

# **Linguistics 2301: Introduction to the Study of Human Languages**

Fall 2017

MWF 10:00 – 10:50 AM

Woolf Hall 208

**Instructor:** Carly Sommerlot

**Office:** Hammond Hall 132-D

**Office Hours:** 12:30-1:30 TTh, or by appointment

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**Prerequisites:** A desire to learn about the nature of language.

**Required Text:** Yule, George. 2017. *The study of language*, 6<sup>th</sup> edition. Cambridge University Press.

**Course Description:** 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 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.

**Course Objectives:** 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 primary themes of the course:

1. All languages are systematic, manifesting the complementary properties of rule-governance and creativity;
2. Language acquisition and use are rooted in both cognitive (internal) and social (external) factors; and
3. Languages reflect both our collective humanity and our socio-historical diversity; as such, all languages are worthy of study and respect.

These course themes are supported by reference to specific topics as covered in the readings, lectures, and class discussions.

**Student Learning Outcomes:** Upon successfully completing this course, students should be able to:

- identify and explain many of the basic questions investigated by linguists, in order to situate the discipline of linguistics in the broader intellectual landscape [Critical Thinking Skills objective]
- describe and illustrate the features shared by all languages, in order to distinguish those aspects of human language attributable to genetics/biology from those that are socially conditioned landscape [Critical Thinking Skills objective]
- analyze communicative signs (icons, words, sentences), in order to differentiate form, meaning, and function within a sign and to justify the use of a particular form in a specific context [Communication Skills objective]
- compare the characteristics of normative and non-normative/developing language behaviors in order to recommend appropriate measures when interacting with language-limited individuals (especially children and aphasic adults) [Empirical and Quantitative Skills objective]
- analyze the structure of interpersonal interactions, in order to assess the ways in which language both reflects and creates social relationships [Social Responsibility objective] • identify major historical events that have shaped modern (American) English, in order to explain contemporary patterns of language use and sociolinguistic attitudes [Empirical and Quantitative Skills objective] and
- debate the relative merits of monolingualism vs. multilingualism, in order to make more informed decisions about relevant social, educational, and legal policies. [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.

**Empirical and Quantitative Skills:** To include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions.

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

## **Description of Major Assignments & Grading**

### **Attendance (50pts)**

- Attendance/Participation credit will be awarded based on the student's engagement in-class and small group discussions.
- Attendance will affect the maximum grade a student can earn.

- Students with 5 or 6 absences will receive a maximum of 25 points of credit.
  - Students with 7 or more absences will receive no credit.
- Attendance will be taken at the beginning of class. Late arrivals and early departures from class, maybe judged as either a half-absence or full-absence at the instructor's discretion.

### **Exams (250pts)**

- There are two (2) exams, each worth 125pts; dates are noted on the syllabus.
- Exams will cover material from course readings, class lectures, and any videos shown in class. Be sure to review homework assignments as well.
- The exam format may include multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, short answer, and essay questions. (Please see below for exam make-ups.)

### **Final Exam (200pts)**

- There will be a final exam at the end of the semester.
- The final exam will be comprehensive and may consist of multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, short answer, and essay questions.
- The final exam will be held on a date TBA.

### **Homework (200pts)**

- There will be eight (8) regular homework assignments, each worth 25pts. The specific content of each assignment will be announced in class; due dates are noted in the schedule.
- Homework assignments will be due at the beginning of class on the due date. All assignments are to be turned in via Blackboard and should be typed and submitted as a .doc or .pdf file. Assignments will not be accepted in person.
- Under very few circumstances will any assignments be accepted late without penalty. If you know you will be gone the day an assignment is due, make arrangements to turn it in ahead of time. Late assignments will only be accepted up until a week past the due date and will be penalized one letter grade per class day late.
- All assignments will be posted to Blackboard.

### **Quizzes (100pts)**

- There will be eleven (11) brief quizzes given on most Fridays; dates are given on the schedule. Quizzes will be given at the beginning of class.
- Each quiz will be worth 10 points.
- The format of each quiz may vary; generally, they will be multiple choices and/or short answer questions.
- The material covered on any given quiz will come from the course reading(s) assigned for that day, as well as material covered in class since the last quiz.

- There are very few circumstances in which quizzes can be made-up, and this is up to the discretion of the instructor; instead, each student will be allowed to drop his/her lowest quiz grade.

**SLA Interview (75pts)**

- Students will be required to conduct a short interview with a second language learner of English (details will provided later in the semester).
- A 2-3 page essay will be required based on the responses of the interview.

