

**Second Language Teaching--English**  
**LING 5308 CRN 23939**  
Course Syllabus, Spring 2023  
Department of Languages and Linguistics, UTEP

COURSE INFORMATION

**Days:** Tuesdays  
**Time:** 6:00-8:50 PM

**Location:** LART 207

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

**Instructor:** Dr. Sabrina Mossman

**Office:** LA 214

**Email:** samossman@utep.edu

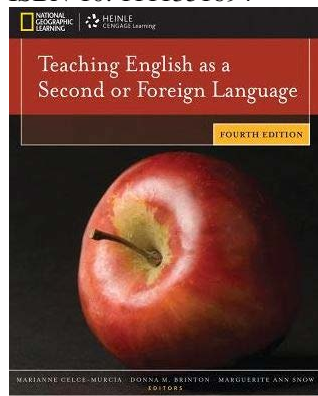
**Office Hours:** T&R 1:30-2:30 (but subject to change) **primarily by appointment**

TEXTBOOK:

Celce-Murcia, M., Brinton, D., & Snow, M. A. (2014). *Teaching English as a second or foreign language*. Boston: National Geographic Learning

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Course Description

This course presents an overview of theoretical and practical issues concerning the teaching of English to speakers of other languages. It focuses on both the what (language levels and skills) and how (activities and procedures) of language teaching, and it includes information on a variety of methods and materials to teach language components and skills to second language learners. Through this survey of methods and techniques for teaching, students will explore underlying assumptions and investigate how teaching practices may reflect teacher and learner goals, social and cultural settings, and individual learner differences. Students will develop guiding principles for teaching language learners in specific contexts.

Course Objectives

Participants will...

a) become familiar with the basic concepts and principles of both first and second language acquisition as they relate to instructional design.

- b) become familiar with original research pertaining to second language acquisition and language teaching.
- b) view language learning from a pedagogical perspective and gain knowledge of current second language teaching practices.
- c) recognize the importance of basing instructional design on principles of language acquisition, learning, and teaching.
- d) get acquainted with various approaches and techniques commonly used in second language teaching and assess their effectiveness and appropriateness.
- e) experience various ways of presenting language and content information, and ways of teaching different language skills.
- f) recognize the importance of contextual factors in language teaching and understand how these factors may manifest themselves in instructional procedures and materials.
- g) reflect on the impact of language development and linguistic competence on the socio-cultural status of individuals.

### **Instructional Approach**

The course is divided into two general parts. The beginning of the course will deal primarily with the theoretical concepts and principles of language acquisition as well as principles of language learning and teaching. The next part of the course will deal with the application of these concepts and principles in a second language classroom. There is a greater emphasis on activities during the second part of the course, and many of the assignments are designed to give you practice in what you would be doing in a real classroom. The class is very interactive, and students will be asked to interact with one another and share and reflect on topics related to second language teaching and learning. A substantial amount of reading constitutes an integral part of the course.

The material covered in this course will culminate in two primary assignments: (1) a teaching project and (2) a research project. These two components account for 50% of the grade in this class. You will complete several additional practical assignments including observing language classes and working in the ESOL lab. There will also be one exam at the beginning of the course covering the theory of language acquisition and teaching that will be covered at the beginning of the course.

### **Course Evaluation**

- 15% Weekly Activities
- 10% Article Presentation
- 10% Observation Report
- 15% Lab work
- 25% Research Project
- 25% Teaching Project
- 100 % Total

### **Article Presentation**

You will present a selected research article pertaining to interaction & second language acquisition and/or language teaching in the form of a 20/30-minute talk with a slide show and handout followed by questions and discussion. To help stimulate the discussion, you will provide discussion questions for your audience. More information will be provided in class and on Blackboard.

### **Observation Report**

You will be expected to observe 2 language classes (either a foreign or second language classroom). You will take detailed field notes of the language lesson and turn these in with a short follow-up reflection on the lesson.

