

## **LING 2371: Language in a Multicultural USA Spring 2019**

**Instructor:** Kristen Fleckenstein  
**Email:** [kristen.fleckenstein@mavs.uta.edu](mailto:kristen.fleckenstein@mavs.uta.edu)

**Time:** MW 4:00 – 5:20 pm  
**Place:** TH 202

**Instructor Research Profile:** <http://uta.edu/profiles/kristen-fleckenstein>  
**Linguistics Office Telephone:** (817)272-3133 (Department main office – messages only)

**Office Hours:** Mon./Wed. 3:00-4:00 Trimble Hall 217A or by appointment

**TA:** Meng Yang ([meng.yang@uta.edu](mailto:meng.yang@uta.edu))  
**TA Office Hours:** Tuesday 2:30 – 3:30 pm Hammond Hall 132D

**Prerequisites:** A desire to learn about language diversity in the United States

**Required Text:**

Rosina Lippi-Green *English with an Accent: Language, Ideology, and Discrimination in the United States*, 2nd Edition – Routledge 2012.

**Course Description:** This multiculturalism course examines the relationship of language in the U.S.A. to race, ethnicity, class, religion, and gender. This course satisfies the University of Texas at Arlington core curriculum requirement in Language, Philosophy, and Culture. The range of issues covered may include the following:

- Race: African American English ('Ebonics'), Native American languages, Asian Americans
- Ethnicity: European immigrant language communities, Hispanic Americans, Cajuns
- Class: Regional dialects, working-class dialects
- Religion: Jewish English, Pennsylvania German, and West Texas and religion
- Gender: "Women's language," masculinity, gay and lesbian speech (aka 'Queer Linguistics')
- American Sign Language and the Deaf community

**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 make choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision making
- Social Responsibility: to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities

## **Grading Information:**

### **Assignments and Percentage of Final Grade:**

<b>Course Component</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Exam #1	15%
Exam #2	20%
Final Exam	25%
Weekly Assignments	15%
Dialect Projects	15%
Quizzes & Participation	10%

### **Grading Policy:**

<b>Letter Grade</b>	<b>Overall Percentage</b>
A	90-100%
B	80-89%
C	70-79%
D	60-69%
F	59% or below

## **Assignments**

### **Description of Major Assignments:**

**Exams:** There are three (3) exams, each worth 100 points. The exam format will be announced one week prior to each test; formats may change from one exam to the next. (Please see below for exam make-ups).

**Weekly Assignments:** There will be three (3) assignments, worth 25 points each, throughout the semester. There are no make-ups for these assignments, and they will only be accepted through Blackboard at the beginning of class. These assignments will be graded on how well the student meets the goals for the given assignment. No credit will be given if the student fails to follow directions. See below for formatting.

Your goal for these assignments is to think critically about language and different dialects. These usually involve language that you may hear every day. Assignments must be original and the observations personal (information reported secondhand will not be accepted). Each assignment will consist of a formal write-up on the ideas that you want to present as your answer. Be sure to use concrete examples, and make generalizations or predictions concerning your observations. As a formal write-up, you must have an essay with an original title, your header, and cohesive essay style structure. Each assignment must have at least 500 words or more on the topic (not including title and header information) – failure to do so will result in your earning a zero (0) for that individual assignment.

**Quizzes:** There will be eleven (11) weekly quizzes, worth 10 points each, throughout the semester. These quizzes are to ensure that students understand the reading material and the in-class lectures. Therefore, the quizzes are open-notes and open-book. Quizzes will be administered and taken through Blackboard, and will be due within 24 hours after class ends on Wednesday. In other words, students will have until 5:30 pm on Thursday to complete the quizzes. Students will be allotted 15 minutes to complete the quiz, and after the 15 minutes are up, the quiz window will close and record any saved answers. Each quiz can include from 2-5 multiple choice questions and 1-2 open-ended/short answer questions. Failure to complete the quiz within the 24 hours will result in an automatic zero (0) grade value. There are no make-up quizzes in this class. It is the student's responsibility to notify the instructor of any issues the student has with Blackboard. If not, the student will incur an automatic zero (0) grade value.

Your goal for these quizzes is to think critically about the reading material and in-class lecture notes that cover the various dialects and languages. These usually involve language that you may hear every day. Answers to the open-ended/short answer questions must be original. Any collusion detected will result in being reported to the Office of Student Conduct.

**Dialect Projects:** There will be two dialect projects due throughout the semester. These will be turned in via Blackboard SafeAssign, which also serves as a plagiarism detector.

For Dialect Project #1, students will collect data on one American dialect variety that is not one that they speak. They should find two spoken sources of the dialect in use (these can be from speakers who self-identify as speakers of that variety, or from online recordings, e.g. YouTube). They should also find at least four written academic sources (outside of those used in class) that describe the linguistic characteristics of the language variety (i.e. its phonetic inventory, syntactic structures, distinct lexicon, etc.). For Dialect Project #1, they must write a brief report that (a) describes their data sources, (b) explains how they chose them, and (c) lays out their evaluation of the source material's relevant authority in explaining the linguistic characteristics that differ between their own dialect and the one they are studying. Successful completion of the assignment calls on Critical Thinking Skills and Communication Skills.

