

# Linguistics 2301: Introduction to the Study of Human Languages

Spring 2021

TTh 3:30-4:50

Synchronous Online

## INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

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**INSTRUCTOR:** Dr. Carly Sommerlot

**OFFICE NUMBER:** 217B TH

**E-MAIL:** [carly.sommerlot@uta.edu](mailto:carly.sommerlot@uta.edu)

**FACULTY PROFILE:** <https://mentis.uta.edu/explore/profile/carly-sommerlot>

## Getting help in this course

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**INSTRUCTOR OFFICE HOURS (VIRTUAL):** 1-3 Tuesdays and Thursdays

- **Study Hours:** 1-2pm
- **By appointment:** 2-3pm

The best ways to reach me are:

- Via e-mail: you can e-mail me at any time at the address given above. I generally respond quickly; during the work week from 9-5 you can expect a quick response. On weekends and holidays responses will be a little slower, but should be within 24 hours. If you haven't heard from me after three days, feel free to e-mail me again.
- Via "Study Hours": the first hour of office hours will be open Study Hours. I will be on Teams for the entire hour and you are welcome to join to study, work, or ask questions.
- Via appointment office hours: the second hour of office hours are by 15-minute appointments. You can set up these appointments through Canvas.

I will always contact you through your UTA e-mail account, so please make sure you are checking that address. I will also make announcements on Canvas, so make sure you are regularly checking Canvas.

## Course Information

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### CLASS MEETINGS

This course is ONLINE2, or a synchronous online course. As such, students are expected to regularly attend. All meetings will be conducted via Microsoft Teams. Class meetings will additionally be recorded. All course materials will be posted on Teams and Canvas, and students are expected to check Canvas often to stay updated on the course.

You will never be required to turn your camera on during class meetings.

**PREREQUISITES:** A desire to learn about the nature of language.

**REQUIRED TEXT:** *The Study of Language*, by George Yule (get the latest 7<sup>th</sup> edition)

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

LING 2301 provides an overview of an inarguably fundamental human capacity: language. Students will consider a variety of language-related topics in the context of the physical sciences, cognitive sciences, social sciences, and humanities. 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. This course satisfies the University of Texas at Arlington core curriculum requirement in Social and Behavioral Sciences.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

The goal of LING 2301 is to change students' relationship with language by challenging and enriching thinking about language and raising consciousness of the role that language plays in the minds and communities of humans. As the semester progresses, students should be increasingly prepared to enter into well-informed discussions about the primary themes of the course:

1. All languages are systematic, manifesting the complementary properties of rule-governance and creativity;
2. Language acquisition and use are rooted in both cognitive (internal) and social (external) factors; and
3. 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 as covered in the readings, lectures, and class discussions.

### **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Upon successfully completing this course, students should be able to:

- identify and explain many of the basic questions investigated by linguists, in order to situate the discipline of linguistics in the broader intellectual landscape [Critical Thinking Skills objective]
- describe and illustrate the features shared by all languages, in order to distinguish those aspects of human language attributable to genetics/biology from those that are socially conditioned landscape [Critical Thinking Skills objective]
- analyze communicative signs (icons, words, sentences), in order to differentiate form, meaning, and function within a sign and to justify the use of a particular form in a specific context [Communication Skills objective]
- compare the characteristics of normative and non-normative/developing language behaviors in order to recommend appropriate measures when interacting with language-limited individuals (especially children and aphasic adults) [Empirical and Quantitative Skills objective]
- analyze the structure of interpersonal interactions, in order to assess the ways in which language both reflects and creates social relationships [Social Responsibility objective] • identify major historical events that have shaped modern (American) English, in order to explain contemporary patterns of language use and sociolinguistic attitudes [Empirical and Quantitative Skills objective] and
- debate the relative merits of monolingualism vs. multilingualism, in order to make more informed decisions about relevant social, educational, and legal policies. [Social responsibility objective]

These student learning outcomes align with the following four Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board objectives:

**CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS:** To include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.

**COMMUNICATION SKILLS:** To include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication.

**EMPIRICAL AND QUANTITATIVE SKILLS:** To include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions.

**SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY:** To include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national and global communities.

### **TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS**

This course will be conducted primarily on Canvas ([uta.instructure.com](https://uta.instructure.com)). All materials and activities, except for the textbook, will be provided in Canvas. Live sessions will be held on Microsoft Teams. In addition, you must have a word processing program adequate to create well-formatted documents and assignments.

If you are unfamiliar with Canvas, I recommend looking at the Student Orientation to Canvas module: <https://uta.instructure.com/courses/17157>.

