

Introduction to Linguistics

LING / ENGL / ANTH 2320

Online - Asynchronous

Fall 2023

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Course description:

We will see how Linguistics gives us a unique starting point to learn scientific research methods that can be applied to other sciences. You will learn that the grammars of human languages are composed of a number of different “levels” of knowledge: (i) knowledge of sounds and their pronunciation, (ii) of word formation, (iii) of sentence formation, (iv) and of meaning; and how much you already know about these levels. These different levels of knowledge are studied by linguists under the following sub-disciplines of linguistics: (i) Phonetics and Phonology, (ii) Morphology, (iii) Syntax, and (iv) Semantics/Pragmatics. Knowledge of these core areas of Linguistics will then be applied to the study of the other areas of the field such as language acquisition, language change, variation, etc.

Human language is a complex and fascinating topic. The popular misconceptions about language are many, and few people are aware of some of the most basic and interesting aspects of human language. I hope that you enjoy our study of it, and that this study will heighten your interest in what has become one of the major frontiers in cognitive science -- Linguistics.

Course objectives:

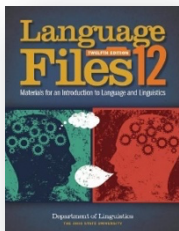
Students will:

- Understand why languages are complex.
- Recognize the different areas that comprise the study of Linguistics.
- Have a basic understanding of the process of language acquisition.
- Understand the importance of language contact in our world.

Learning Modules

The semester is divided into four modules/units. There will be several homework assignments, discussion boards, and quizzes assigned per unit. Each unit will end with a partial exam. All the class material and short video lectures will be available on Blackboard.

Every Monday morning, I will send out an email with the information of all the things you need to do during the week to be successful in the class. You can use that email as a checklist of the things you will have to complete during the week.



Required text:

Language Files 12th Edition, Ohio State University Press
ISBN-13: 978-0814252703

Technology tools required

Course content will be delivered through Bb. Students should have a working UTEP email access to Blackboard and MS Teams.

Virtual office hours will be held on MS Teams

Students should contact the UTEP helpdesk for technical difficulties helpdesk@utep.edu ph. 915-747-HELP.

We will use different course tools during the semester. Make sure you have access to the following:

Blackboard

To access Blackboard, go to myutep.edu and login with your UTEP credentials.

MS Teams

MS Teams is a collaboration app that will allow us to communicate effectively and efficiently. Sometimes sending an email for a quick question takes too long (for students to write and for the instructor to read/respond). To send quick messages to the instructor or to your classmates we will use MS Teams.

Sign in using your UTEP credentials.

Sign in to MS Teams here: <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-365/microsoft-teams/group-chat-software>

Download MS Teams here: <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-365/microsoft-teams/download-app>

Course evaluation

Participation (discussion boards)	10%
Quizzes	20%
Homework	20%
Exams (4)	50%

Grading scale

A	90-100%
B	80-89%

C 70-79%

D 60-69

F 0-59

Class Participation (Discussion Boards) 10%

Students are expected to have read all the material before class and complete activities that are based on the readings, to ask questions or make comments. If you have questions, or even if you're just curious about something related to what we're working on, please ask. You can ask the MS Teams for this. Your questions and observations help us all to learn and make the class more interesting for everybody. Your participation in the course is important not only for your learning and success but also to create a community of learners.

Student online presence will be measured using Discussion Boards on Blackboard.

Discussion Boards

Students are required to participate on discussion boards. Discussion boards will be assigned on Blackboard. The word count for new threads is 150, and for comments it is 50, unless instructed differently.

Quizzes & Homework 20%

There will be at least one graded quiz per chapter. The quizzes will cover material from the current chapter. Students should complete the readings before taking the quizzes. The file/chapter that students should read will be specified on the instructions.

- The links to the quizzes will be available under the current week folder on Blackboard
- Graded quizzes will be posted on Blackboard and will be available for 48 hrs.
- There are no quiz re-takes.
- At the end of the semester, your lowest quiz grade will be dropped

Homework 20%

Homework will be assigned regularly. Your lowest homework grade will be dropped.

- The links to the homework assignments will be available under the current week folder on Blackboard
- If an incorrect answer file is submitted, submit the file again. All the assignments will allow you to submit twice. Only the second submission (if there is a second one) will be graded.
- No late work will be accepted

Exams 50%

There will be four (4) partial exams during the semester, one at the end of each unit. In every exam, students will be required to answer multiple-choice questions, and a couple of short answer questions.

- The last exam will NOT be comprehensive.
- A study guide will be posted on Blackboard before each exam.

- Exams will be available on Blackboard for 48 hrs.

Extra credit (Optional)

An exam study guide will be provided before each of the four exams. It is optional to complete it and submit it through Blackboard. The guide has to be complete, if it is not, the student does not get any extra credit.

- Study guides get students *five extra points (5/100)*
- The extra points you receive will be added to the exam score
- To receive extra credit, you are required to turn in your study guide on BB before the exam.

