Introduction to Linguistics
LING 2320(21469) / ENGL 2320(22915) / ANTH 2320(22929)
Spring 2015

TR 9:00 am – 10:20 am LART 211

Instructor: Raquel González de Anda
Office: LART 220
Phone: 747-7024
Email: raquelg@utep.edu
Office hours: MWF 11:30 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 11th Edition, Ohio State University Press
Course evaluation
Participation 10%
Response Paper 10%
Reflective Paper 10%
Final Project 20%
Quizzes 20%
Exams (3) 30% (10% each)
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. During the semester you will have to complete different in-class assignments. These assignments will be due by the end of each class, unless instructed differently, and some of them will be graded.
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.

Quizzes
There will be a quiz at the beginning of each chapter. The quizzes will cover material from the new chapter. You are expected to read each chapter before we start discussing it in class. Your lowest quiz grade will be dropped.

Response papers
You will write ONE response paper based on videos watched in class. We will watch three videos during the semester; you will choose only one for your response paper. A second optional paper can be submitted to replace a low grade. Guidelines for writing the papers will be posted on Blackboard.

Reflective paper
You will have to write a paper reflecting on your language(s) use. Guidelines will be posted on Blackboard.
Final Project
In groups, you will have to explore a particular language and share your findings with the class during final’s week. Guidelines 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 partial exams during the semester (the last exam will NOT be comprehensive). A study guide will be posted on Blackboard before each exam. There will be no final exam.

Extra credit
There will be several extra credit opportunities, one before each exam/quiz.
  - Your quizzes’ study guide should be any notes that you take while reading each chapter (not less than a page).
  - Social extra credit (for quizzes only). You will receive an extra point on each quiz if you attend a UTEP related event. To receive this extra credit point you are required to turn in your study guide. You are not eligible for social extra credit unless you turn in your study guide (“academic” extra credit)
  - A study guide will be provided before each of the three exams. You are required to complete it and turn it on the day of the exam.

Any extra credit you receive will be added to your exam/quiz score.
To receive extra credit you are required to turn in your study guide -handwritten- before the exam/quiz.

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.
• 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, disturbing the class, etc.).
• 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.
• 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, texting,
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.

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 or come by Room 106 Union East Building.

**Tentative course schedule:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Readings</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 1</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 20th</td>
<td><em>Introduction</em></td>
<td>Chapter 1</td>
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<td>Jan 22nd</td>
<td>What is Linguistics?</td>
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<td>Quiz Intro &amp; syllabus</td>
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<td>Descriptive vs. Prescriptive grammar</td>
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<td><strong>Week 2</strong></td>
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<td>Jan 27th</td>
<td><em>Writing &amp; Design features of languages</em></td>
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<td>Quiz Morphology</td>
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<td><em>Morphology</em></td>
<td>Chapter 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 29th</td>
<td>Words and morphemes</td>
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<td><strong>Week 3</strong></td>
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<td>Feb 3rd</td>
<td>Morphological processes</td>
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<td>Feb 5th</td>
<td>Morphological structure and analysis</td>
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<td>Exercises</td>
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<td><strong>Week 4</strong></td>
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<td>Feb 10th</td>
<td><em>Syntax</em></td>
<td>Chapter 5</td>
<td>Quiz Syntax</td>
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<td>Syntax</td>
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<td>Constituency tests</td>
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<td>Lexical categories, phrases</td>
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<td>&amp; complements</td>
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<td>Transitivity, theta roles</td>
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<td>Feb 12th</td>
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### Week 5
- **Feb 17th**: Hierarchical structure, tree markers, PS rules, Ambiguity
- **Feb 19th**: Exercises

### Week 6
- **Feb 24th**: EXAM 1 Intro, Morphology & Syntax
- **Feb 26th**: Video 1

### Week 7
<table>
<thead>
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<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Chapter</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mar 3rd</td>
<td>Consonants</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 5th</td>
<td>Vowels</td>
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### Week 8
**SPRING BREAK**

### Week 9
- **Mar 17th**: Suprasegmental features
- **Mar 19th**: Phonemes and allphones

### Week 10
- **Mar 24th**: Phonological rules
- **Mar 26th**: Phonotactic constraints & review

### Week 11
- **Mar 31st**: Cesar Chavez Day - No Classes
- **Apr 2nd**: EXAM 2 Phonetics and Phonology

### Week 12
**April 6th - Course drop deadline**
- **Apr 7th**: Video 2
- **Apr 9th**: Theories of language acquisition

### Week 13
- **Apr 14th**: First language acquisition: Sounds, Morphology and Syntax
- **Apr 16th**: Bilingual Acquisition
Week 14

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Apr 21st</td>
<td>Video 3</td>
<td>Response paper 3 due Apr 27th</td>
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<td>Apr 23rd</td>
<td>Reflective paper: Language Use</td>
<td>Submit through BB due Apr 24th</td>
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Week 15

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Apr 28th</td>
<td>Language varieties &amp; use</td>
<td>Quiz Lang. Variation</td>
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<td>Apr 30th</td>
<td>Factors that influence variation</td>
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Week 16

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<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 5th</td>
<td>Language relatedness</td>
<td>Quiz Lang. Change</td>
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<td>Language change</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 7th</td>
<td><strong>EXAM 3 Acquisition, Variation, &amp; Change</strong></td>
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Week 17

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 12th</td>
<td><strong>FINAL'S WEEK</strong></td>
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<td>Final Project Due/Presentations</td>
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<td>10:00am - 12:45 pm</td>
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**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.