

Introduction to Linguistics

LING 2320(27141) / ANTH 2320(27270) / ENGL 2320 (28221)

Spring 2018

MW 10:30 pm – 11:50 am EDUC 313

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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.

Required text:

Language Files 11th Edition, Ohio State University Press

Course evaluation

| | |
|---------------|------------|
| Participation | 10% |
| Quizzes/HW | 20% |
| Final Project | 20% |
| Exams (3) | <u>50%</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.

During the semester you will have to complete different in-class assignments. Some of these assignments will be due by the end of each class, 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.

- **In-class quizzes** will be given during the first 10 minutes of class. If you miss a quiz because you are late, or absent, you will get a zero on that quiz.
- **Online quizzes** will be posted on Blackboard and will be available for a couple of days. These quizzes will be due by midnight the day when they're due.
- There are no quiz re-takes.
- Your lowest quiz grade will be dropped.

Homework

Homework will be assigned regularly. These assignments should be considered take-home quizzes. Grades from the quizzes, and homework will be added together for the *quiz/homework* percentage of the final grade. Your lowest homework grade will be dropped.

- Homework will be assigned during class, and will not be announced on Blackboard.
- No late homework will be accepted
- If you need to miss a class, you can submit your homework through email BEFORE the end of the class the day it is due. Take a clear picture and email it to raquelg@utep.edu
- All your homework has to be stapled.

Final Project

In groups, you will have to explore a particular Linguistics topic and share your findings with the class during finals' week. Guidelines will be posted on Blackboard later in the semester.

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 compressive final. Finals schedule can be accessed through the Records and Registration Office website: <https://academics.utep.edu/Default.aspx?tabid=8910>
- You will need a scantron to answer your exams.

Extra credit (Optional)

- **An exam study guide** will be provided before each of the three exams. It is optional to complete it and turn it on the day of the exam. Study guides will get you **five** extra credit points. The guide has to be complete and stapled, if it is not, you do not get any extra credit.
- Any extra credit you receive will be added to your exam score.
- To receive extra credit you are required to turn in your study guide before the exam.
- **Final grade extra credit.** You can get 1/100 (one) point on your final grade by doing the following:
 - Volunteer to participate as a subject in TWO research projects. It can be a Linguistics, study or any other study being conducted on campus.
 - Only ONE of the two studies can be completed online, the other one has to be in person.
 - You will have to show proof of participation, the following are some options: ask the researcher for an extra consent form and submit it to the instructor; ask the researcher to email the instructor (raquelg@utep.edu), etc.
 - This point will only help those who are one point, or less, away from the next letter grade. For example, someone who has a 79 (C) could get a B by participating in the studies.

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, (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.
- 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.
- 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 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.
- **Communication with the Instructor:** please, refer to the first page of this document for information about office hours if you need to contact your instructor outside of class. If you need to email the

instructor, please include the following information: Your First and Last name. The class and section you're in, and a clear subject.

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 browsing, messaging, viewing videos, 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 one's 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:

| Dates | Topics | Readings | Assignments |
|---------------|--|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Week 1 | | | |
| | <i>Introduction</i> | Chapter 1 | Quiz Intro & syllabus |
| 17-Jan | What is Linguistics? | | |
| Week 2 | | | |
| 22-Jan | What is language? | | |
| 24-Jan | Descriptive vs. Prescriptive grammar Writing & Design features of languages | | |
| Week 3 | | | |
| | <i>Morphology</i> | Chapter 4 | Quiz Morphology |
| 29-Jan | Words and morphemes | | |
| 31-Jan | Morphological processes | | |
| Week 4 | | | |
| 5-Feb | Morphological structure and analysis | | |
| 7-Feb | Morphological analysis: Practice | | |
| Week 5 | | | |
| | <i>Syntax</i> | Chapter 5 | Quiz Syntax |
| 12-Feb | Syntax | | |
| 14-Feb | Constituency tests Syntactic categories, phrases, & complements | | |
| Week 6 | | | |
| 19-Feb | Hierarchical structure, tree markers, PS rules | | |
| 21-Feb | Ambiguity - Review | | |
| Week 7 | | | |
| 26-Feb | EXAM 1 Intro, Morphology & Syntax | | |
| | <i>Phonetics</i> | Chapter 2 | Quiz Phonetics |
| 28-Feb | Phonetics, & Consonants | | |
| Week 8 | | | |
| 5-Mar | Vowels | | |
| 7-Mar | Suprasegmental features | | |
| Week 9 | Mar 12 - Mar 16 | SPRING BREAK | |

Week 10

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|--------|----------------------------|-----------|----------------|
| 19-Mar | Final project - Group work | | |
| | <i>Phonology</i> | Chapter 3 | Quiz Phonology |
| 21-Mar | Phonology | | |

Week 11

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|--------|-------------------------|
| 26-Mar | Phonemes and allophones |
| 28-Mar | Phonological rules |

Week 12

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|-------|---------------------------------------|
| 2-Apr | Phonotactic constraints & review |
| 4-Apr | EXAM 2 Phonetics and Phonology |

Week 13

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|--------|---|-----------|-----------------------|
| | <i>Language acquisition</i> | Chapter 8 | Quiz Lang Acquisition |
| 9-Apr | Theories of language acquisition | | |
| 11-Apr | First language acquisition: Sounds, Morphology and Syntax | | |

Week 14

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|--------|--|------------|----------------------|
| | <i>Language variation</i> | Chapter 10 | Quiz Lang. Variation |
| 16-Apr | Language varieties & use | | |
| 18-Apr | Final project planning: Picture Analysis | | |

Week 15

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|--------|-------------------------|------------|--------------------|
| | <i>Language Contact</i> | Chapter 12 | Quiz Lang. Contact |
| 23-Apr | Bilingual Societies | | |
| 25-Apr | Final project planning | | |

Week 16

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|--------|---|------------|-------------------|
| | <i>Language change</i> | Chapter 13 | Quiz Lang. Change |
| 30-Apr | Language relatedness and change | | |
| 2-May | EXAM 3 Acquisition, Variation, & Contact | | |

Week 17

FINAL'S WEEK - Final Project Due/Presentations

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.