

Introduction to Linguistics

LING / ENGL / ANTH 2320

Summer 2023

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Virtual Office hours: by appointment (send me an email or a text on MS Teams to schedule a meeting)

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:

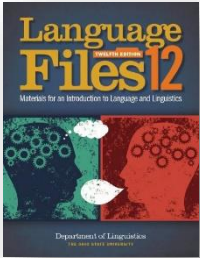
Students will:

- 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, discussion boards, and quizzes assigned per unit. Each unit will end with a partial exam. Also, all the class material and short video lectures will be available on Bb. You will find links to each unit 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

Course evaluation

Participation	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

Technology tools required

Course content will be delivered through Blackboard. Students should have a working UTEP email. Virtual office hours will be held on Zoom or MS Teams. If at any time you encounter any technical difficulties contact the UTEP helpdesk 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.

Zoom

I will use Zoom for office hours.

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 here: <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-365/microsoft-teams/group-chat-software>

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

Class Participation 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 **Blackboard**

Students are also 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.

There will be one DB per week.

Quizzes 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 every Friday. 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 turn it in 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*
- The extra points you receive will be added to the student exam score.

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 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.

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

1. Volunteer to participate as a subject in a research projects 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. The following are some options: ask the researcher to email the instructor (raquelg@utep.edu), or take a screenshot of the completion screen and email it to me.
2. Complete 4 hrs. of community service.
3. Attend a webinar
 - a. The topic of the 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 send it through Blackboard messages
4. Watch a linguistics documentary
 - a. To get the extra credit, write a 1-2 page summary of the documentary and send it through Blackboard messages
5. Watch a show/movie with a linguistics focus
 - a. To get the extra credit, write a 1-2 page summary of the show/movie and how it relates to linguistics, and send it through Blackboard messages

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

Last day to submit: July 7, 2023

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.
- 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
- 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 each other and the Instructor

Because this is an online class, we will not see each other in the ways you may be accustomed to: during class time, small group meetings, and office hours. However, there are a number of ways we can keep the communication channels open

- **Office hours:** We will not be able to meet on campus, but I will still have office hours for your questions and comments about the course. My office hours will be held on Zoom (by appointment)
- If you need to contact your instructor about a class related issue, use MS Teams
 - If you have a quick question, or need clarification on an assignment/quiz/exam, you can use M.S Teams to DM the instructor.
 - 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 group where students can post and answer questions
- 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)



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. 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.

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](#).

Tentative course schedule:

	Chapters / Objective	Readings	Participation	Quizzes & Homework
Week 1	Chapter 1 - Introduction Chapter 14 - Animal Communication Chapter 15 - Writing Systems	Textbook Files:	Discussion Boards	Available on Blackboard
M	1st Unit Objectives: Learn what is and is not considered language	1.1 and 1.2	Animal Communication	Quizzes: Syllabus, Ch1, and Ch 15 HW Ch1, Ch14, Ch 15 Exam 1
T		1.3 - 1.5		
W		14.1 -14.3		
R		15.1 -15.2		
F				
Week 2	Chapter 2 - Phonetics Chapter 3 Phonology	Textbook Files:	Discussion Boards	Available on Blackboard
M	2nd Unit Objectives: Learn about the production, perception and distribution of the sounds of human languages.	2.1, 2.2	Language sounds	Quizzes: Ch 2 and Ch 3 HW Ch2 and Ch3 Exam 2
T		2.3		
W		3.1, 3.2		
R		3.3, 3.5		
F				
Week 3	Chapter 4 - Morphology Chapter 5 - Syntax	Textbook Files:	Discussion Boards	Available on Blackboard
M	3rd Unit Objectives: Learn about how the human brain structures words and sentences in different languages.	4.1-4.2	Language Structure	Quizzes: Ch 4 and Ch 5 HW Ch4 and Ch5 Exam 3
T		4.3, 4.5		
W		5.1, 5.2		
R		5.3-5.5		
F				
Week 4	Chapter 8 - Language Acquisition Chapter 10 - Language Variation Chapter 11 - Language and Culture	Textbook Files:	Discussion Boards	Available on Blackboard
M	4th Unit Objectives: Learn about the process of first language acquisition, and the use of language in the community.	8.1	Language and Power	Quizzes: Ch 8, Ch10 and Ch 11 HW Ch 8, Ch10 and Ch 11 Exam 4
T		8.2-8.5		
W		10.1,10.2, 10.4		
R		11.1-11.4		
F				

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.