonstrate an understanding of the basic concepts and terms used in analyzing language and social variation [Critical Thinking Skills objective]
- Describe differences between descriptive and prescriptive approaches and attitudes toward language [Communication Skills objective]
- Collect aspects of linguistic phenomena for description and analysis (i.e. conduct basic research) [Critical Thinking Skills objective]
- Reflect on different experiences of diversity and multiculturalism [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.

Personal Responsibility

To include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making.

Linguistics 2371-001: Language in a Multicultural USA – Spring 2018

Social Responsibility

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

Description of Assignments and Grading

| Grading Breakdown | Points (500 total) | % of total score | Grading Policy | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Attendance/Participation | 45 | 9% | A | 90-100 % |
| Homework | 125 (25 pts x 5) | 25% | B | 80-89.99 % |
| Dialect Project | 45 | 9% | C | 70-79.99 % |
| Quizzes | 45 (5 pts x 9) | 9% | D | 60-69.99 % |
| Exams x 3 | 240 (80 x 3 each) | 48% | F | 59.99% or lower |

Exams. There are three (3) exams, two non-cumulative tests and a cumulative final. All three tests are worth 80 points each, or 16% of your final grade. The exam format will be announced one week prior to each test; formats may change from one exam to the next, however they are likely to consist of multiple choice and essay questions. (Please see below for exam make-ups.)

Attendance and Participation. Attendance is mandatory due to the interactive nature of the course. Your grade will be based on how well you get along with your teammates and how well you contribute to the group work. Your participation grade will be reported to you on Blackboard each week, out of 3 points. **Note: you can still get a 0 for participation even if you are present!**

| Participation Grade | Meaning |
|---------------------|---|
| 0 pts | Not present, not engaged with classwork or groupmates, did not complete any readings. |
| 1 pt | Works diligently but often distracted by non-class related materials, minimally completed readings. |
| 2 pts | Well engaged, only occasionally distracted |
| 3 pts | Engaged with classwork and groupmates, always focused on task at hand, helps others and asks good relevant questions, comes having read all assigned readings and ready to discuss them |

Also, as part of your participation grade, you **must come visit the instructor** during office hours or a scheduled appointment at least once between Weeks 3 and 11. This is to ensure that you and the instructor are on the same page regarding the material, the workload, and how to do well in the class. There will also be required self and peer evaluations done midway through the course.

Quizzes (45 pts total). 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 average of the individual and team scores. These questions cover the very basic concepts from the assigned reading.

Homework (125 pts total). The homework assignments make up the bulk of the points in this course. They are usually due at the end of the week and cover material from the previous topic. 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.**

Dialect Project (45 pts). There is one slightly larger paper focusing on a particular dialect of English used in the United States. Details will be announced in class. This will also require some draft or outline component, to be due before the paper is due, to be announced later.

Linguistics 2371-001: Language in a Multicultural USA – Spring 2018

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 / introduction to activities
- 5) Team activities
- 6) Review

Online Readings

Due to the current-events nature of the course, there will be many additional readings given out on Blackboard, mostly recently published articles in the press. These are **required** to read before coming to class – many in-class discussions will revolve around them. A list of reading questions will also be posted at the same time – these along with the readings are to be brought into class. Students will be notified of these readings at least a week before class time.

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.

Excused absences include official university activities, military service, and/or religious holidays. Students must inform the instructor in writing at least one week in advance of an excused absence.

Course Policies

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 in such a predicament, 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%).

Extra Credit and Make-up work. There will be various extra credit opportunities throughout the semester. Late assignments are generally not accepted but will be at the discretion of the instructor.

Classroom behavior. Class sessions are short and require your full attention. All cell phones, iPods, MP3 players, laptops, and other electronic devices should be turned off and put away when entering the classroom; all earpieces should be removed. Store homework from other classes, newspapers, crosswords, magazines, bulky bags, and other distractions so that you can concentrate on the readings and discussions

Linguistics 2371-001: Language in a Multicultural USA – Spring 2018

each day. Note: I reserve the right to ask you to leave the classroom if you are being disruptive.