A webcam is not required for this course, and all platforms for this course will be accessible on mobile devices and tablets.

## **Description of Major Assignments & Grading**

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### **ATTENDANCE (50PTS)**

- Attendance/Participation credit will be awarded based on the student's engagement in-class and small group discussions.
- Attendance will affect the maximum grade a student can earn.
  - Students with 5 or 6 absences will receive a maximum of 25 points of credit.
  - Students with 7 or more absences will receive no credit.
- Attendance will be taken at the beginning of class. Being more than a few minutes late will result in a half-absence, while being more than 15 minutes late will result in a full-absence. Likewise, leaving class early will also result in either a half-absence or a full-absence, at the instructor's discretion.
- **I know that we are all trying our best during tough times so if you're having a hard time coming to class e-mail me and we can discuss it!**

### **EXAMS (250PTS)**

- There are two (2) exams, each worth 125pts; dates are noted on the syllabus.
- Exams will cover material from course readings, class lectures, and any videos shown in class. Be sure to review homework assignments as well.
- The exam format may include multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, short answer, and essay questions. (Please see below for exam make-ups.)
- Exams are done through Canvas. Students will have a week to complete them, and they are due at 11:59pm on Sundays.
- All exams are open-book but timed.

## **FINAL EXAM (200PTS)**

- There will be a final exam at the end of the semester.
- The final exam will be comprehensive and may consist of multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, short answer, and essay questions.
- The final exam will be held on a date TBA.

## **HOMEWORK (200PTS)**

- There will be eight (8) regular homework assignments, each worth 25pts. The specific content of each assignment will be announced in class; due dates are noted in the schedule.
- Homework assignments will be due at 11:59pm on Sundays. All assignments are to be turned in via Canvas and should be typed and submitted as a .doc or .pdf file.
- Under very few circumstances will any assignments be accepted late without penalty. If you know you will be gone the day an assignment is due, make arrangements to turn it in ahead of time. Late assignments will only be accepted up until a week past the due date and will be penalized one letter grade per class day late.
- All assignments will be posted to Canvas.

## **QUIZZES (100PTS)**

- There will be eleven (11) brief quizzes due at class time on Thursdays. They will be given via Canvas, and students will have from the 5:00pm Tuesday until the beginning of the next class on Thursday to complete them.
- Quizzes are timed: students are provided 5 minutes to complete them.
- Each quiz will be worth 10 points.
- The format of each quiz may vary; generally, they will be multiple choices and/or short answer questions.
- The material covered on any given quiz will come from the course reading(s) assigned for that day, as well as material covered in class since the last quiz.
- There are very few circumstances in which quizzes can be made-up, and this is up to the discretion of the instructor; instead, each student will be allowed to drop his/her lowest quiz grade.

## **SLI PROJECT (200PTS)**

- Students will be required to conduct a short interview with two second language learners of English (details will be provided later in the semester).
- A 4-5 page essay will be required based on the responses of the interview.

### **Grading Policy**

Point total	Letter grade
$\geq 900$ pts	A
800-899pts	B
700-799pts	C

600-699pts	D
< 600pts	F

**ATTENDANCE:** At The University of Texas at Arlington, taking attendance is not required but attendance is a critical indicator in student success. Each faculty member is free to develop his or her own methods of evaluating students' academic performance, which includes establishing course-specific policies on attendance. As the instructor of this section,

- Attendance will be recorded at the beginning of each class.
- Arriving to class late or departing early will result in a half absence (or a full absence at the instructor's discretion).
- Students who arrive late are responsible for checking in with the instructor after class has ended to ensure that their attendance has been recorded. Students who need to leave early are responsible for alerting the instructor prior to the beginning of class.
- Five or more total absences will negatively affect a student's Attendance/Participation grade, as noted in "Descriptions of Major Assignments and Examinations" above.

While four or fewer absences will not negatively impact a student's final grade, students are strongly encouraged to attend all class meetings. Students are responsible for all information and assignments given out in class during the semester. Missing class does not absolve a student of this responsibility.

The U.S. Department of Education requires that the University have a mechanism in place to mark when Federal Student Aid recipients "begin attendance in a course." UT Arlington instructors will report when students begin attendance in a course as part of the final grading process. Specifically, when assigning a student a grade of F, faculty report the last date a student attended their class based on evidence such as a test, participation in a class project or presentation, or an engagement online via Blackboard. This date is reported to the Department of Education for federal financial aid recipients.

Excused absences include official university activities, military service, and/or religious holidays. Students must inform the instructor in writing at least one week in advance of an excused absence.