Final grade extra credit. You can get up to 2/100 (two) points 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 an 81 (B)

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

1. Volunteer to participate as a subject in a research project. You can search on SONA to find Linguistics and Psychology studies, but it can be any other research being conducted by UTEP researchers.
 - a. You will have to show proof of participation. You can ask the researcher to email the instructor (raquelg@utep.edu), or you can take a screenshot of the completion screen and email it to me if the study was conducted online.
 - i. If you use SONA I will be notified automatically
2. Complete 4 hrs. of community service.
3. Attend a seminar/webinar
 - a. The topic of the seminar/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 documentary
 - a. To get 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 focus in linguistics
 - a. To get 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

Any combination is possible

You may choose to do the same thing four times (for example, attending four webinars)

Last day to submit: Dead day, which is the last Friday of the semester before final's week.

Course Policies:

- If for some reason you can't turn in an assignment on the due date and time, turn it in earlier.
- Make-up work will be given only in the case of a documented emergency. Note that make-up work may be in a different format than the original work, may require more intensive preparation, and may be graded with penalty points. If you miss an assignment and the reason is not considered excusable, you will receive a zero. It is therefore important to reach out to me—in advance if at all possible—and explain with proper documentation why you missed a given course requirement. Once a deadline has been established for make-up work, no further extensions or exceptions will be granted.
- By university policy, a missed exam results in a grade of 0% for that exam, unless a prior arrangement has been made with the instructor. Refer to the Undergraduate Catalog for details.
- I will not drop you from the course. However, if you feel that you are unable to complete the course successfully, please let me know and then contact the Registrar's Office to initiate the drop process. If you do not, you are at risk of receiving an "F" for the course.

Communication with each other and the Instructor

There are a number of ways we can keep the communication channels open

- **Office hours:** send a DM on Teams to schedule a meeting
- UTEP e-mail is the best way to contact me. I will make every attempt to respond to your e-mail within 24-48 hours of receipt. When e-mailing me, be sure to email from your UTEP student account and please put the *course number in the subject line. In the body of your e-mail, clearly state your question. At the end of your e-mail, be sure to put your first and last name, and your university identification number*
 - raquelg@utep.edu
 - If your email is about homework questions/submission or any similar issue, please cc the TA.
- If you have a quick question, or need clarification on an assignment/quiz/exam, you can use **M.S Teams** to DM the instructor or the TA.
 - M.S. Teams is available for all UTEP students
 - You can use it on your computer or download the app on your phone
 - There is a class chat group where students can post and answer questions



Netiquette

As we know, sometimes communication online can be challenging. It is possible to miscommunicate what we mean or to misunderstand what our classmates mean given the lack of body language and immediate feedback. Therefore, please keep these netiquette (network etiquette) guidelines in mind. Failure to observe them may result in disciplinary action.

- Always consider audience. This is a college-level course; therefore, all communication should reflect polite consideration of other's ideas.

- Respect and courtesy must be provided to classmates and to the instructor at all times. No harassment or inappropriate postings will be tolerated.
- When reacting to someone else's message, address the ideas, not the person. Post only what anyone would comfortably state in a face-to-face situation.
- Blackboard is not a public internet venue; all postings to it should be considered private and confidential. Whatever is posted on in these online spaces is intended for classmates and professor only. Please do not copy documents and paste them to a publicly accessible website, blog, or other space.

Academic Dishonesty:

Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. 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's as ones' own. And, collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act.

Academic dishonesty is an assault upon the basic integrity and meaning of a University. 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, or apply for accommodations online via the [CASS portal](#).

the Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) is using a new Software System called AIM (CASS Portal). This portal provides you with access to letters of notification and the ability to fill out your CASS Alternative Testing Agreement form. Attached you will find a step-by-step document to guide you

through logging into the portal to fill out the Alternative Testing Agreement form. Please contact CASS at cass@utep.edu or by phone at (915)747-5148 for additional information.

Tentative course schedule:

	Chapters / Objective	Readings	Quizzes & Homework
Unit 1	Chapter 1 - Introduction Chapter 14 - Animal Communication Chapter 15 - Writing Systems	Textbook Files:	Available on Blackboard
	1st Unit Objectives: Learn what is and is not considered language	1.1 - 1.3 & 1.5	Quizzes: Syllabus, Ch1, 14 and Ch 15
		14.1 -14.3	HW Ch1, Ch14, Ch 15
		15.1 -15.2	Exam 1
Unit 2	Chapter 2 - Phonetics Chapter 3 Phonology	Textbook Files:	Available on Blackboard
	2nd Unit Objectives: Learn about the production, perception and distribution of the sounds of human languages.	2.1 - 2.3	Quizzes: Ch 2 and Ch 3
		3.1 - 3.5	HW Ch2 and Ch3
			Exam 2
Unit 3	Chapter 4 - Morphology Chapter 5 - Syntax	Textbook Files:	Available on Blackboard
	3rd Unit Objectives: Learn about how the human brain structures words and sentences in different languages.	4.1 - 4.5	Quizzes: Ch 4 and Ch 5
		5.1 - 5.3 & 5.5	HW Ch4 and Ch5
			Exam 3
Unit 4	Chapter 8 - Language Acquisition Chapter 10 - Language Variation Chapter 11 - Language and Culture	Textbook Files:	Available on Blackboard
	4th Unit Objectives: Learn about the process of first language acquisition, and the use of language in the community.	8.1, 8.2 &8.5	Quizzes: Ch 8, Ch10 and Ch 11
		10.1,10.2 & 10.4	HW Ch 8, Ch10 and Ch 11
		11.1-11.4	Exam 4

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.