

# Introduction to Linguistics

LING 2320(23166) / ENGL 2320(23219)/ ANTH 2320(23233)

Spring 2014

MWF 10:30 am - 11:20 am UGLC 336

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Office hours: MW 11:20 am- 12:30 pm; or by appointment

## 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.

## Required text:

Language Files 11<sup>th</sup> Edition, Ohio State University Press

## Course evaluation

Participation	10%
Homework	25%
Projects (2)	20% (10% each)
Exams(3)	<u>45% (15% each)</u>
	100%

## Grading scale

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

### *Class Participation*

Students are expected to have read all the material before class and be ready to participate in class 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 in class.

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.

### *Homework*

You will complete homework assignments related to all the topics covered in class. You will have approximately one week to complete each homework assignment. Homework will be turned in at the beginning of class. You can work in pairs if you prefer. Please, STAPLE your papers.

### *Projects*

You will write two response papers based on videos watched in class. A third paper can be submitted to replace a low grade. Guidelines for writing the papers will be posted on Blackboard.

### *Exams*

You will be asked to answer different types of questions. In every exam students will be required to answer multiple-choice questions, short-answer questions, and give definitions. There will be three exams during the semester (the final exam will NOT be comprehensive). A study guide will be posted on Blackboard before each exam.

### *Extra credit*

There will be three extra credit opportunities, one before each examination. To receive extra credit you are required answer the complete study guide and turn it in -typed and

stapled- at the beginning of the session on the day of the exam. Any extra credit you receive will be added to your exam's score.

### **Course Policies:**

- Avoid unnecessary absences. We cover a lot of material each day and much of it is cumulative
- 3 absences are allowed without penalty.
- Each absence after the third half a letter grade less in your final grade.
- Each lateness counts as half an absence.
- At the professor's discretion, when a student has missed more than 3 classes, (s)he 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.
- A student may also be dropped at the professor's discretion for various behaviors which in the professor's opinion may compromise the delivery or the intellectual integrity of the class (e.g. talking or phoning during class, looking in the direction of someone else's test paper, etc; disturbing the class.).
- Please, arrive on time, and please do not leave early; either is very disruptive to both the students and the professor. An early departure will be counted as an absence.
- Please get assignments turned in on time and be present for all examinations. It is your responsibility to do so.
- Assignments are due at the beginning of the class. They are your main opportunity to work with the material and to get some feedback as to whether you are understanding. For good comprehension of the material, it is important to do the assigned work on time.
- Late assignments will not be accepted. If for some reason you can't turn in an assignment on the due date and time, give it to me earlier.
- By university policy, a missed exam results in a grade of 0% for that exam, unless a prior arrangement has been made with the professor. Refer to the Undergraduate Catalog for details.

### **Laptop use**

- Charge your laptop batteries fully before coming to class.
- Set your laptop volume control to mute or off before coming to class.
- Keep your laptop closed during presentations and other specific in-class activities.
- Do not engage in unauthorized communication or entertainment (web surfing, instant messaging, chat room chatting, DVD viewing, music playing, game playing, etc.) during class unless it is part of the lesson. If you are found doing any of these activities you will be asked to leave the class and you will have an absence.

### **Cell Phones**

- Set your phone to mute or silent mode before coming to class.
- Do not answer incoming calls or make outgoing calls except in an emergency.

- Do not use text messaging or web browser features while in class.

### **Other Wireless Devices (PDAs, MP3 players, SmartPhones etc.)**

- Shut off the device or set it to mute before coming to class.
- Do not use text messaging or web browser features while in class.

### **Recommendations for Students**

The University of Texas at El Paso supports the use of technology for learning. We also understand that the use of laptops can be an asset to some students and help them in their note-taking and learning. That being said, we also believe that students should have diverse learning experiences and be adaptable to different styles of learning and note-taking.

Students are expected to follow the rules and guidelines established by instructors for each class that they are taking, and to make a conscious effort to adapt to learning environments that may vary across instructors, classrooms, and disciplines.

### **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. Violations will be taken seriously and will be referred to the Dean of Students Office for possible disciplinary action. Students may be suspended or expelled from UTEP for such actions.

### **Students with disabilities:**

If you have or suspect a disability and need accommodations, you should contact Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 747-5184 or at [dss@utep.edu](mailto:dss@utep.edu) or come by Room 106 Union East Building.

**Tentative course schedule:**

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Topics</b>	<b>Readings</b>	<b>Assignments</b>
<b>Week 1</b>		Chapter 1	
22-Jan	<i>Introduction</i>		
24-Jan	What is language?		
<b>Week 2</b>		Chapter 4	
27-Jan	What is Linguistics? <i>Morphology</i>		HW 1 due Jan 31
29-Jan	Words and morphemes		
31-Jan	Morphological processes		
<b>Week 3</b>			
3-Feb	Morphological structure		HW 2 due Feb 7
5-Feb	Exercises <i>Syntax</i>	Chapter 5	
7-Feb	Lexical categories, phrases		
<b>Week 4</b>			HW 3 due Feb 17
10-Feb	Hierarchical structure, tree markers, PS rules, Ambiguity		
12-Feb	Constituency tests, complements		
14-Feb	Transitivity, theta roles		
<b>Week 5</b>			
17-Feb	Exercises		
19-Feb	Review		
21-Feb	<b>EXAM 1</b>		
<b>Week 6</b>			
24-Feb	Video 1		Response paper #1 due Mar 3
26-Feb	Video 1 cont. <i>Phonetics</i>	Chapter 2	
28-Feb	Consonants		HW4 due Mar 7
<b>Week 7</b>			
3-Mar	Vowels		
5-Mar	Suprasegmental features		
7-Mar	Exercises		
<b>Week 8</b>			
10-Mar	<b>Spring break</b>		
12-Mar	<b>Spring break</b>		
14-Mar	<b>Spring break</b>		
<b>Week 9</b>		Chapter 3	HW 5 due Mar 24
	<i>Phonology</i>		
17-Mar	Phonemes and allophones		
19-Mar	Phonological rules		

21-Mar	Phonotactic constraints		
<b>Week 10</b>			
24-Mar	Review		
26-Mar	<b>EXAM 2</b>		
	<i>Language acquisition</i>	Chapter 8	
28-Mar	Video 2		Response paper #2 due Apr 7
<b>Week 11</b>			
31-Mar	<b>Cesar Chavez day (no class)</b>		
2-Apr	Video 2 cont		
4-Apr	Theories of language acquisition		HW 6 due Apr 11
<b>Week 12</b>			
7-Apr	First language acquisition: Sounds		
9-Apr	First language acquisition: Morphology and Syntax		
11-Apr	Exercises		
<b>Week 13</b>	<i>Language variation</i>	Chapter 10	
14-Apr	Language varieties		HW 7 due Apr 21
16-Apr	Factors that influence variation		
18-Apr	<b>Spring study day (no class)</b>		
<b>Week 14</b>			
21-Apr	Exercises		
23-Apr	Video 3		Response paper #3 due Apr 30
25-Apr	Video 3 cont		
<b>Week 15</b>			
28-Apr	Exercises		
	<i>Language change</i>	Chapter 13	
30-Apr	Language relatedness		HW 8 due May 5
2-May	Language change		
<b>Week 16</b>			
5-May	Review		
7-May	<b>EXAM 3</b>		
9-May	<b>Dead day (no class)</b>		

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.