For Dialect Project #2, students must write up an essay which, in addition to (a) showing they can identify characteristics of the dialect, must also (b) note any ways that the dialect is portrayed in popular media that might differ from the features they have observed, and (c) conclude by reflecting on what reasons might cause a diversity of speech types to be presented in the ways that they are and whether their opinion of linguistic diversity has changed since taking

the course. Successful completion of the assignment calls upon the Personal Responsibility objective and the Social Responsibility objective.

**Attendance:** At the University of Texas at Arlington, taking attendance is not required. Rather, each faculty member is free to develop his or her own methods of evaluating student academic performance, which includes establishing course-specific policies on attendance. As the instructor of this section, I will take daily attendance, and this will be used to calculate part of your participation grade.

Please be in class on time, ready to begin the day's activities, or risk getting points deducted from your participation grade. Tardies and early dismissals will be counted as partial absences in the grade calculations. A partial absence is equivalent to  $\frac{1}{2}$  an absence.

Also, students with no more than three (3) total absences will be positively rewarded for good attendance. Students who are within 2% of a higher grade and have three (3) absences or fewer (with all assignments turned in) will automatically be bumped up to the higher grade. For example, if a student has an 88% (normally a B), has turned in all assignments, and has 3 absences, their grade will be raised to a 90% (receiving an A).

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 their 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.

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.

## **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 phone or e-mail before 8:00 pm of the exam date to request a make-up. Students who miss an exam but do not notify the instructor as specified herein will receive a grade of zero (0). If you arrive after someone has already turned in an exam, you will not be allowed to take the exam.

**Extra Credit and Makeup Work:** There will be various extra credit opportunities throughout the semester.

**Classroom Behavior:** Class sessions are short and require your full attention. All cell phones, pagers, iPods, and MP3 players 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 each day. Note: I reserve the right to ask you to leave the classroom if you are being disruptive or deduct points from your participation grade.

**A 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 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, and students will also be using it to submit assignments, quizzes, and Dialect Projects. Once this course becomes available to students, it can be accessed by logging into the Blackboard website: <https://elearn.uta.edu>. Within the first week of class, look for an email from your instructor letting you know that you can now access this class on Blackboard. 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. address 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 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 to a point 2/3 of the way through the semester. 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 a 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 (ADAA), 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](http://www.uta.edu/disability) or by calling 817-272-3364
- Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS): [www.uta.edu/caps](http://www.uta.edu/caps) or by 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](http://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 (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](http://www.uta.edu/titleIX) or contact Ms. Jean Hood, Vice President and Title IX Coordinator at (817)272-7091 or [jmhood@uta.edu](mailto:jmhood@uta.edu).

**Academic Honesty:** Students enrolled in this course are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

- I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington's traditions 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 the 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.

While the Department of Linguistics & 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). If you have questions, please speak with your instructor, your academic advisor, or the department chair.

**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 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](mailto:resources@uta.edu), or view the information at [www.uta.edu/universitycollege/resources/index.php](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](http://www.uta.edu/utsi) or call (817)272-2617.

**The IDEAS Center:** (2<sup>nd</sup> 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](http://www.uta.edu/IDEAS) or call (817)272-6593.


**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 the following 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>.

**Emergency Exit Procedures:** Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room, go down the hall to the right through the glass doors, and take the stairway on the right to the first floor of the building. In the event of a weather related emergency that requires students to take shelter, they should continue down the staircase to the basement of the building. 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 students with disabilities.



**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.

<b>YOUR OPTIONS TO AN ACTIVE THREAT</b> <b>You Have Choices!</b>	
<b>A V O I D</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>AVOID</b> the situation. <u>Stay away</u> from the area and campus.</li> <li>• If you can safely leave the area, RUN.</li> <li>• Get others to leave the area, if possible.</li> <li>• Prevent others from entering the area.</li> <li>• Know your exit and escape options.</li> <li>• If in a parking lot, get to your car and leave.</li> <li>• If in an unaffected area, stay where you are.</li> <li>• When you are safe, call UTA PD at 817. 272.3003 or 911 with information you have.</li> </ul>
<b>D E N Y</b>	<p>If you can't leave the area safely, <b>DENY</b> or slow entry to the intruder:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lock/barricade doors with heavy items.</li> <li>• Turn off lights/projectors/equipment.</li> <li>• Close blinds and block windows.</li> <li>• Stay away from doors and windows.</li> <li>• Silence phones and <b>remain quiet</b>. <u>Don't let your phone give you away.</u></li> <li>• HIDE and take cover to protect yourself.</li> <li>• Be prepared to run or defend yourself.</li> </ul>
<b>D E F E N D</b>	<p>If you can't AVOID or DENY entry to the intruder, <b>DEFEND</b> your location:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As a last resort, <u>FIGHT for your life.</u></li> <li>• Use physical force and any weapons available - fire extinguishers, books, chairs, belts, umbrellas, pens/scissors, hot coffee/drinks, trash cans, etc.</li> <li>• Use the element of surprise.</li> <li>• Work together as a team. Develop a plan. Commit to your actions. Your life depends on it.</li> <li>• Be aggressive, loud, and determined in your actions.</li> </ul>
<p align="center"><b>Follow ALL instructions.</b></p> <p align="center"><b>For more information, go to: <a href="http://police.uta.edu/activeshooter">police.uta.edu/activeshooter</a></b></p> <div>  <p><b>POLICE DEPARTMENT</b> THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON</p> </div> <div> <p>Emergency: 817.272.3003 Non-Emergency: 817.272.3381 <a href="http://police.uta.edu">police.uta.edu</a></p> </div>	