

INTRODUCTION TO LINGUISTICS

LING/ANTH/ENGL 2320

Course Syllabus – Fall 2016

Instructor: Dr. Natalia Mazzaro

Class time/room: Monday and Wednesday, 1:30 p.m.-2:50 p.m./LART 211

Instructor's office: LART 217

Phone: 737-7040

E-mail: nmazzaro@utep.edu

Office hours: Monday and Wednesday, 3-4 p.m.; or by appointment.

Course Description

The human language is a complex and fascinating topic, and one that can be approached from multiple perspectives and through diverse lenses. This class provides an overview of many interesting aspects of language and language use from a linguistic point of view. The course focuses on various areas, or levels, of linguistic knowledge: (a) knowledge of sounds and their pronunciation, (b) of word formation, (c) of sentence formation, and (d) of meaning, among others. In addition, it provides opportunities to learn, discuss, and reflect about different sub-topics in linguistics, such as language change and variability, social dialects, pragmatics, and language acquisition. The overall goals of the course are: (i) to uncover subconscious knowledge of language and underlying characteristics of linguistic competence, and (ii) promote a better understanding of the nature of language, both as a linguistic system and a means to purposeful, meaningful, authentic communication.

Course Objectives

By the end of the course, students will:

- be familiar with the main properties of language and major sub-fields of linguistics.
- demonstrate basic knowledge of how sounds, morphemes, words, and syntactic principles work together to constitute a linguistic system.
- be able to explain linguistic phenomena such as word formation, language acquisition, dialectal differences, and register variation.
- understand ways in which linguistic competence and social conventions influence each other.
- describe major stages of first language acquisition and note similarities and differences between the acquisition and learning of first and second languages.
- be aware of the relationships between language forms, communicative functions, and contextual factors in real-life settings.

Required Texts

- *Language Files* (2011- 11th edition), Ohio State University Press.
- Other materials will be made available electronically on BlackBoard (BB) or by hard copy.

Tentative calendar (subject to change)

Dates	Topics	Readings	Assignments
Week 1	<i>Introduction</i>	Chapter 1	
22-Aug	What is language? What is Linguistics?		
24-Aug	Competence vs. Performance		
	Prescriptive vs. Descriptive Grammar		
Week 2	<i>Morphology</i>	Chapter 4	
29-Aug	Words and morphemes		
31-Aug	Morphological processes and structures		Quiz 1
Week 3	<i>Syntax</i>		
5-Sep	Labor day - no classes		
7-Sep	Lexical categories, phrases, hierarchical structure	Chapter 5	
Week 4			
12-Sep	Tree markers, PS rules, Ambiguity		
14-Sep	Constituency tests, complements		Quiz 2
	Transitivity, theta roles		
Week 5			
19-Sep	Review		
21-Sep	EXAM 1: Morphology & Syntax		
Week 6	<i>Phonetics</i>		
26-Sep	Consonants	Chapter 2	
28-Sep	Vowels		
Week 7	<i>Phonology</i>		
3-Oct	Review: consonants and vowels	Chapter 3	Quiz 3
5-Oct	Video 1 --> no classes, watch at home		
Week 8			
10-Oct	Phonemes & Allophones		
12-Oct	Phonological rules		Response paper 1 due
Week 9			
17-Oct	Phonotactic constraints, and review for the exam		
19-Oct	EXAM 2: Phonetics & Phonology		
Week 10	<i>Language acquisition</i>		
24-Oct	Theories of language acquisition	Chapter 8	
26-Oct	Video 2 --> no classes, watch at home		

Dates	Topics	Readings	Assignments
Week 11			
31-Oct	First language acquisition: Sounds & words		
2-Nov	First language acquisition: Morphology and Syntax		Response paper 2 due
Week 12			
	<i>Language contact</i>		
7-Nov	Bilingualism, borrowing, codeswitching	Chapter 12	
9-Nov	Linguistic landscapes in the borderland - Project 1		
	Provide article for response paper 3 (optional)		
Week 13			
	<i>Language variation</i>		
14-Nov	Language varieties, types of variation	Chapter 10	Quiz 4
16-Nov	Regional & social variation		Response paper 3 due (optional)
Week 14			
21-Nov	Language identity & attitudes - Project 2		Project 1 due - written assign
	<i>Language change</i>		
23-Nov	Sound, morphological, semantic and syntactic change	Chapter 13	
Week 15			
28-Nov	Presentation: project 1 & 2		Project 2 due - written assign
30-Nov	Presentation: project 1 & 2		
7-Dec	EXAM 3 - Time: 4:00 pm – 6:45 pm		

Response papers

You are required to submit two response papers based on the videos shown in class. A third response paper can be submitted to substitute a low grade in a previous paper. Guidelines for note-taking (while watching video) and for writing the papers will be provided in class and/or posted on Blackboard.