### **Lab Work**

You will be expected to volunteer for writing or grammar tutoring at the online ESOL lab for 3 hours. Additional information will be provided in class and on Blackboard.

### **Teaching Project**

You will choose an **authentic** oral or written text (e.g., a song, a magazine article, a restaurant menu, a TV ad, a *You Tube* video) and develop a teaching chapter around it. The text must be related to a theme, such as the environment, life & death, ethical dilemmas, technology etc. Your lesson should include a combination of all four skills (listening, speaking, reading, and writing). A grammar and vocabulary activity should be included to complement the lesson. You will also create a lesson plan to accompany your lesson (additional guidelines to be given in class).

### **Research Project: Instructional Effects Study**

You will carry out one collaborative mini-study as a class. This will be an instructional effects study evaluating the effectiveness of different types of corrective feedback using a pre-test w/ feedback -- post-test format. This study is designed to give you some experience in carrying out research in the context of the course. The project includes writing a short literature review, collecting data, analyzing data, and writing a research paper. This assignment is a collaboration, but you will each write an individual paper for this assignment. Specific details about this assignment will be provided on Blackboard.

### **Grading System**

As stated in the UTEP catalog, grades for undergraduate courses are given according to the following system:

A Excellent

B Good

C Average

D Below average but passing

F Failure

Grades are calculated as follows:

A= 90-100%

B= 80-89%

C= 70-79%

D= 60-69%

F= 0-59%

## **COURSE POLICIES AND REQUIREMENTS**

### **TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS**

Course content is delivered via the Internet through the Blackboard learning management system. Ensure your UTEP e-mail account is working and that you have access to the Web and a stable web browser. Google Chrome and Mozilla Firefox are the best browsers for Blackboard;

other browsers may cause complications. When having technical difficulties, update your browser, clear your cache, or try switching to another browser.

You will need to have access to a computer/laptop, scanner, a webcam, and a microphone. You will need to download or update the following software: Microsoft Office, Adobe Acrobat Reader, Windows Media Player, QuickTime, and Java. Check that your computer hardware and software are up-to-date and able to access all parts of the course.

If you do not have a word-processing software, you can download Word and other Microsoft Office programs (including Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook and more) for free via UTEP's Microsoft Office Portal. Click the following link for more information about [Microsoft Office 365](#) and follow the instructions.

**IMPORTANT: If you encounter technical difficulties beyond your scope of troubleshooting, please contact the UTEP [Help Desk](#) as they are trained specifically in assisting with technological needs of students. Please do not contact me for this type of assistance. The Help Desk is much better equipped than I am to assist you!**

## **ONLINE SESSIONS**

On occasion this class may require that you participate in online class sessions at our regularly scheduled class time. The purpose of these sessions are for you to experience teaching and learning in an online format. Online sessions will be announced in advance and added to the calendar. Students are expected to participate in these sessions with a webcam and microphone. If you do not have a reliable webcam, microphone, or internet connection, you should go to the UTEP library where they can provide you with the necessary equipment.

## **CLASS RECORDINGS**

The sessions will be recorded and provided so that they can be reviewed by classmates at a later time. That said, sometimes there are technical issues (or user error if I forget to re-start the recording), and therefore you should not rely on the recording as a substitute for attending and engaging in the synchronous class. Students should not record the sessions and post them to any sites outside of Blackboard. Our use of such technology is governed by the Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and UTEP's acceptable-use policy. A recording of class sessions will be kept and stored by UTEP, in accordance with FERPA and UTEP policies. Your instructor will not share the recordings of your class activities outside of course participants, which include your fellow students, teaching assistants, or graduate assistants, and any guest faculty or community-based learning partners with whom we may engage during a class session. You may not share recordings outside of this course. Doing so may result in disciplinary action.

