

**Introduction to Linguistics**  
**LING/ ENGL/ ANTH 2320**  
**Spring 2024**  
**Synchronous Online Class**

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Office Hours: Mon 12–1 (in-person), Wed 12–1 (on Zoom, see BB site for link)

### **Course description:**

This course will be an introduction to treating language as the object of scientific study. You will learn about both the theoretical and experimental work that is done by linguists. Throughout the semester you will learn (1) what language is and what language is not, (2) the sound system of English and other languages, and how these sounds exist in the mind, (3) the lexicon, or ‘mental dictionary’, and how words are stored in the brain. You will additionally learn about various languages with complex word structures not seen in English; (4) you will learn about the hierarchical structure that exists in all human languages, how these structures are processed by the brain, and (5) how first and second languages are acquired.

It is my hope that you gain a new appreciation for how complex language is, yet how simply our brains process it (at least for native languages). We will explore various methodologies that can teach us what we know when we know a language.

### **Course objectives:**

#### **Students will:**

- Understand the complexities of how language exists in the mind
- Recognize the different areas that comprise the study of Linguistics, both theoretical and experimental.
- Have a basic understanding of the process of language acquisition for both first and second languages.
- Understand the value of linguistic diversity.

### **Online Class**

This class is a synchronous online class. That means that we have a regular meeting time twice a week, but we will meet online via Zoom instead of in-person. You cannot work at your own pace for this course, the timing is laid out in the schedule on the last page of this syllabus.

You are expected to attend and participate in each class session. Cameras can be turned off, but it is far preferable for a class-like environment to attend with your camera on.

Note that class will begin promptly at 10:30am on Zoom. Please join via the link on BB on time.

## Readings

### Required Reading

Yule, G. *The study of language* (ed. 4) will be made available on Blackboard. Students are welcome to purchase their own copy (of any edition, 4<sup>th</sup> or more recent). Required readings are posted on the schedule at the end of this syllabus.

## Course evaluation

Participation	10%
Quizzes	12%
Homework (4)	15%
Exams (4)	48% (12% each)
Final Paper	15%

## Grading

Course grades are simply a math equation with the above weights applied to your scores. Grades are rounded according to typical math conventions (0.5 goes up, 0.49 does not). The following letter grades scale is applied.

A	90 – 100%
B	80 – 89%
C	70 – 79%
D	60 – 69%
F	0 – 59%

## Technology Tools Required

- Internet access is necessary to attend class and complete assignments
- Students should have a working UTEP email account that can be accessed on a regular basis
- Students should have regular access to Blackboard. Course materials will be provided via Blackboard (quizzes, homeworks, reading materials, lecture PPTs).
  - To access Blackboard, go to [my.utep.edu](http://my.utep.edu) and login with your credentials.

## Office Hours

Office hours are a time for you to get help with the class materials, ask questions, or just chat. This time is specifically set aside for my students to come to my office or Zoom, so no appointment is necessary to come see me. If my office hours times do not work with your schedule, and you would like to meet, please let me know and we can arrange for a different time to meet.

## Participation

Students are expected to do the assigned readings before class and be ready to ask and answer questions and to participate in any in-class activities. For full points, students should attend class regularly and demonstrate that their presence positively contributes to the class.

## Quizzes

Every week there will be a short quiz on the topics covered in class and in the readings. These are short, multiple-choice quizzes intended to ensure students are following the content of the class. All quizzes are made available on Blackboard on Fridays and are due by 11:59pm Sunday.

## Homeworks

Every unit will have an associated homework assignment. These will be short-answer and short-activity assignments that are posted to Blackboard.

## Exams

There will be four (4) exams throughout the semester. They will cover one unit and will **not** be cumulative, though some information is relevant across units. All exams will be multiple-choice. All exams are during regular class time. There is **NO** final exam during finals week.

## Final Paper

At the end of the semester, you will be presented with various articles that cover a variety of topics seen throughout the semester. You will read one of these articles and write a short final paper in accordance with a rubric that will be provided. This paper is meant to be an opportunity for you to demonstrate what you've learned and your ability to think critically about the topic.

## Late Work Policy

There is a one-week grace period after a due date where students can submit their work for credit. After the one-week period, no late work will be accepted. **Please note** that it is UTEP Policy that if you miss an exam without arranging to make it up **before** the exam takes place, your score will be 0%.

## Final grade extra credit.

You can earn up to 2% extra credit on your final grade. These points will only help those who are two points, or less, away from the next letter grade. For example, someone who has a 79 (C) could get a B by participating in the below activities.

