

# Introduction to Linguistics

## LING / ENGL / ANTH 2320

OLD MAIN 214 - TR 9:00-10:20AM

Spring 2024

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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 and quizzes assigned per unit. Each unit will end with a partial exam. All the class material will be available on Blackboard.

## Required text:



### **Language Files 13th Edition, Ohio State University Press**

PDF ISBN: 978-0-8142-8218-2

Paperback ISBN: 978-0-8142-5835-4

## Technology tools required

Course content will be delivered in person in MAIN 214 TR 9:00-10:20. However, students should have a working UTEP email, access to Blackboard and MS Teams

Students should contact the UTEP helpdesk for technical difficulties [helpdesk@utep.edu](mailto: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](http://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>

### Zoom

I will use Zoom for lectures only if required. In case we use Zoom for a class, make sure your microphone and camera are working before you join the session.

## Course evaluation

Participation	10%
Quizzes/Homework	20%
Final Project	20%
Exams (4)	50%

## Grading scale

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

## Class Participation 10%

Students are expected to have read all the material *before* class and be ready to complete activities that are based on the readings, to ask questions or make comments. Presence in class is the minimum expected, but that alone does not constitute active participation. If you have questions, or even if you're just curious about something related to what we're working on, please ask. 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.

Attendance will be taken and recorded on Blackboard at the beginning of class. If you are late for class, it is your responsibility to let me know so I can mark you present.

## 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 in class. There will be some quizzes assigned in class, and some will be online. In-class quizzes might or might not be announced. At the end of the semester, your lowest quiz grade will be dropped.

### **In-class quizzes:**

Not all quizzes will be announced

If a quiz is assigned early in class and you are late (or absent) for class you will receive a grade of zero

There are no quiz retakes

### **Online quizzes:**

The links to the quizzes will be available on Blackboard

Quizzes will be posted on Blackboard and will be available for a limited time only

There are no quiz re-takes.

### **Homework**

HW will be assigned regularly. Some homework will be assigned in class and some through Blackboard.

Your lowest homework grade will be dropped.

The links to the homework assignments will be available on Blackboard

No late work will be accepted

If you submit the wrong file, 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.

It is YOUR responsibility to check Blackboard regularly to check for HW and quizzes.

## Final Project 20%

The main topic of the final project is 'Indigenous Languages'. During the semester you will explore different indigenous languages. You will also become familiar with current issues that indigenous languages face, such as endangerment. *At the end of the semester, you will form groups and present the information that you learned in a poster.* Detailed instructions will be provided on Blackboard throughout the semester. *The poster session will take place during the time and day assigned by the Records and Registration Office for our final exam.*

## 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 online*

## Extra credit (Optional)

An exam study guide will be provided before each exam. It is optional and it should be submitted 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)* per exam
- 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 through 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)

### *Option A*

Students can earn up to **2% in extra credit** by participating in up to **4 credits of SONA experiments (0.5% in extra course credit per SONA credit)**. SONA is a Human Participant Pool System used for research conducted by faculty in the Department of Psychology and the Department of Latin-US and Linguistics. Students earn course credit by completing experiments that investigate a variety of issues in psychology and/or linguistics. Many of the studies posted in SONA are immediately relevant to linguistics because they investigate language use or depend on language use. A tutorial will be provided in class to show you how to use SONA to participate in research and earn extra credit for this class. An alternative assignment option will be provided to you should you prefer not to participate in research.

### Option 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. It can be a Linguistics, study or any other research study 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](mailto:raquelg@utep.edu)), or you can take a screenshot of the completion screen and email it to me if the study was conducted online.
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/language 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, for example: 1 SONA credit, 4 hrs. of community service, 2 UTEP events.

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

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

### Course Policies:

- Avoid unnecessary absences. We cover a lot of material each day and much of it is cumulative.
- 3 absences (excused and/or unexcused) are allowed without penalty, use them for emergencies. Every time you miss a class additional to the three allowed absences you will lose 3 points from your final grade.
- At the professor's discretion, when a student has missed more than 3 classes, they may be dropped from the course with a W before the drop date or with a W or F after that date. For details, refer to the Undergraduate Catalog.
- Please, arrive on time, and please do not leave early; either is very disruptive to both the students and the professor. A late arrival, and an early departure will be counted as half an absence.
- Attendance will be taken every class session on Blackboard
- 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 classmates, TA and the Instructor

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

- **Office hours:** Days and times listed on the first page of this document
- *UTEP e-mail and the group chat on Teams are the best ways 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](mailto: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



### 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. Students who become pregnant or have parenting responsibilities may also request reasonable accommodations. Reasonable accommodations will be made unless it is determined that doing so would cause undue hardship on the University. The UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) will process requests for accommodations based on a disability, pregnancy, or parenting. Contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services at 915-747-5148, email them at [cass@utep.edu](mailto:cass@utep.edu), or apply for accommodations online via the CASS portal.

## Tentative course schedule:

	Chapters / Objective	Readings	Quizzes & Homework
<b>Unit 1</b>	<b>Chapter 1 - Introduction</b>		
	<b>Chapter 14 - Animal Communication</b>	Textbook Files:	Available on Blackboard
	<b>Chapter 15 - Writing Systems</b>		
	<b>1st Unit Objectives:</b> Learn what is considered language and what is not language	1.1 - 1.3 & 1.5 14.1 -14.3 15.1 -15.2	Quizzes: Syllabus, Ch1, and Ch 15 HW Ch1, Ch14, Ch 15 Exam 1
<b>Unit 2</b>	<b>Chapter 2 - Phonetics</b>	Textbook Files:	Available on Blackboard
	<b>Chapter 3 Phonology</b>		
	<b>2nd Unit Objectives:</b> Learn about the production, perception and distribution of the sounds of human languages.	2.1 - 2.3 3.1 - 3.5	Quizzes: Ch 2 and Ch 3 HW Ch2 and Ch3 Exam 2

<b>Unit 3</b>	<b>Chapter 4 - Morphology</b> <b>Chapter 5 - Syntax</b>	Textbook Files:	Available on Blackboard
		4.1 - 4.5	
	<b>3rd Unit Objectives:</b> Learn about how the human brain structures words and sentences in different languages.	5.1 - 5.3 & 5.5	Quizzes: Ch 4 and Ch 5 HW Ch4 and Ch5
			Exam 3

<b>Unit 4</b>	<b>Chapter 8 - Language Acquisition</b> <b>Chapter 10 - Language Variation</b> <b>Chapter 11 - Language and Culture</b>	Textbook Files:	Available on Blackboard
		8.1, 8.2 & 8.5	
	<b>4th Unit Objectives:</b> Learn about the process of first language acquisition, and the use of language in society.	10.1,10.2 & 10.4	Quizzes: Ch 8, Ch10 and Ch 11 HW Ch 8, Ch10 and Ch 11
		11.1-11.4	Exam 4

**IMPORTANT DATES:**

- Spring Break – March 11-15
- Course drop deadline – March 28
- Final Project presentations – May 7, 10:00am-12:45pm

**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.