Introduction to the Study of Human Language

Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 11:00 – 11:50 AM, Trimble Hall 216
http://ling.uta.edu/~david/2301/home.htm

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Prerequisites:
A desire (or need) to learn about the nature of human language.

Required Text:

Course Description:
LING 2301 examines issues concerning the most fundamental of human experiences: acquiring and using a language. Students will consider a variety of language-related topics in the context of the social sciences, from anthropology to history to psychology. Course readings provide students with exposure to many of the basic concepts and terms used in the study of language and linguistics. Lectures complement the readings by further elucidating key concepts and exemplifying these notions in the context of contemporary society.

Learning Goals / Objectives:
The goal of LING 2301 is to change students' relationship with language by: (a) challenging and enriching thinking about language and (b) raising consciousness of the role that language plays in the minds and communities of humans. Students should be prepared to enter into well-informed discussions about the primary themes of the course:

1. All human languages are systematic, each manifesting the complementary properties of rule-governance and creativity;
2. The acquisition and use of language is rooted in a complex of cognitive (internal) and social (external) factors;
3. Human languages reflect both our collective humanity and our socio-historical diversity; as such, all languages are worthy of study and respect.

These course themes are supported by reference to specific topics (e.g. language acquisition, language history) as covered in the readings, lectures, and class discussions.

Attendance:
While attending lectures is not a requirement for this course, students are strongly discouraged from missing class. Students assume responsibility for completing all work and for acquiring class materials they might not have received because of an absence.
Course Requirements:

1. **In-Class Quizzes** .......................................................................................................................... 10%
   - During the semester, there will be a series of at least five (but no more than seven) brief in-class quizzes. The date and content of each quiz will be announced one week in advance.
   - Quizzes will be given during the first five minutes at the beginning of lecture.
   - The format of each quiz may vary: multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, short answer, etc.
   - The material covered on any given quiz may either (a) come either from the course readings -or- (b) be based on work that the students will perform outside of class.
   - Under **No Circumstances** will there be any make-up quizzes; instead, each student will be allowed to drop his/her lowest quiz grade.

2. **Home assignments** .................................................................................................................. 15%
   - This fall there will be four homework assignments. The specific content of each assignment will be announced in class; due dates are noted in the schedule.
   - Homework assignments will be collected at the beginning of lecture on which they are due.
   - Assignments will be graded on a 10-point scale: 9-10 pts=A, 8-9 pts=B, 7-8 pts=C, etc.
   - Late assignments will be collected until the beginning of the next class period; these assignments will suffer a 1-point penalty. After the beginning of this “next class period,” assignments will not be accepted and will receive a grade of zero.

3. **In-Class Examinations** ........................................................................................................ 45%
   - There will be three in-class examinations as noted on the schedule.
   - Each exam is worth 15% of the course grade.
   - The exam format will be announced one week prior to each test; formats may change from one exam to the next.

4. **Final Examination** ............................................................................................................. 30%
   - There will be a comprehensive final.
   - Per UTA’s standard final examination schedule, the Mon-Wed section (002) will take the final on Wednesday, December 13 from 11:00 AM – 1:30 PM.

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**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). Should you find yourself in such a predicament, you must contact the professor by phone, fax, or e-mail before 8:00 PM of the exam date to request a make-up. Students who miss an exam but do not notify the professor as specified herein will receive a grade of zero (0).

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There is no "extra-credit" or "make-up" work in this course.

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**Summary of Links for this Course – See page 4 of Syllabus**

Each link number refers to the month and date (MMDD) on which it will be discussed.

L-0927.1............http://www.aphasia.org/NAAquiz.html
L-0927.2............http://www.lsadc.org/info/ling-faqs-stroke.cfm
L-1030...............http://www.lsadc.org/info/ling-faqs-accent.cfm
L-1110...............http://www.lsadc.org/info/ling-faqs-ebonics.cfm
L-1113.1............http://www.jaedworks.com/shoebox/oakland-ebonics.html
L-1113.2............http://www.englishfirst.org/ebonics/ebonsfjb.htm
L-1122.2............http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/JV/CRAWFORD/enaplus.htm
L-1204...............http://www.lsadc.org/info/ling-faqs-endanger.cfm

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Important Academic and Administrative Policies

Final Review Week: A period of 5 class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions has been designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final exams. 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 course 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 exam during Final Review Week.

Note: Per this policy, I will refrain from assigning homework or quizzes during the final week of class. I will not, however, use the week to review semester; rather, I will continue to present new material. As a student in this course, you are responsible for setting aside time to prepare for all examinations, including the final.

Americans With Disabilities Act: The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of federal equal opportunity legislation (Public Law 93112, The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended). With the passage of new federal legislation entitled the "Americans With Disabilities Act" (ADA), pursuant to section 504 of The Rehabilitation Act, there is renewed focus on providing this population with the same opportunities enjoyed by all citizens.

All members of the UT Arlington faculty are required by law to provide "reasonable accommodation" to students with disabilities, as long as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Student responsibility rests with informing the instructor at the beginning of the semester of a disability that might require accommodation and in providing documentation through designated administrative channels; for more information, contact the Office of Students with Disabilities (University Hall 102: 817-272-3364 or http://www.uta.edu/disability/).

If you have a disability that might influence your performance in this course, you must inform me no later than Wednesday, September 6, 2006.