Each of the items listed below is worth **.5 points** (half a point)

1. Volunteer to participate as a subject in a research project. It can be a Linguistics study or any other research study being conducted by UTEP researchers. Outside of a linguistics study, a psychology or speech language pathology study might be the most relevant.
  - a. You will have to show proof of participation. The following are some options: ask the researcher to email me ([cecoughlin@utep.edu](mailto:cecoughlin@utep.edu)), take a screenshot of the completion screen and email it to me, or show me the copy of the consent form you receive.
2. Complete 4 hrs. of community service.
  - a. To earn this credit please submit one small piece of evidence of your time (e.g., picture doing the service; 1 page paper describing your experience; handout you received advertising the service; etc).
3. Attend a webinar/seminar
  - a. The topic of the webinar can be anything if it is offered by UTEP
  - b. If it is not a UTEP event, then the focus should be linguistics (any linguistics related topic is fine)
  - c. To get the extra credit, write a 1-2 page summary of the webinar and submit it through the 'Extra Credit' link on Blackboard
4. Watch a linguistics-relevant documentary/special TV program
  - a. To earn the extra credit, write a 1-2 page summary of the documentary and submit it through the 'Extra Credit' link on Blackboard
5. Watch a show/movie with a linguistics focus
  - a. To earn the extra credit, write a 1-2 page summary of the show/movie and how it relates to linguistics, and submit it through the 'Extra Credit' link on Blackboard

You can complete up to FOUR of the items listed for a maximum of TWO POINTS

You may choose to do the same thing four times (e.g., participate in 4 research studies)

## **Academic Dishonesty:**

Academic dishonesty ("cheating") is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. Such behavior will not be tolerated. It includes, but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating may involve copying from or providing information to another student, possessing unauthorized materials during a test, or falsifying research data on reports or papers. Plagiarism occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another person as one's own. Collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act.

Academic dishonesty violates the basic integrity and meaning of a University as an institution of learning. Cheating, plagiarism, and collusion in dishonest activities are serious acts which erode the

University's educational and research roles and cheapen the learning experience not only for the perpetrators, but also for the entire community. It is expected that UTEP students will understand and subscribe to the ideal of academic integrity and that they will be willing to bear individual responsibility for their work. Materials (written or otherwise) submitted to fulfill academic requirements must represent a student's own efforts.

Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. All suspected violations of academic integrity at The University of Texas at El Paso must be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSCCR) for possible disciplinary action. To learn more, please visit [HOOP: Student Conduct and Discipline](#).

### **Accommodations Policy:**

The University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations and auxiliary services to students, staff, faculty, job applicants, applicants for admissions, and other beneficiaries of University programs, services and activities with documented disabilities in order to provide them with equal opportunities to participate in programs, services, and activities in compliance with sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008. Reasonable accommodations will be made unless it is determined that doing so would cause undue hardship on the University. Students requesting an accommodation based on a disability must register with the [UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services \(CASS\)](#). Contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services at 915-747-5148, or email them at [cass@utep.edu](mailto:cass@utep.edu), or apply for accommodations online via the [CASS portal](#).

## Lecture Topics

Schedule is subject to change

Topic	Date	Lecture Topic	Readings
What is language and what is not?	1/17	Introduction; What is language?	Yule Ch. 1
	1/22	Language and Thought I	
	1/24	Language and Thought II	
	1/29	Animal Communication I	Yule Ch. 2
	1/31	Animal Communication II	
	2/5	<b>EXAM 1</b>	
The sounds of language	2/7	Articulation; Phonetics I	Yule Ch. 3
	2/12	Phonetics II	
	2/14	Phonology I	Yule Ch. 4
	2/19	Phonology II	
	2/21	Phonology III	
	2/26	Categorical Perception	
	2/28	Speech Perception	
	3/4	<b>EXAM 2</b>	
Words and the brain	3/6	Morphology: The structure of words	Yule Ch. 5
	3/11	<b>NO CLASS- SPRING BREAK</b>	
	3/13		
	3/18	Word recognition: "The mental lexicon"	
	3/20	Morphology in non-English languages	
	3/25	Language and the Brain	Yule Ch. 12
	3/27	Hemispheric Differences	
	4/1	Aphasia and Brain Imaging	
	4/3	<b>EXAM 3</b>	
Language processing and language acquisition	4/8	Syntax I	Yule Ch. 7
	4/10	Syntax II	
	4/15	Sentence Processing	Yule Ch. 8
	4/17	First Language Acquisition I	Yule Ch. 13
	4/22	First Language Acquisition II /SLA	
	4/24	Second Language Acquisition	Yule Ch. 14
	4/29	<b>EXAM 4</b>	
	5/1	Sociolinguistics; wrap-up	