## **Course Policies**

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

**COUNSELING AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES, (CAPS)** [www.uta.edu/caps/](http://www.uta.edu/caps/) or calling 817-272-3671 is also available to all students to help increase their understanding of personal issues, address mental and behavioral health problems and make positive changes in their lives.

**NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY:** 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](http://uta.edu/eos).

**TITLE IX POLICY:** The University of Texas at Arlington (“University”) is committed to maintaining a learning and working environment that is free from discrimination based on sex in accordance with Title IX of the Higher Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in educational programs or activities; Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VII), which prohibits sex discrimination in employment; and the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (SaVE Act). Sexual misconduct is a form of sex discrimination and will not be tolerated. For information regarding Title IX, visit [www.uta.edu/titleIX](http://www.uta.edu/titleIX) or contact Ms. Jean Hood, Vice President and Title IX Coordinator at (817) 272-7091 or [jmhood@uta.edu](mailto:jmhood@uta.edu).

**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 in their courses by 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. Additional information is available at <https://www.uta.edu/conduct/>.

**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 phone or email before 8:00 PM of 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:** There may be some opportunities to receive extra credit later in the semester, at the instructor's discretion.

**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 when addressing me).

**CAMPUS CARRY:** Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes as prohibited. Under the new law, openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/news/info/campus-carry/>.

**STUDENT FEEDBACK SURVEY:** At the end of each term, students enrolled in face-to-face and online classes categorized as "lecture," "seminar," or "laboratory" are 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 via the SFS database is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. Students' anonymity will be protected to the extent that the law allows. UT Arlington's effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law and aggregate results are posted online. Data from SFS is also used for faculty and program evaluations. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

**FINAL REVIEW WEEK:** For semester-long courses, 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.

**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. 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 individuals with disabilities.

**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](mailto:resources@uta.edu), or view the information at <http://www.uta.edu/universitycollege/resources/index.php>.

**ACTIVE SHOOTER INSTRUCTIONS:** Please see this the following link on information about what to do in the event of an active shooter: <https://police.uta.edu/crime-prevention/active-shooter-resources.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.

### **MANDATORY FACE COVERING POLICY**

All students and instructional staff are required to wear facial coverings while they are on campus, inside buildings and classrooms. Students that fail to comply with the facial covering requirement will be asked to leave the class session. If students need masks, they may obtain them at the Central Library, the E.H. Hereford University Center's front desk or in their department. Students who refuse to wear a facial covering in class will be asked to leave the session by the instructor, and, if the student refuses to leave, they may be reported to UTA's Office of Student Conduct.

### **STUDENT SUCCESS PROGRAMS**

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 by appointment](#), [drop-in tutoring](#), [etutoring](#), [supplemental instruction](#), [mentoring](#) (time management, study skills, etc.), [success coaching](#), [TRIO Student Support Services](#), and [student success workshops](#). For additional information, please email [resources@uta.edu](mailto:resources@uta.edu), or view the [Maverick Resources](#) website.

The [IDEAS Center](https://www.uta.edu/ideas/) (<https://www.uta.edu/ideas/>) (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor of Central Library) offers **FREE** [tutoring and mentoring](#) to all students with a focus on transfer students, sophomores, veterans and others undergoing a transition to UT Arlington. Students can drop in or check the schedule of available peer tutors at [www.uta.edu/IDEAS](http://www.uta.edu/IDEAS), or call (817) 272-6593.

### **THE ENGLISH WRITING CENTER (411LIBR)**

The Writing Center offers **FREE** tutoring in 15-, 30-, 45-, and 60-minute face-to-face and online sessions to all UTA students on any phase of their UTA coursework. Register and make appointments online at the [Writing Center](https://uta.mywconline.com) (<https://uta.mywconline.com>). Classroom visits, workshops, and specialized services for graduate students and faculty are also available. Please see [Writing Center: OWL](#) for detailed information on all our programs and services.

The Library's 2<sup>nd</sup> floor [Academic Plaza](http://library.uta.edu/academic-plaza) (<http://library.uta.edu/academic-plaza>) offers students a central hub of support services, including IDEAS Center, University Advising Services, Transfer UTA and various college/school advising hours. Services are available during the [library's hours](#) of operation.