According to Department of Linguistics and TESOL policy, "unofficial" or "informal" requests for accommodations (i.e., those not recorded by the Office of Students with Disabilities) cannot be honored.

Academic Dishonesty: At UT Arlington, academic dishonesty is a completely unacceptable mode of conduct and will not be tolerated in any form. Students involved in academic dishonesty will be disciplined in accordance with University regulations and procedures. Discipline may include suspension or expulsion from the University.

According the UT System Regents’ Rules and Regulations, "Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts" (Part One, Chapter VI, Section 3, Subsection 3.2, Subdivision 3.22).

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). If you have questions, please speak with your instructor or your academic advisor.

Student Support Services Available: The University of Texas at Arlington supports a variety of student success programs to help you connect with the University and achieve academic success. These programs include learning assistance, developmental education, advising and mentoring, admission and transition, and federally funded programs. If you require assistance academically, personally, or socially, you should contact the Office of Student Success Programs at 817-272-6107 or http://www.uta.edu/uac/studentsuccess-home for information and referrals.

Enrollment and Withdrawal from this Course: Students are responsible for making all decisions regarding their enrollment status this course. Should a student decide to drop this class, s/he must either (1) withdraw him-/herself via MyMav or (2) complete an "add/drop" form and file it in the Linguistics and TESOL department office. Neither the instructor, the teaching assistant, or the administrative staff of the Department of Linguistics and TESOL will independently undertake any enrollment actions (add, drop, change sections, etc.)

If you cease participation in this course with the intent of not being assigned a regular grade at the end of the semester (i.e., a grade of A, B, C, D, or F), then you must officially drop the course. Your failure to drop the class is not a reasonable excuse for receiving a grade other than A, B, C, D or F.

Auditors: All students attending LING classes must be officially enrolled in those courses. Exception: Students who have already fulfilled the majority of his/her degree requirements and would like to sit in on a comparable course to prepare for their comprehensive / diagnostic examination may do so (with the permission of the professor). Exceptions to this policy must be approved by the department chair.

Gifts: The Department of Linguistics and TESOL has a "no gift" policy: instructors may not accept gifts of any kind from students, including meals, food, or flowers. All linguistics instructors have been instructed to refuse gifts. Students can avoid placing their instructors in an awkward position by not offering them any gifts. Students wishing to honor their professors may make a contribution to the LING-TESOL Scholarship Fund; visit the department office (Hammond Hall 403) and ask for a "Gift Giving Guide."

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# Projected Course Schedule

The following table presents the anticipated schedule for course topics, reading assignments, and exams. (Quizzes and homework assignments do not appear below; these will be announced in class.) As a student in this course, you are expected to complete the reading for each lecture prior to arriving in class. As the instructor, I reserve the right to alter the course schedule at any time; that said, I will do my best to announce any changes in advance.

The numbers under “Reading” refer to chapters in the text.

*L-#* items are electronic links that you must access on-line. Consider these an integral part of the course.

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<th>Monday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
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| Aug | 28: What is Linguistics Anyhow?  
-no reading | 30: Properties of Language  
6 (pp. 61-64, 70-72); 7 | 1: Linguistic Signs – Morphemes  
11 |
|   | 4: Labor Day  
No Class | 6: Other Languages, Other Signs  
12 | 8: “Knowing” a Language  
15, 52 |
| September | 11: Language Types  
18 | 13: The Basics of Grammar  
16 (pp. 189-197) | 15: Sentence Structure – Syntax  
16 (pp. 197-211) |
|   | 18: Language and Thought  
47  
HW #2 Due | 20: Examination #1  
Review 8/28 – 9/18 | 22: Language and Brain  
48 (pp. 634-645) |
|   | 25: Language as Brain Function  
48 (pp. 645-654) | 27: Language Breakdown  
L-0927.1, L-0927.2 | 29: Language and Child Development  
42 |
| October | 2: First Language Acquisition  
41 | 4: More on Language Acquisition  
46 | 6: Building Vocabulary  
44 |
|   | 9: The Tragic Case of Genie  
45 | 11: Language as Biological Function  
43 | 13: Second Language Acquisition  
L-1013 |
|   | 16: Language Across Cultures  
4 | 18: Examination #2  
Review 9/22 – 10/16 | 20: Language and Identity  
1, 2 |
|   | 23: Language and Gender  
25 | 25: Speech Communities  
19 | 27: Dialects  
20 |
|   | 30: More on Dialects  
21, L-1030 |                      |                                 |
| November | 6: Non-Standard English  
22 | 8: African American English  
L-1108 | 10: More on African American English  
24 |
|   | 13: The Ebonics Debate  
L-1113.1; L-1113.2 | 15: Examination #3  
Review 10/20 – 11/13 | 17: Spanglish  
36 |
|   | 20: Bilingual Education  
35, 40 | 22: Language Policy & English Only  
L-1122.1; L-1122.2 | 24: Thanksgiving Holiday  
No Class |
|   | 27: Language Change  
33; 18 (pp. 250-255) | 29: A Brief History of English  
32 |                                 |
| December | 4: Language Ecology  
38; L-1204 | 6: Saving Languages  
39 | 8: Why does Language Matter?  
L-1208 |
|   | 11: Study for the Final!  
11:00 AM – 1:30 PM  
Review all notes & previous exams | 13 | 15: Relax! It’s Over! |

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