

LING 2371-003: Language in a Multicultural USA

Fall 2021

Instructor Information

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Carly Sommerlot

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TEACHING ASSISTANT: Dema Smadi

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Getting help in this course

INSTRUCTOR OFFICE HOURS (VIRTUAL): MTh 11:30-12:30

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 Office Hours:** during this time I set up a Teams meeting that you can join without appointment. This is a great way to ask questions or get help that might be more difficult through e-mail.

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.

TEACHING ASSISTANT OFFICE HOURS (VIRTUAL): F 10-12; **(HH 128):** Th 2:20-3:20

Course Information

CLASS MEETINGS

This course is listed as fully asynchronous and as such students will never be expected to attend a synchronous lecture. All lecture videos and materials will be posted to Canvas and can be accessed weekly by students. Students will be expected to participate in group discussions as well, to be done via Teams channels. This will begin in Week 3.

DESCRIPTION OF COURSE CONTENT

This course explores the relationship between language in the U.S. and social power and how negative attitudes toward some language varieties and languages spoken in the U.S. arise from social factors, rather than features of the languages themselves. In addition to studying language varieties, the course shows how American institutions such as the educational system and the media reinforce these negative attitudes and contribute to discrimination. This course satisfies the University of Texas at Arlington core curriculum requirement in Language, Philosophy, and Culture.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students who successfully complete LING 2371 should be able to do the following:

- Have developed awareness, appreciation and respect for the multitude of cultures in the U.S. and be able to describe the ways that these are both accurately and inaccurately portrayed. [Personal Responsibility objective]
- Identify and demonstrate an understanding of the basic concepts and terms used in analyzing language and social variation. [Critical Thinking Skills objective]
- Describe differences between descriptive and prescriptive approaches and attitudes toward language. [Communication Skills objective]
- Collect aspects of linguistic phenomena for description and analysis (i.e. conduct basic research). [Critical Thinking Skills objective]
- Reflect on different experiences of diversity and multiculturalism. [Social responsibility objective]

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER COURSE MATERIALS

- English with an Accent: Language, Ideology, and Discrimination in the United States, 2nd edition. Rosina Lippi-Green. 2012. Routledge.
- Additional reading provided online via Canvas

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

This course will be conducted primarily on Canvas (uta.instructure.com). All materials and activities, except for the textbook, will be provided in Canvas. Office hours will be held on Microsoft Teams and it will also be used for discussions and communication. 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.

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

This is an asynchronous course and as such there is no attendance requirement for lectures. However, students are expected to participate in group discussions done via Teams. Due to the nature of this course, this type of discussion is crucial.

Grading Information

GRADING POLICY

Students are responsible for all information and assignments given out in class during the semester. Failure to hear back on a request for information does not absolve a student from their responsibility for assignments or quizzes.

GRADING BREAKDOWN

	Points	% of total score
Homework x 4	100	20%
Reading Quiz x 9	45	9%
Discussion x 8	80	16%
Mid-Term Exam x 2	160	32%
Final Exam	55	11%
Final Project	60	12%
TOTAL	500	

FEEDBACK

Grades will be posted on Canvas about a week after assignments are due. You can access your grades and feedback by entering the Canvas course and selecting “Grades” from the course menu.

HOMEWORK (25 PTS X 4 = 100 PTS)

The homework assignments are usually due at the end of the week and cover material from the previous topic. All homework assignments will be submitted via Canvas.

READING QUIZZES (5 PTS X 9 = 45 PTS)

Reading quizzes will be taken on Canvas and are due Fridays at 5pm. They are open book and will cover the material from the assigned reading. Once you begin taking the quiz, you will have 15 minutes to submit it. Your lowest quiz grade will be dropped.

DISCUSSION (10 PTS X 8 = 80 PTS)

You will be assigned a small group for the semester. You will need to meet with your small group once a week and complete a short discussion assignment. You will be provided a Teams channel to meet virtually with your group.

EXAMS (215 PTS)

There are three exams in this class: two mid-term exams worth 80 pts each and a final exam worth 55 points. There are no exam make-ups unless under extraordinary circumstances (i.e. family emergency, illness, etc.) and written documentation will be required to make-up a missed exam. **If you know of some reason in advance that you cannot take an exam, let me know as soon as possible.**

FINAL PROJECT (60 PTS)

In this project, you will need to explore one topic that interests you that has come up in class. More details to come.

EXTRA CREDIT

Extra credit *may* be available at various points throughout the semester. However, completion of an extra credit assignment guarantees you neither full nor partial credit for that assignment.

Institution Information

UTA students are encouraged to review the below institutional policies and informational sections and reach out to the specific office with any questions. To view this institutional information, please visit the [Institutional Information](https://resources.uta.edu/provost/course-related-info/institutional-policies.php) page (<https://resources.uta.edu/provost/course-related-info/institutional-policies.php>) which includes the following policies among others:

- Drop Policy
- Disability Accommodations
- Title IX Policy
- Academic Integrity
- Student Feedback Survey
- Final Exam Schedule

Additional Information

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, or view the [Maverick Resources](#) website.

The **IDEAS Center** (<https://www.uta.edu/ideas/>) (2nd 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, 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 2nd 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

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

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

This calendar is a living document and is subject to change. I will inform you when changes are made.

	Topic/Lectures	Readings	To-Do (due Friday)	To-Do (due Sunday)
Week 1	Course overview V1 – Introduction / Syllabus SV1 – Meet Your Instructor SV2 – Meet Your TA			
Week 2	Intro to Linguistics V2 – What is Linguistics? Prescriptivism/Descriptivism V3 – P&D	EA Intro + Ch. 1 OR 1	Quiz #1	
Week 3	Standard Language Myth + Accent V4 – ‘Standard Language’ Language Subordination V5 – Language Subordination	EA Ch. 3 + 4 EA Ch. 5	Quiz #2 Discussion #1	HW #1
Week 4	Language + Education V6 – Language + Education Writing + the Internet V7 – Internet Language	OR 2	Quiz #3 Discussion #2	HW #2
Week 5	Review			Exam #1
Week 6	Language Change V8 – Language Change	EA Ch. 2 OR 3	Quiz #4 Discussion #3	
Week 7	Regional Dialects V9 – Regional Dialects	EA Ch. 11 OR 4 +5	Discussion #4	HW #3
Week 8	Language + Gender V10 – Language + Gender	OR 6	Quiz #5	
Week 9	Language + Ethnicity V11 – Language + Ethnicity	OR 7	Quiz #6 Discussion #5	HW #4
Week 10	Review			Exam #2
Week 11	Bilingualism in the USA: Spanish V12 – Spanish Bilingualism	EA Ch. 13 + 14	Quiz #7 Discussion #6	Final Project Topic Proposal
Week 12	Bilingualism in the USA: Indigenous Languages V13 – Indigenous Languages	OR 8	Quiz #8 Discussion #7	
Week 13	Bilingualism in the USA: ASL V14 - ASL Bilingualism in the USA: Hawai’i V15 – Hawai’i	OR 9 EA Ch. 12 OR 10	Quiz #9	

Week 14	NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING			
Week 15	Language Planning+ Policy V16 – Planning + Policy	EA Ch. 18	Discussion #8	Final Project Interview Summary
Week 16	Review			Final Exam