LING 6380: Field Methods Seminar
Spring 2012 Syllabus and Course Policies

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Course Details

Prerequisites:	LING 5380
Section info:	Section 001 M 1:00 pm – 3:50 pm, Carlisle 102
Required Texts:	Readings posted to course Blackboard site
Shared archiving site for Choctaw field notes, database, etc.	http://dropbox.com Folder: LING 6380 S12 Field Methods (enrolled class members will receive an invitation to the folder; software installation is required)

Course materials will be posted on the course Blackboard site: https://elearn.uta.edu

Description of Course Content:

This course is a continuation of Ling 5380, an investigation into Choctaw, a severely endangered language of the Muskogean family. We will continue to work to learn as much as possible about this language using a combination of approaches, including structuring elicitations, using texts and developing techniques for analyzing and presenting complex linguistic data. The goal is to continue learning, describing and documenting the language's grammar: its phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics and pragmatics. Current best practices in language documentation (data management and archiving, linguistic software, ethical considerations and use of appropriate technology) will once again be incorporated into the class. As with Ling 5380, the course will also necessitate additional time commitments (debriefings, individual/small group meetings with speakers, group meta-discussion of data and readings, etc.). Building on skills developed and knowledge obtained in Ling 5380, students will undertake a substantial community-oriented service project this semester.

Note: Our work with Choctaw this year is possible due to discussions with the Choctaw Language Program. Our agreement with them requires the vetting and approval of Choctaw data by their Program prior to presenting or publishing anything from this class.

Student Learning Outcomes:

- Demonstrate an ability to work with linguistic consultants and communities by producing a community-driven service project.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the ethical issues that are at play in doing linguistic fieldwork.
- Demonstrate an ability to work with the technological tools for linguistic documentation.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the best practice principles for tracking workflow, metadata & archiving.
- Demonstrate a heightened understanding of Choctaw grammar.

Requirements:

Descriptions of major assignments:

Assignments	Due Date	Percentage
Service learning project (to be determined in conjunction with the Choctaw Language Program and their needs) plus pre- and post-activity reflections	Project must be completed by May 7; note, this assignment is pending instructions by the Choctaw Language Program	20%
Collaboratively transcribed, translated and fully annotated interlinearized text, submitted and entered fully into the collaborative database	Draft due February 27; final version due March 9 by noon (Note: we are leaving it up to you to decide whether to work on a single text as a class or break into smaller groups to work on different texts)	20%
One squib on a topic of your choice based primarily on data elicited in 5380/6380 (12-15 pages double-spaced with 1 inch margins, anything more than 15 pages must be cleared with JK and CF)	Squib due May 7	20%
Presentation of squib at end-of-semester Choctaw Field Methods mini-conference	April 30	10%
Conduct a roughly 60-minute prompt- or prop-based elicitation using stimuli (as opposed to 'translation' elicitation, as was used last semester) during a Monday group elicitation meeting	Completed by April 22	10%
Completion of a minimum of 3 hours of individual or small group elicitation (note: no limit to how many hours a student can participate in, so long as it is equitable among all students; must confirm session with instructors one week prior to that session)	Completed by April 22	10%
Making an equitable contribution to maintaining the collaborative database with respect to both group and individual/small group elicitations. (This entails: a) collaboratively developing and using a shared set of transcription and glossing conventions and b) equitable turn-taking in serving as class transcriber in group sessions)	As appropriate during the semester; notes and database additions must be uploaded within one week of the session in which they were collected (for small group elicitations, groups are responsible for designating the responsible individual)	10%
Regular attendance at debriefing meetings	Weekly on Mondays from 4:15 pm – 5:30 pm in the Linguistics Conference Room	

Grading Policy:

Students must turn in work on time in order to receive full credit. Assignments turned in late will receive a deduction of a letter grade.

A-	90-92 %	B-	80-82 %	C-	70-72 %	D-	60-62 %	F	59 % or lower
A	93-96 %	B	83-86 %	C	73-76 %	D	63-66 %		
A+	97-100 %	B+	87-89 %	C+	77-79 %	D+	67-69 %		

Attendance Policy:

It is impossible to succeed in the course without attending the elicitation sessions. Attendance is required. If circumstances force an absence, students will be required to listen to the entire audio of the class session and turn in a 2-3 page summary of the session in consultation with the instructors.

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. Contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships for more information.

Americans with Disabilities Act:

The University of Texas at 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)*. 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 that disability. Any student requiring an accommodation for this course must provide the instructor with official documentation in the form of a letter certified by the staff in the Office for Students with Disabilities, University Hall 102. 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. As a student, your responsibility rests with informing the instructor in writing or email and providing the official documentation from the Office for Students with Disabilities no later than the end of the second week of classes.

Academic Integrity:

At The University of Texas at Arlington, academic dishonesty is a completely unacceptable mode of conduct and will not be tolerated in any form, including but not limited to) "cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts" (UT System Regents' Rule 50101, §2.2). Suspected violations of academic integrity standards 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 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). If you have questions, please speak with your instructor, your academic advisor, or the department chair. 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 Available:

The University of Texas at 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. These resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals to resources for any reason, students may contact the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107 or visit www.uta.edu/resources for more information.

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 course 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.

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.

Student Feedback Survey:

At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as lecture, seminar, or laboratory will be asked to complete an online Student Feedback Survey (SFS) about the course and how it was taught. Instructions on how to access the SFS system will be sent directly to students through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. UT Arlington's effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback data is required by state law; student participation in the SFS program is voluntary.

Librarian to Contact: Jody Bailey, MA, MLIS,
                                   Central Library, Room 312
                                   jbailey@uta.edu
                                   http://libguides.uta.edu/profile/jodybailey

Auditors:

The Department of Linguistics and TESOL has a "no audit" policy. However, with instructor permission, Department of Linguistics and TESOL faculty, staff, and students enrolled in a linguistics/TESOL program may be able to sit in on a course. These courses cannot be used to satisfy any degree or program requirements/electives, nor will any credit (including retroactive credit) be granted.