According to *Student Conduct and Discipline*, "students are prohibited from engaging in or attempting to engage in conduct, either alone or in concert with others, that is intended to obstruct, disrupt, or interfere with, or that in fact obstructs, disrupts, or interferes with any instructional, educational, research, administrative, or public performance or other activity authorized to be conducted in or on a University facility. Obstruction or disruption includes, but is not limited to, any act that interrupts, modifies, or damages utility service or equipment, communication service or equipment, or computer equipment, software, or networks" (UTA Handbook or Operating Procedures, Ch. 2, Sec. 2-202). Students who do not respect the guidelines listed above or who disrupt other students' learning may be asked to leave class and/or referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

And a further note on civility in the classroom: Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. In order to assure that all students have the opportunity to gain from time spent in class, unless otherwise approved by the instructor, students are prohibited from engaging in any other form of distraction. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result, minimally, in a request to leave class. Appropriate student behavior (whether online, in person, or over the telephone) creates a better environment for learning and teaching.

Because this class involves topics of multiculturalism and diversity, the professor requests that students choose their language with caution. It is very easy to become emotional in discussing these topics. Do not call names, use an abusive tone, call someone stupid or otherwise insult another person. Slurs or epithets in particular should be avoided whenever possible. Linguistic behavior is one way that members of different social groups express attitudes; be aware of this at all times in personal conduct. Disruptive or abusive behavior will not be tolerated.

Blackboard. This course will utilize Blackboard this semester. Handouts and other materials will be available via Blackboard. It can be accessed by logging into the Blackboard website: <https://elearn.uta.edu>. It is your responsibility to make sure that you are able to access Blackboard, and to check it regularly.

Electronic Communication Policy. All students must have access to a computer with Internet capabilities. Students should check email daily for course information and updates. I will send group emails through MyMav and/or through BlackBoard. I am happy to communicate with students through email. However, I ask that you be wise in your use of this tool. I check my email periodically during the school week and occasionally on the weekend. I do not monitor my email 24 hours a day; however, I do try to respond to emails within 24 hours of receiving them. If you don't have a response from me by email within 24 hours of sending it, please come see me in class or resend your email as there may be a chance it was lost in cyberspace. (Also, please make sure that you use your MavMail address—not your hotmail, gmail, yahoo, etc. addresses—when emailing me.)

The University of Texas at Arlington has adopted the University "MavMail" address as the sole official means of communication with students. MavMail is used to remind students of important deadlines, advertise events and activities, and permit the University to conduct official transactions exclusively by electronic means. For example, important information concerning registration, financial aid, payment of bills, and graduation are now sent to students through the MavMail system. All students are assigned a MavMail account. Students are responsible for checking their MavMail 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>.

Syllabus and Schedule Changes. Instructors try to make their syllabuses as complete as possible; however, during the course of the semester they may be required to alter, add, or abandon certain policies/assignments. Instructors reserve the right to make such changes as they become necessary. Students

Linguistics 2371-001: Language in a Multicultural USA – Spring 2018

will be informed of any changes in writing.

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://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)**. 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.

Linguistics 2371-001: Language in a Multicultural USA – Spring 2018

While the Department of Linguistics and TESOL hopes to foster a sense of community in which students can enhance their educational experience by conferring with each other about the lectures, readings, and assignments, all work submitted must be the **product of each student's own effort**. Students are expected to know and honor the standards of academic integrity followed by American universities; ignorance of these standards is not an excuse for committing an act of academic dishonesty (including plagiarism or collusion). If you have questions, please speak with your instructor, your academic advisor, or the department chair.

In this class, you will be required to do research and be able to properly cite that research in prose. If you are unfamiliar with citing other people's work, please either set up an appointment with me, contact Jody Bailey, a research librarian, at jbailey@uta.edu, or visit the Writing Center.

Please be advised that departmental policy requires instructors to formally file charges with the Office of Student Conduct, following procedures as laid out for faculty (<http://www.uta.edu/studentaffairs/conduct/faculty.html>), as well as notify the department chair of the filing of the charges.

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>.

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.

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>.

Librarians to Contact: The reference librarian for Linguistics and TESOL is Jody Bailey (jbailey@uta.edu).

Writing Center: 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.

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 and up

Linguistics 2371-001: Language in a Multicultural USA – Spring 2018

the stairs. 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 handicapped individuals.