## **ALTERNATIVE MEANS OF SUBMITTING WORK IN CASE OF TECHNICAL ISSUES**

I strongly suggest that you submit your work with plenty of time to spare in the event that you have a technical issue with the course website, network, and/or your computer. I also suggest you save all your work in a separate Word document as a back-up to provide evidence that you

completed the work and will not lose credit. If you are experiencing difficulties submitting your work through the course website, please contact the UTEP Help Desk. You can email me your back-up document as a last resort so you can get it in before the deadline, but you will still need to upload it to Blackboard once the technical issues have been resolved.

## COURSE COMMUNICATION

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

- **Office Hours:** I will have office hours both online and in person.
  - **In person office hours:** I will be available for walk-in meetings from 1:30-2:30 pm Tuesdays and Thursdays as well as by appointment.
  - **Online office hours:** I will be available to meet online by appointment at a time that is convenient for both of us. If you wish to meet with me online, please send me an email to [samossman@utep.edu](mailto:samossman@utep.edu).

• **Email:** If you just have a question that doesn't require an actual meeting, 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 Sunday evening through Friday (not Saturday and during the day on Sunday.) Sometimes emails get lost in the shuffle or stuck somewhere, so if you do not hear back from me within 48 hours, please resend your email.

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. NOTE: It is better to email me directly from your miner email account to [samossman@utep.edu](mailto:samossman@utep.edu).

**Don't use Blackboard course messages.** I generally don't see the course messages until much later, but I check my email several times a day.

If you email me from a gmail or other non-UTEP email account, it may not come to my inbox because UTEP often filters those out.

• **Announcements:** Check the Blackboard announcements frequently for any updates, deadlines, or other important messages. I generally send the announcements to your email too, but if I forget to check the "email" box, it will only appear on Blackboard.

## General Course Policies and Requirements

- This class is very hands-on, especially after the first month, and therefore class attendance is imperative. In-class activities cannot be made up.
- Participants are expected to learn not only from readings and projects but also from class interaction, formal and informal discussions, and class presentations.

- Participants should read all assigned readings carefully before each class and be prepared to participate in class discussions.
- Students should be prepared to accommodate the necessary study time in their schedule to read, review, write, and study the material, as well as to work on assignments and course projects.
- All assignments and projects should be completed the week they are due.
- Students should make sure they have access to the course's Blackboard shell in order to receive class announcements, access class materials, post papers and reports, etc.

### **Course Drop Policy**

According to UTEP Curriculum and Classroom Policies, "When, in the judgment of the instructor, a student has been absent to such a degree as to impair his or her status relative to credit for the course, the instructor may drop the student from the class with a grade of "W" before the course drop deadline and with a grade of "F" after the course drop deadline." See academic regulations in the UTEP Undergraduate Catalog for a list of excused absences.

That said, **I will NOT drop you from the course.** If I find that, due to non-performance in the course, you are at risk of failing, I will contact you by email to recommend that YOU drop the course. You should touch base with me immediately if I send you a drop recommendation email.

Also, 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.

#### COVID-19 PRECAUTION STATEMENT

Please stay home if you have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. If you are feeling unwell, please let me know as soon as possible, so that we can work on appropriate accommodations. If you have tested positive for COVID-19, you are encouraged to report your results to [covidaction@utep.edu](mailto:covidaction@utep.edu), so that the Dean of Students Office can provide you with support and help with communication with your professors. The Student Health Center is equipped to provide COVID-19 testing.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that people in areas of substantial or high COVID-19 transmission wear face masks when indoors in groups of people. The best way that Miners can take care of Miners is to get the vaccine. If you still need the vaccine, it is widely available in the El Paso area, and will be available at no charge on campus during the first week of classes. For more information about the current rates, testing, and vaccinations, please visit [epstrong.org](http://epstrong.org).

## **COVID-19 ACCOMMODATIONS**

Students are not permitted on campus when they have a positive COVID-19 test, exposure or symptoms. If you are not permitted on campus, you should contact me as soon as possible so we can arrange necessary and appropriate accommodations.

