

LING 3311/5300: Introduction to Linguistic Science
Fall 2015

Instructors: Daniel Scarpac
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Faculty Profile:

Office Hours: Thursday 3:30-5:30 PM

Time and Place of Class Meetings: Tuesday 5:30 PM – 8:20 PM; LS 124

Description of Course Content: Introduction to linguistic analysis, primarily including core areas such as the sound patterns of languages (Phonetics and Phonology), words and word formation (Morphology), sentence structure (Syntax), and meaning (Semantics and Pragmatics). Drawing upon data from a variety of languages, this course will emphasize the methods of linguistic analysis and ability to solve problems in each of the above areas.

Student Learning Outcomes: This course has four goals: i) to teach you something about language; ii) to teach you how to draw generalizations based on accurate and concise observations about linguistic data; iii) to teach you how to reason analytically and how to provide explanations for an observed pattern; and iv) to provide you with training in writing up your observations, analyses, and explanations.

Required Textbooks and Other Course Materials:

Mihalicek, V., & Wilson, C. (2011). *Language files: Materials for an introduction to language and linguistics. 11th edition.* Columbus: Ohio State University Press. ISBN: 978-0-8142-5179-9 (referred to below as *Files*).

Specific reading assignments are listed below. Please note: Although this textbook is required and you are responsible for knowing its content, we will often go beyond this text in the classroom, and homework assignments will often be based on the content and details of the lectures rather than the book. The book, in other words, is not a substitute for coming to class.

You are also responsible for checking the Blackboard site for this class regularly to access class notes, handouts, updates, assignments, etc. (login at <https://elearn.uta.edu/webapps/login/>).

Grading Scale:

Item	Points (500 total)	% of total score
Attendance & Participation	50	10%
Readiness Assessment Quizzes (in-class; individual and teams)	90 (9 quizzes x 10 points each)	18%
Homework (due on Blackboard on Tuesdays)	150 (10 x 15 pts each)	30%
Exam I	75	15%

Exam II	75	15%
Exam III	60	12%
Extra Credit*	10 extra points	2% extra

* Grad students & undergraduates who are taking the class with honors: extra credit (on homework assignments) are required, lowest homework score is not dropped.

Calendar (tentative)

Date/ Week	Topic	Assignments	Readings
1			
8/27	Introduction		
	What is Language?		Chapter 1
	Descriptive vs. Prescriptive grammars		McCulloch "What We Know About Human Language"
	Language Usage		Chapter 11: Sections 2, 3, and 4
2			
9/1		HW #1 due	
9/3	Phonetics I	RAQ 1 - Phonetics	
			Chapter 2 (stop reading <u>after</u> section 2.5)
3			
9/8	Phonetics HW #2 due		
9/10	Phonetics II		
4			
9/15	Phonetics II HW #3 due		
9/17	Phonology I	RAQ 2 – Phonology	Chapter 3 (skip section 3.4)
5			
9/22	Phonology I HW #4 due		
9/24	Phonology II		Chapter 4
6			
10/1	Exam I		
	Morphology I		
7			
10/8	Morphology II	RAQ 3 - Morphology	
8			
10/13	Morphology HW #5 due		
10/15	Syntax I	RAQ 4 - Syntax	
9			
10/19	Syntax I HW #6 due		
10/22	Syntax II		
	(sentence processing)		

10			
10/27	Syntax II HW #7 due		
10/29	Semantics	RAQ 5 - Semantics	
11			
11/5	Exam II / Pragmatics		
12			
11/12	Social Factors of Language Use	RAQ 6 – Sociolinguistics	
	Social Factors/Linguistic Profiling		
13			
11/17	Socio HW #8 due		
11/19	Language Change	RAQ 7 – Language Change	
<i>Thanksgiving Break</i>			
14			
12/1	Historical HW #9 due		
12/3	Language Acquisition	RAQ 8	
15			
12/8	Acquisition HW #10 due		
12/10	Endangered Languages, Linguistic Typology, Writing Systems	RAQ 9 – Writing Systems	Chapter 12 (Sections 1 and 6 only); interview with K. David Harrison
16			
Final Exam 12/17	Exam III (8:15-10:45)		

Course Policies

Exams. If you miss an exam, you will be allowed to take a make-up only if you can provide written documentation of an extreme and reasonably unforeseeable circumstance (e.g. sudden serious illness, major family crisis, etc.). Should you find yourself in such a predicament, you must contact the instructor by e-mail **BEFORE** the exam date to request a make-up. Students who miss an exam but do not notify the instructor as specified herein will receive a grade of zero (0%).

Extra Credit and Make-up work. There will be various extra credit opportunities throughout the semester.

Classroom behavior. Class sessions are short and require your full attention. All cell phones, iPods, MP3 players, laptops, and other electronic devices should be turned off and put away when entering the classroom; all earpieces should be removed. Store homework from other classes, newspapers, crosswords, magazines, bulky bags, and other distractions so that you can concentrate on the readings and discussions each day. Note: I reserve the right to ask you to leave the classroom if you are being disruptive.

According to *Student Conduct and Discipline*, "students are prohibited from engaging in or attempting to

engage in conduct, either alone or in concert with others, that is intended to obstruct, disrupt, or interfere with, or that in fact obstructs, disrupts, or interferes with any instructional, educational, research, administrative, or public performance or other activity authorized to be conducted in or on a University facility. Obstruction or disruption includes, but is not limited to, any act that interrupts, modifies, or damages utility service or equipment, communication service or equipment, or computer equipment, software, or networks” (UTA Handbook or Operating Procedures, Ch. 2, Sec. 2-202). Students who do not respect the guidelines listed above or who disrupt other students’ learning may be asked to leave class and/or referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

And a further note on civility in the classroom: Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. In order to assure that all students have the opportunity to gain from time spent in class, unless otherwise approved by the instructor, students are prohibited from engaging in any other form of distraction. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result, minimally, in a request to leave class. Appropriate student behavior (whether online, in person, or over the telephone) creates a better environment for learning and teaching.