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.*

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/>

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.

Projected Course Schedule

It is my intention to stick to the schedule found below as much as possible; however, as the instructor I reserve the right to adjust it at any time.

| | <i>Class Topic</i> | <i>Readings and Assignments</i> |
|--------|--------------------------------------|---|
| Week 1 | | |
| 1/17 | Course Overview/Intro to Linguistics | ‘Bad English’ (to be read in class) |
| Week 2 | | |
| 1/22 | Intro to Linguistics, <i>cont.</i> | Read: EwaA (Introduction, Chapter 1) |
| 1/24 | Prescriptivism & Descriptivism | Read: DYSA (Chapter 1), Quiz #1 |
| | | Homework 1 Due Sunday |
| Week 3 | | |
| 1/29 | Language Change | Read: EwaA (Chapter 2), Quiz #2 |
| 1/31 | Language Change | Read: DysA (Chapter 2) |
| Week 4 | | |
| 2/5 | Standard Language | Read: EwaA (Chapter 3 & 4), DysA (Chapter 3), Quiz #3 |
| 2/7 | Writing & the Internet | Read: Online Articles |
| | | Homework 2 Due Sunday |
| Week 5 | | |
| 2/12 | Regional Dialects | Read: EwaA (Chapter 11) |
| 2/14 | Regional Dialects | Read: DysA (Chapter 4) |
| | | |
| Week 6 | | |
| 2/19 | Catch-Up & Review | Study all material up to this point. |
| 2/21 | Exam 1 | |

Linguistics 2371-001: Language in a Multicultural USA – Spring 2018

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| Week 7 | | |
| 2/26 | Language Subordination | Read: EwaA (Chapter 5), Quiz #4 |
| 2/28 | Language & Education | Read: EwaA (Chapter 6), EwaA (Chapter 7) |
| | | |
| Week 8 | | |
| 3/5 | Language and Politics | Read: EwaA (Chapter 8), Quiz #5 |
| 3/7 | Language and Politics | Online Articles |
| | | Homework 3 Due Sunday |
| | SPRING BREAK | |
| Week 10 | | |
| 3/19 | Language and Ethnicity | Read: DysA (Chapter 6), Quiz #6 |
| 3/21 | Language and Ethnicity | Read: EwaA (Chapter 10), EwaA (Chapter 16) |
| | | |
| Week 11 | | |
| 3/26 | Language and Gender | Read: Online articles |
| 3/28 | Language and Gender | Read: Online articles |
| | | Dialect Project Due Sunday |
| Week 12 | | |
| 4/2 | Catch-Up & Review | |
| 4/4 | Exam 2 | Study all material between Exam 1 and this point. |
| | | |
| Week 13 | | |
| 4/9 | Bilingualism in the USA: Spanish | Read: EwaA (Chapters 13 & 14), Quiz #7 |
| 4/11 | Bilingualism in the USA: Spanish | Read: DysA (Chapter 5) |
| Week 14 | | |
| 4/16 | Bilingualism in the USA: Native American Languages | Read: Online Articles, Quiz #8 |
| 4/18 | Bilingualism in the USA: Hawaii | Read: EwaA (Chapter 12) |
| | | Homework 4 Due Sunday |
| Week 15 | | |
| 4/23 | Bilingualism in the USA: L2 | Read: EwaA (Chapter 15) |
| 4/25 | Bilingualism in the USA: ASL | Read: Online articles, Quiz #9 |
| Week 16 | | |
| 4/30 | Language Planning and Policy | Read: EwaA (Chapter 17), Online readings |
| 5/2 | Language Planning and Policy | Read: EwaA (Chapter 18) |
| | | Homework 5 Due Sunday |
| Week 17 | | |
| 5/7 | FINAL EXAM: 11:00-1:30 PM | |

Useful dates to note:

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Wednesday 1/31 | Census date (last day to add a class) |
| Tuesday 2/5 | Voter Registration Deadline in Texas |
| Tuesday 3/6 | US Election Day (Primaries for November Election) |
| Friday 3/30 | Last day to drop classes; submit requests to advisor prior to 4:00 pm |
| Saturday 5/5 | Local Election Day in Texas |
| Monday 5/7 | Final Exam 11 AM – 1:30 PM |