

Linguistics 2371-002: Language in a Multicultural USA

Tuesday & Thursday 9:30-10:50 AM

Trimble Hall 03

Instructor: Nathan Eversole

Office: Trimble Hall 217C

Office Hours: Tuesday & Wednesday 11:00 AM-12:00 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.

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 includes the following:

- Race: African American English ('Ebonics'), Native American languages, Asian Americans;
- Ethnicity: European immigrant language communities, Hispanic Americans, Cajuns, 'Whites';
- Class: regional dialects, education and media;
- Gender: "women's language", masculinity, gay and lesbian speech.
- American Sign Language and the Deaf Community: Deaf culture and language

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
- Identify and demonstrate an understanding of the basic concepts and terms used in analyzing language and social variation
- Describe differences between descriptive and prescriptive approaches and attitudes toward language
- Collect aspects of linguistic phenomena for description and analysis (i.e. conduct basic research)
- Reflect on different experiences of diversity and multiculturalism

ASSESSMENTS AND CRITERIA FOR ASSIGNING GRADES

Assignments	Points Possible	Percentage of Final Grade
Exam 1	80	20%
Exam 2	80	20%
Final Exam	100	25%
Homework	60	15%
Language Observation	40	10%
Participation	40	10%

Grading Policy

A 90-100%	B 80-89%	C 70-79%	D 60-69%	F 59% or lower
360-400 pts	320-360 pts	280-320 pts	240-280 pts	below 240 pts

Description of Major Assignments

Exams: There are two (2) 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.)

Final Exam: There will be a final exam at the end of the semester. The final exam will be comprehensive and will be held on Thursday May 14, 2015 from 8:00-10:30 AM.

Homework: There will be at least seven (7) homework assignments. They are worth 10 points each. If you complete all homework assignments the lowest homework grade will be dropped. Homework is due at the beginning of class and will not be accepted late.

Language observation Assignments: Throughout the semester the students will be asked to complete observation tasks concurrent with the topics discussed in class. The students will be required to come up with examples of specific language uses or be asked to observe and record instances of a specific language use. The student should come prepared to discuss their examples and the context in which they were observed. There will be a maximum of 15 Language Observation Assignments. They will be announced in class and due at the beginning of the next class period.

Participation: Attendance will be taken in the course. Please be in class on time, ready to begin the day's activities. Two instances of tardiness will count as one absence, which will result in only earning half of the participation points for that day. If you need to leave early or if you think you may have some type of emergency, please speak to me before class begins. Students who leave without doing so will be counted as absent. There will also be periodic discussion questions about the readings and topics we are discussing in class. Completion of these questions will count towards participation.

Students with no more than 2 absences will be positively rewarded for good attendance. Students who are within 2% of a higher grade and have 2 absences or fewer (with all homeworks turned in and journal entries completed) will automatically be bumped up to the higher grade. For example, if a student has an 88% (normally a B), has turned in all homeworks, completed all journal entries and has 2 absences, his/her 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 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 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%).

Extra Credit: There might be some options for extra credit, this will be announced by Week 4.

Classroom behavior: Class sessions are short and require your full attention. All cell phones, pagers, iPods, MP3 players, and other electronic devices should be turned off and put away when entering the classroom; all earpieces should be removed. Laptops may be used in class but should be used only for class related activities. 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.

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: 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. Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. 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.

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. Once this course becomes available to students, can access it 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 dont 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 addressnot your hotmail, gmail, yahoo, etc. addresseswhen 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.

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>Assignments and Readings Due</i>
1-20	Course Overview; Introduction to Linguistics	Download syllabus from Blackboard or Research Profile.
1-22	Standard and Non-standard Language	Read: Chapter 1 (The linguistic facts of life) and Chapter 4 (The standard language myth) Turn in plagiarism tutorial
1-27	Social Class	Read: Chapter 5 (Language Subordination)

1-29	Regional Dialects	Read: Chapter 3 (The myth of non-accent) and Chapter 2 (Language in motion)
2-3	Ocracoke Island	HW 1 Due
2-5	English in the South	Read: Chapter 11 (Hillbillies, hicks, and Southern belles: the language rebels)
2-10	English in Texas	Read: TBA
2-12	Cajun and English	HW 2 Due
2-17	Review	
2-19	Test 1	Study all material up to this point.
2-24	African Americans and language	Read: Chapter 10 (The real trouble with Black language)
2-26	African Americans and language	Read: Chapter 16 (Case study 1: moral panic in Oakland)
3-3	Latinos and language	Read: Chapter 13 (The other in the mirror) & Chapter 14 (Ya basta!)
3-5	Latinos and language	HW 3 Due
3-10	SPRING BREAK	
3-12	SPRING BREAK	
3-17	Asian Americans	Read: Chapter 15 (The unassimilable races: what it means to be Asian)
3-19	Creoles	Read: Chapter 12 (Defying paradise: Hawaii) HW 4 Due
3-24	Indigenous Languages	Read: TBA
3-26	Indigenous Languages	HW 5 Due
3-31	Review	
4-2	Test 2	Study all material from 2-26 to 3-31.
4-7	Education and language	Read: Chapter 6 (The educational system: fixing the message in stone) and Chapter 7 (Teaching children how to discriminate: what we learn from the Big Bad Wolf)
4-9	Language & the Media	Read: Chapter 8 (The information industry)
4-14	Language use in the USA	Read: Chapter 9 (Real people with a real language: the workplace and the judicial system)
4-16	Language communities	Read: TBA HW 6 Due
4-21	Language and gender	
4-23	LGBT language	Read: TBA
4-28	Ethnicity and Linguistic Profiling	Read: Chapter 17 (Case study 2: linguistic profiling and fair housing) and Chapter 18 (Conclusion: civil (dis)obedience and the shadow of language)
4-30	Language and the Internet	Read: TBA HW 7 Due
5-5	Final Exam Review	
5-7	Final Exam Review	
5-14	Final Exam: 8:00-10:30 AM	

Additional useful dates to note:

Wed. Feb. 04 Census date (last day to add a class)

Fri. Apr. 03 Last day to drop a course

Wed. May. 20 Grades available: <http://www.uta.edu/mymav>**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/aaofao/>).

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.

Title IX: The University of Texas at Arlington is committed to upholding U.S. Federal Law "Title IX" such that no member of the UT Arlington community shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity. For more information, 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 Arlingtons 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 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 students suspension or expulsion from the University.

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” 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 students feedback enters the SFS database anonymously and is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. UT Arlingtons 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>.

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.

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 . 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 www.uta.edu/resources.