### **Emergency Phone Numbers**

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In case of an on-campus emergency, call the UT Arlington Police Department at **817-272-3003** (non-campus phone), **2-3003** (campus phone). You may also dial 911. Non-emergency number 817-272-3381



## Library Information

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### RESEARCH OR GENERAL LIBRARY HELP

Ask for Help

- [Academic Plaza Consultation Services](http://library.uta.edu/academic-plaza) (library.uta.edu/academic-plaza)
- [Ask Us](http://ask.uta.edu/) (ask.uta.edu/)
- [Research Coaches](http://libguides.uta.edu/researchcoach) (<http://libguides.uta.edu/researchcoach>)

Resources

- [Library Tutorials](http://library.uta.edu/how-to) (library.uta.edu/how-to)
- [Subject and Course Research Guides](http://libguides.uta.edu) (libguides.uta.edu)
- [Librarians by Subject](http://library.uta.edu/subject-librarians) (library.uta.edu/subject-librarians)
- [A to Z List of Library Databases](http://libguides.uta.edu/az.php) (libguides.uta.edu/az.php)
- [Course Reserves](https://uta.summon.serialssolutions.com/#!/course_reserves) (https://uta.summon.serialssolutions.com/#!/course\_reserves)
- [Study Room Reservations](http://openroom.uta.edu/) (openroom.uta.edu/)

## Course Calendar

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*“As the instructor for this course, I reserve the right to adjust this schedule in any way that serves the educational needs of the students enrolled in this course. – Carly Sommerlot”*

Week 1	
<b>1/19</b> First official day of classes <b>NO MEETING</b>	<b>1/21</b> Course overview; Introduction to language <i>Ch. 1; Atoms of Language</i> (online)
Week 2	
<b>1/26</b> Properties of language; animal communication <i>Ch. 2</i>	<b>1/28</b> <b>Quiz #1</b> Prescriptivism vs. descriptivism <i>pp. 97-89 (read ‘Descriptive Approach’);</i> <i>pp. 280-81 (until ‘Dialectology’)</i>
Week 3	
<b>2/2</b> Phonetics <i>Ch. 3; Ch. 4 (end at ‘Phonotactics’)</i>	<b>2/4</b> <b>Quiz #2</b> Morphology <i>pp. 65; pp. 76-80</i> <b>HW #1 due (11:59pm 2/7)</b>
Week 4	
<b>2/9</b> Syntax <i>Ch. 7</i>	<b>2/11</b> <b>Quiz #3</b> Semantics <i>Ch. 9</i> <b>HW #2 due (11:59pm 2/14)</b>
Week 5	
<b>2/16</b> Review	<b>2/18</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> language acquisition <i>Ch. 13</i> <b>HW #3 due (11:59pm 2/21)</b> <b>Exam #1 due (11:59pm 2/21)</b>
Week 6	

2/23	1 <sup>st</sup> language acquisition	2/25	<b>Quiz #4</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> language learning
<b>Week 7</b>			
3/2	2 <sup>nd</sup> language learning <i>Ch. 14</i>	3/4	<b>Quiz #5</b> Brain & language <b>HW #4 due (11:59pm 3/7)</b>
<b>Week 8</b>			
3/9	Brain & language <i>Ch. 12</i>	3/11	<b>Quiz #6</b> Language processing <b>HW #5 due (11:59pm 3/14)</b>
<b>Week 9</b>			
3/16	<b>Spring break</b> <b>NO CLASS</b>	3/18	<b>Spring break</b> <b>NO CLASS</b>
<b>Week 10</b>			
3/23	Computers & language	3/25	<b>Quiz #7</b> Sign language <i>Ch. 15</i>
<b>Week 11</b>			
3/30	Review	4/1	Language change <i>pp. 262-266</i> <b>HW #6 due (11:59pm 4/4)</b> <b>Exam #2 due (11:59pm 4/4)</b>
<b>Week 12</b>			
4/6	History of English <i>pp. 267-272</i>	4/8	<b>Quiz #8</b> History of English
<b>Week 13</b>			
4/13	Languages in contact <i>pp. 287-288</i>	4/15	<b>Quiz #8</b> Languages in contact <b>SLI Project due (11:59pm 5/2)</b>
<b>Week 14</b>			
4/20	Endangered languages <i>Why we must save dying tongues</i> (online)	4/22	<b>Quiz #9</b> Documentation & revitalization <b>HW #7 due (11:59pm 4/26)</b>
<b>Week 15</b>			

<b>4/27</b> Language, culture, & thought <i>Ch. 20</i>	<b>4/29</b> <b>Quiz #10</b> Writing systems <b>HW #8 due (11:59pm 5/2)</b>
<b>Week 17</b>	
<b>5/4</b> Review	<b>5/6</b> <b>NO CLASS</b> <b>Final Exam due (5/12 11:59pm)</b>