**OED Expedition Essay (125pts)**

- Students are required to complete a 3-4 page essay on word histories in English.
- The content of this essay will be based on work completed in class discussions and previous homework.
- Specific instructions for the essay will be handed out later in the semester

**Grading Policy**

Point total	Letter grade
≥ 900pts	A
800-899pts	B
700-799pts	C
600-699pts	D
< 600pts	F

**Attendance:** At the University of Texas at Arlington, taking attendance is not required but attendance is a critical indicator in student success. Each faculty member is free to develop his or her own methods of evaluating students’ academic performance, which includes establishing course-specific policies on attendance. As the instructor of this section,

- Attendance will be recorded at the beginning of each class.
- Arriving to class late or departing early will result in a half absence (or a full absence at the instructor's discretion).
- Students who arrive late are responsible for checking in with the instructor after class has ended to ensure that their attendance has been recorded. Students who need to leave early are responsible for alerting the instructor prior to the beginning of class.
- Five or more total absences will negatively affect a student's Attendance/Participation grade, as noted in “Descriptions of Major Assignments and Examinations” above.

While four or fewer absences will not negatively impact a student's final grade, students are strongly encouraged to attend all class meetings. 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.

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.

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

**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://wweb.uta.edu/aaofao/>).

**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](http://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](http://www.uta.edu/disability).

**Counseling and Psychological Services, (CAPS)** [www.uta.edu/caps/](http://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](http://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](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 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/>.

**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 email 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 may be some opportunities to receive extra credit later in the semester, at the instructor’s discretion.

**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.

**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. If you cannot access Blackboard for whatever reason, contact the instructor **immediately**. Failure to do so does not excuse the student from assignment responsibilities.

**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 when addressing me).

**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.

**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 <http://www.uta.edu/universitycollege/resources/index.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.

*“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. – Carly Sommerlot”*

### Projected Course Schedule

Week 1		
8/21 No class	8/23 No class	8/25 Course overview



Week 2		
8/28 Introduction to language <i>Ch.1</i> <i>Atoms of Language</i> (BB)	8/30 Properties of language <i>pp. 11-21</i>	9/1 <b>Quiz #1</b> Animal communication
Week 3		
9/4 No class	9/6 Prescriptivism / descriptivism <i>pp. 83-85;</i> <i>The Language Mavens</i> (BB) <b>HW #1 due</b>	9/8 <b>Quiz #2</b> Introduction to linguistics
Week 4		
9/11 Phonetics <i>Ch. 3; Ch. 4 (until pp. 44)</i> <i>(skip 'Natural Classes')</i>	9/13 Phonetics; phonology <b>HW #2 due</b>	9/15 <b>Quiz #3</b> Morphology <i>pp. 57; pp. 65-69</i>
Week 5		
9/18 Morphology; syntax	9/20 Syntax <i>Ch. 7</i> <b>HW #3 due</b>	9/22 <b>Quiz #4</b> Semantics <i>pp. 113-119</i>
Week 6		
9/25 Semantics	9/27 Review <b>HW #4 due</b>	9/29 <b>Exam #1</b>
Week 7		
10/2 1 <sup>st</sup> language acquisition	10/4 1 <sup>st</sup> language acquisition <i>Ch. 13</i>	10/6 <b>Quiz #5</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> language acquisition
Week 8		
10/9 2 <sup>nd</sup> language acquisition <i>Ch. 14</i>	10/11 Brain & language <i>Ch. 12</i> <b>HW #5 due</b>	10/13 <b>Quiz #6</b> Brain & language
Week 9		
10/16 Brain & language	10/18 Language processing <b>SLA Project due</b>	10/20 <b>Quiz #7</b> Computers & language
Week 10		
10/23 Sign language <i>Ch. 15</i>	10/25 Review <b>HW #6 due</b>	10/27 <b>Exam #2</b>
Week 11		

<b>10/30</b> Language change <i>pp. 226-230</i>	<b>11/1</b> History of English <i>pp. 231-236</i>	<b>11/3</b> <b>Quiz #8</b> History of English
<b>Week 12</b>		
<b>11/6</b> History of English	<b>11/8</b> Languages in contact <i>pp. 250-251</i>	<b>11/10</b> <b>Quiz #9</b> Languages in contact
<b>Week 13</b>		
<b>11/13</b> Endangered languages	<b>11/15</b> Endangered languages <b>HW #7 due</b>	<b>11/17</b> <b>Quiz #10</b> Endangered languages
<b>Week 14</b>		
<b>11/20</b> Language revitalization <b>HW #8 due</b>	<b>11/22</b> Workshop	<b>11/24</b> No class
<b>Week 15</b>		
<b>11/27</b> Language & culture	<b>11/29</b> Language & thought <i>Ch. 20</i>	<b>12/1</b> <b>Quiz #11</b> Language policy/rights
<b>Week 17</b>		
<b>12/4</b> Writing systems <i>Ch. 16</i> <b>OED Essay due</b>	<b>12/6</b> Final Review	<b>12/8</b> No class

**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