Exams

Exams are designed to evaluate students' understanding of the course material and the level to which the objectives set for the course are being met, as well as assess their overall progress. Exams will consist of multiple choice questions and open ended questions on newly learnt content. The instructor will specify what topics will be included before each test.

Course Project

You will complete two projects. Each is worth 10%. Criteria for grading are appropriateness, completeness, and timeliness. No late project will receive full credit, and none will be accepted more than one week after the due date (except in cases of excused absences—see

Course Policies in the following section). The project assignments will be posted on Blackboard, and the due dates appear in the course schedule. You are allowed to work in pairs for each of the projects.

NOTE* More specific guidelines for each project will be provided in class or posted on Blackboard.

Participation

You are expected to contribute to our in-class discussion, bringing into class your own background and experience. Active discussion enriches the learning experience. You are also expected to contribute actively during group tasks. The outcome of the course will be excellent if everyone is involved and engaged in the classroom activities. Of course, this also entails completing and reflecting on the required readings and assignments before each class session.

Course Evaluation

Response Papers (2 of 3):	20 % (10% each)
Course Project (2):	25 % (12.5% each)
Participation:	15 %
Quizzes (4):	10 % (2.5 % each)
Exams:	<u>30 % (10% each)</u>
	100 %

Grading System

Grades are given according to the following system:

A	Excellent	A= 90-100%
B	Good	B= 80-89%
C	Average	C= 70-79%
D	Below average	D= 60-69%
F	Failure	F= 59% or below

Course Policies and Requirements

- You are allowed up to three unexcused and/or excused absences. After three absences, your grade may drop by half a letter grade for each unexcused absence. Don't squander your three freebies on trivia. You may need them for dead car batteries, etc. If you do or must miss (even the first day of class), it is your responsibility to get notes, assignments, etc. from another student.
- If you wish to drop from the course, you can do it without penalty before October 28.
- I will consider make-ups for missed exams, but only if arranged in advance or in the case of very unusual circumstances. If possible, absences should be notified to the instructor in advance. Absences due to medical reasons or emergencies will need to be adequately documented. Absences during exams may result in a failing grade (with a score of zero).

- Students who will be absent while representing the University in officially recognized University activities must notify the Dean of Students, who will issue a letter of excuse for the professor.
- Participants should read all assigned readings carefully before each class and be prepared to participate in class discussions.
- Participants are expected to learn not only from readings and projects but also from class interaction, formal and informal discussions, and class presentations.
- Students should be prepared to accommodate the necessary study time in their schedule to read, review, write, and study the material.
- All assignments should be completed before the class session when they are due. No late assignments are accepted (unless permission is given in advance, and this is a one-time only concession).
- Any incidence of academic dishonesty (i.e., cheating, plagiarism) will be reported to the Office of the Dean of Students, in keeping with university policy.
- Project reports and other written assignments should be typed (preferably with 1.5 spacing and font 12) and should include a cover page (unless otherwise indicated). In addition, you may be asked to provide/post an electronic copy of your work.
- All electronic devices (mobile phones, laptops, iPods, etc.) should be turned off during class time (unless special permission is granted). Failure to comply with this policy and any other class disruptions will be reported to the Dean of Students Office.
- You will need a UTEP email account and password to access the course's Blackboard shell and receive class announcements, access class materials, etc.

Course Evaluation

Student evaluations provide important feedback to the instructor and they are essential for measuring teaching effectiveness in the profession. Department Chairs and College Deans review course evaluations as part of the review process of faculty performance, and committees at all levels of the university rely on evaluations in making decisions. Before the last day of classes, you will be asked to complete University Course Evaluation Forms. Informal mid-term formative evaluations may be conducted by the instructor.

Instructional Accommodations Due to Disability

If you have a disability and need classroom accommodations, please contact The Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 747-5148, or by email to cass@utep.edu, or visit their office located in UTEP Union East, Room 106. For additional information, please visit the CASS website at www.utep.edu/CASS. CASS' Staff are the only individuals who can validate and if need be, authorize accommodations for students with disabilities.

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity. Any form of academic dishonesty is subject to disciplinary action, according to university regulations. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, submission of any work or materials attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, and any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.

IMPORTANT NOTE: The syllabus provides a general plan for the course; modifications are often necessary and may be implemented as a result of students' needs, course development, and classroom life in general.