Because this class involves topics of multiculturalism and diversity, the professor requests that students choose their language with caution. It is very easy to become emotional in discussing these topics. Do not call names, use an abusive tone, call someone stupid or otherwise insult another person. Slurs or epithets in particular should be avoided whenever possible. Linguistic behavior is one way that members of different social groups express attitudes; be aware of this at all times in personal conduct. Disruptive or abusive behavior will not be tolerated.

Blackboard. This course will utilize Blackboard this semester. Handouts and other materials will be available via Blackboard. It can be accessed by logging into the Blackboard website: <https://elearn.uta.edu>. It is your responsibility to make sure that you are able to access Blackboard, and to check it regularly.

Electronic Communication Policy. All students must have access to a computer with Internet capabilities. Students should check email daily for course information and updates. I will send group emails through MyMav and/or through BlackBoard. I am happy to communicate with students through email. However, I ask that you be wise in your use of this tool. I check my email periodically during the school week and occasionally on the weekend. I do not monitor my email 24 hours a day; however, I do try to respond to emails within 24 hours of receiving them. If you don’t have a response from me by email within 24 hours of sending it, please come see me in class or resend your email as there may be a chance it was lost in cyberspace. (Also, please make sure that you use your MavMail address—not your hotmail, gmail, yahoo, etc. addresses—when emailing me.)

The University of Texas at Arlington has adopted the University “MavMail” address as the sole official means of communication with students. MavMail is used to remind students of important deadlines, advertise events and activities, and permit the University to conduct official transactions exclusively by electronic means. For example, important information concerning registration, financial aid, payment of bills, and graduation are now sent to students through the MavMail system. All students are assigned a MavMail account. Students are responsible for checking their MavMail regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php>.

Syllabus and Schedule Changes. Instructors try to make their syllabuses as complete as possible; however, during the course of the semester they may be required to alter, add, or abandon certain policies/assignments. Instructors reserve the right to make such changes as they become necessary. Students will be informed of any changes in writing.

Important Academic and Administrative Policies

Drop Policy: Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance.** Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (<http://wweb.uta.edu/aao/fao/>).

Disability Accommodations: UT Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including *The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*, *The Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act (ADAAA)*, and *Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act*. All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide “reasonable accommodations” to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of disability. Students are responsible for providing the instructor with official notification in the form of a letter certified by the **Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD)**. Students experiencing a range of conditions (Physical, Learning, Chronic Health, Mental Health, and Sensory) that may cause diminished academic performance or other barriers to learning may seek services and/or accommodations by contacting:

The Office for Students with Disabilities, (OSD) www.uta.edu/disability or calling 817-272-3364.
Counseling and Psychological Services, (CAPS) www.uta.edu/caps/ or calling 817-272-3671.

Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

Title IX: *The University of Texas at Arlington does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, disabilities, genetic information, and/or veteran status in its educational programs or activities it operates. For more information, visit uta.edu/eos. For information regarding Title IX, visit www.uta.edu/titleIX.*

Academic Integrity: Students enrolled all UT Arlington courses are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington’s tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.

I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.

UT Arlington faculty members may employ the Honor Code as they see fit in their courses, including (but not limited to) having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System *Regents’ Rule 50101, §2.2*, suspected violations of university’s standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with

University policy, which may result in the student's suspension or expulsion from the University.

While the Department of Linguistics and TESOL hopes to foster a sense of community in which students can enhance their educational experience by conferring with each other about the lectures, readings, and assignments, all work submitted must be the **product of each student's own effort**. Students are expected to know and honor the standards of academic integrity followed by American universities; ignorance of these standards is not an excuse for committing an act of academic dishonesty (including plagiarism or collusion). If you have questions, please speak with your instructor, your academic advisor, or the department chair.

In this class, you will be required to do research and be able to properly cite that research in prose. If you are unfamiliar with citing other people's work, please either set up an appointment with me, contact Jody Bailey, a research librarian, at jbailey@uta.edu, or visit the Writing Center.

Please be advised that departmental policy requires instructors to formally file charges with the Office of Student Conduct, following procedures as laid out for faculty (<http://www.uta.edu/studentaffairs/conduct/faculty.html>), as well as notify the department chair of the filing of the charges.

Student Support Services: UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to resources@uta.edu, or view the information at <http://www.uta.edu/universitycollege/resources/index.php>.

Final Review Week: A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week *unless specified in the class syllabus*. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

Student Feedback Survey: At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as "lecture," "seminar," or "laboratory" shall be directed to complete an online Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student's feedback enters the SFS database anonymously and is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. UT Arlington's effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law; students are strongly urged to participate. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

Librarians to Contact: The reference librarian for Linguistics and TESOL is Jody Baily (jbailey@uta.edu).

Writing Center: Hours are 9 am to 8 pm Mondays-Thursdays, 9 am to 3 pm Fridays and Noon to 5 pm Saturdays and Sundays. Walk In **Quick Hits** sessions during all open hours Mon-Thurs. Register and make

appointments online at <http://uta.mywconline.com>. Classroom Visits, Workshops, and advanced services for graduate students and faculty are also available. Please see www.uta.edu/owl for detailed information.

Emergency Exit Procedures: Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit, which is located to the right and up the stairs. When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator but should use the stairwells. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist handicapped individuals.