## **HOUSEKEEPING RULES**

- Many of the instructional activities of this course will be conducted on Blackboard, which you have now accessed. You will find important information and materials for the course on Blackboard, as well as course announcements, which are constantly updated. Students are required to check in on Blackboard daily.
- In addition, students may receive e-mail messages (reminders, queries, etc.) at their address of record and are responsible for monitoring and responding to these.
- Stable internet connectivity is required for taking online exams. In the event you do not have access to a stable connection, you may take the exam at the UTEP library

## **COMMUNICATING EFFECTIVELY WITH YOUR PROFESSORS:**

I am including a link to some excellent guidelines on how to be professional when you send an email to any of your professors.

<https://www.math.uh.edu/~tomforde/Email-Etiquette.html>

## **INCOMPLETE GRADE POLICY**

Incomplete grades may be requested only in exceptional circumstances. Talk to me immediately if you believe an incomplete is warranted. If granted, we will establish a contract of work to be completed with deadlines.

## **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](mailto:cass@utep.edu), or apply for accommodations online via the [CASS portal](#).

## **SCHOLASTIC INTEGRITY**

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 laboratory reports. Plagiarism occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another as ones' own. Collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. 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](#).

## **TEST PROCTORING SOFTWARE**

Quizzes and/or exams in this class will make use of Respondus Lock Down Browser and Respondus Monitor inside of Blackboard to promote academic integrity. You are encouraged to learn more about how to use these programs prior to the first test.

Please review the following guidelines:

- The assessments will only be available at the times indicated on Blackboard.
- A reliable Internet connection is essential to completing the exam. If you must go to a location to take the exam (such as the library), be sure to follow their health and safety requirements.
- Respondus Lockdown Browser will require that all internet tabs be closed prior to the start of the test.
- Respondus Monitor requires a webcam and microphone.
- You will be required to show the webcam your student ID prior to the start of the test.
- Your face should be completely visible during the test. Blocking the camera will disable the test.
- No notes or textbook materials are permitted during the test. Respondus Monitor requires you to take a video of your surrounding area (desk, chair, walls, etc.)
- You should not have conversations with other people and/or leave and return to the area during the test

## **PLAGIARISM DETECTING SOFTWARE**

Some of your course work and assessments may submitted to SafeAssign, a plagiarism detecting software. SafeAssign is used review assignment submissions for originality and will help you learn how to properly attribute sources rather than paraphrase.

## **COPYRIGHT STATEMENT FOR COURSE MATERIALS**

All materials used in this course are protected by copyright law. The course materials are only for the use of students currently enrolled in this course and only for the purpose of this course. They may not be further disseminated.

## **Course Resources: Where you can go for assistance**

UTEP provides a variety of student services and support:



### Technology Resources

• **Help Desk:** Students experiencing technological challenges (email, Blackboard, software, etc.) can submit a ticket to the UTEP Helpdesk for assistance. Contact the Helpdesk via phone, email, chat, website, or in person if on campus.

### Academic Resources

• [UTEP Library](#): Access a wide range of resources including online, full-text access to thousands of journals and eBooks plus reference service and librarian assistance for enrolled students.

• [University Writing Center \(UWC\)](#): Submit papers here for assistance with writing style and formatting, ask a tutor for help and explore other writing resources. • **History Tutoring Center (HTC)**: Receive assistance with writing history papers, get help from a tutor and explore other history resources.

### Individual Resources

• **Military Student Success Center:** Assists personnel in any branch of service to reach their educational goals.

• **Center for Accommodations and Support Services:** Assists students with ADA-related accommodations for coursework, housing, and internships.

• **Counseling and Psychological Services:** Provides a variety of counseling services including individual, couples, and group sessions as well as career and disability assessments.

### Course Evaluation

Student evaluations provide important feedback to the instructor and they are essential for measuring teaching effectiveness in the profession. Chairs and Deans see course evaluations every year in reviewing faculty performance, and committees at all levels of the university rely on evaluations in making decisions. Before the last class session, you will be asked to complete University Course Evaluation Forms. Informal mid-term formative evaluations may be conducted by the instructor.

**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.**