

LING 2301: Introduction to the Study of Human Languages
Spring 2019

Instructor: Rongchao Tang

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Office Hours: TuThur 2-3 PM or by appointment

Section Information: LING2301 Section 2

Time and Place of Class Meetings: MoWeFr 10:00AM–10:50AM; COBA141

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 (10%). Reading quizzes will be taken at the very beginning of class, first individually (3 minutes) and then with your team (2 minutes). Your score will be the individual scores. These questions cover the very basic concepts from the assigned reading.

Assignments make up a significant number of points in this course.

Homework (21%). They usually cover material from the previous topic. **You are encouraged 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. You must submit your responses as a PDF file or Word file. No other file types will be graded.

SLA Project (20%): Students will be required to conduct a short interview with two speakers with English as second language and analyze the interview 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.

Midterm and Final Exams (12.5% + 12.5% +20% = 45%). There will be two midterm exams and one final exam. The exams make up most amount of points in this course. **Only the final exam is cumulative (the second midterm term is NOT cumulative).**

The midterms will be held in COBA 141 at normal class time (see the projected schedule for details).

The final exam will be held in COBA 141 on Friday, May 10, 8-10:30AM.

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

Attendance (4%): 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 at the end of the semester before final exam. One point will be deducted for each absence without **prior notice** until all points are gone. ***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 (400 total)	% of total score (100% total)
Attendance	16	4%
Homework	84 (6* 14 pts)	21%
Quizzes	40 (8 * 5pts)	10%
SLA project – Survey	10	2.5%
SLA project – Outline	20	5%
SLA project – Essay	50	12.5%
Midterm Exam 1	50	12.5%
Midterm Exam 2	50	12.5%
Final	80	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%) without getting an opportunity for a make-up exam.

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 pure 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, it is possible that 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 classmates 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>

Crime Prevention:

The safety and security of our campus is the responsibility of everyone in our community. Each of us has an obligation to be prepared to appropriately respond to threats to our campus, such as an active aggressor. This graphic provides each member of the UTA community with information and options for responding to an active threat. These options are not chronological, but are designed to address dynamic situations. Assess the situation (your location, the location of the threat, type of threat, etc.), identify and weigh your options, develop a plan of action and commit to it.

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

Additional information for active threat and other emergency situations can be found through the links below:

police.uta.edu/activeshooter
police.uta.edu/em

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>

Librarians to Contact: Diane Shepelwich and Gretchen Trkay (modling@uta.edu)

Projected Course Schedule		
	Topic	Readings & Important Dates
UNIT I: The Structure of Human Language		
Week 1	1/14	Introduction
	1/16	Prescriptivism & Descriptivism
	1/18	Prescriptivism & Descriptivism, Dialects READ: Ch.18 pp. 269-272
Week 2	1/21	NO CLASS-Martin Luther King Jr. Day holiday
	1/23	Design features of language Animal Communication READ: Ch.1, Ch.2; Quiz #1
	1/25	Animal Communication
Week 3	1/28	Phonetics, Phonology READ: Ch.3, Ch.4 (skip 'Natural Classes', 'Phones and Allophones'), read 'Minimal Pairs and Sets', 'Phonotactics', 'Syllables' and 'Consonant Clusters') Homework #1 due Quiz #2
	1/30	Morphology READ: Ch.6 pp. 72-76
	2/1	Syntax READ: Ch.7 Quiz #3
Week 4	2/4	Syntax Homework #2 due
	2/6	Semantics READ: Ch.9 pp. 129-134
	2/8	Catch-up
Week 5	2/11	Review 1 Homework #3 due
	2/13	Review 2
	2/15	In-class midterm exam 1
UNIT II: Language and Cognition		
Week 6	2/18	Language & The Brain READ: Ch.12
	2/20	Language & The Brain
	2/22	Language & The Brain
Week 7	2/25	First Language Acquisition READ: Ch.13 Quiz #4
	2/27	First Language Acquisition
	3/1	UTASCILT
Week 8	3/4	First Language Acquisition & Second Language Acquisition READ: Ch.14
	3/6	Second Language Acquisition Homework #4 due Quiz #5
	3/8	Second Language Acquisition / SLA Essay
Week 9	3/11	
	3/13	NO CLASSES – Spring Break
	3/15	
Week 10	3/18	Sign Languages READ: Ch.15 Quiz #6
	3/20	Sign Languages / Language Processing
	3/22	Language Processing
Week 11	3/25	Computational Linguistics SLA project survey & outline due
	3/27	Review
	3/29	In-class midterm exam 2
UNIT III: Language Change		
Week 12	4/1	Language History and Change READ: Ch.5 pp. 55-61, Ch.17 (skip pp.254- 255) Quiz #7
	4/3	Language History and Change
	4/5	Language History and Change

Week 13	4/8	Language History and Change	SLA project essay due
	4/10	Language History and Change	
	4/12	Language History and Change	Homework #5 due
Week 14	4/15	Language Contact	READ: Ch.18 pp.273-277, Ch.20 Quiz #8
		Language and Culture	
		Language and Thought	
	4/17	Endangered Languages	
		Language Contact	
Week 15	4/19	Language and Culture	
		Language and Thought	
		Endangered Languages	
Week 15	4/22	Language and Culture	
		Language and Thought	
		Endangered Languages	
Week 16	4/24	Writing Systems	READ: Ch.16
	4/26	Writing Systems	
	4/29	Writing Systems	
Week 16	5/1	Catch up	Homework #6 due
	5/3	Review for final exam	
Week 17	5/10	Final Exam, 8-10:30 AM, COBA 141	
Other important dates: 1/30 - Census Day			
3/29 - 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