

University of North Texas at Dallas
Spring 2015
SYLLABUS

LING 2050D.020: The Language of Now (3 Hrs)	
Instructor Name:	Dr. Marco Shappeck
Office Location:	UNT Dallas, Founders Hall (DAL 2), #263
Office Phone:	(972) 338-1327
Email Address:	marco.shappeck@unt.edu
Office Hours:	Monday 12-2; Tuesday 12-1 & 3-5; Wednesday 10-2; Thursday 10-2 (<i>Or by appointment</i>)
Classroom Location:	DAL 1 #248
Class Meeting Days & Times:	Tuesday 1:00 p.m. – 2:20 p.m. (<i>Hybrid</i>)
Course Catalog Description:	An introductory linguistics course that focuses on the structure of English. The course includes language acquisition and development, the history of English, dialects of American English and problems of usage.
Required Text:	All course readings will be provided by the professor on Blackboard Learn.
Access to Learning Resources:	UNT Dallas Library: phone: (972) 780-3625; web: http://www.unt.edu/unt-dallas/library.htm
Course Goals or Overview:	
The aim of this course is to explore the relationship between culture, technology, and language change. We will consider how words enter into a language's lexicon, how they are indexed in dictionaries, and how they reflect our culture. We will also examine the linguistic significance of new technologies such as texting, gaming, IM, and social networking.	
Learning Objectives/Outcomes:	
At the end of this course, the student will be able to . . .	
1	Clearly state the defining features of language variation and change.
2	Demonstrate evidence of adjustment in their own attitudes and beliefs about diverse communities and cultures.
3	Articulate issues or problems comprehensively and convey all relevant information necessary for full understanding.
4	Identify different cultural systems of speakers of minority languages/dialects who live in the United States.
5	Systematically analyze one's own and others' assumptions and evaluate the relevance of contexts when presenting a position.
6	Extend novel ideas and questions that create new knowledge that crosses boundaries.
7	Recognize ethical issues when presented in a complex, multilayered (grey) context and also recognize cross-relationships among the issues.
8	Discuss in detail both core beliefs and the origin of core beliefs as it relates to language and attitudes about language use.
9	Interpret intercultural experience from the perspectives of their own (and more than one worldview); demonstrate ability to act in a supportive manner that recognizes the feelings of another cultural group.
10	Improve their writing skills by demonstrating a thorough understanding of context, audience, and purpose that is responsive to the assigned tasks.

Course Outline: (This schedule is subject to change by the instructor. Any changes to this schedule will be communicated to the students via email and during class).

Date	Topic(s)	Assignments & Activities	Learning Objectives
Sociolinguistic Principles			
Tues Jan 20 th	“like” quotative		
Thurs Jan 22 nd	Slang & Jargon	Quiz #1 (5%)	
Tues Jan 27 th	Speech vs. Writing	<i>Jargon Essay Assigned</i>	
Thurs Jan 29 th	Regional Dialects	Online Assignment (5%)	
Tues Feb 3 rd	Idiolects		
Thurs Feb 5 th	Sociolects	Online Assignment (5%)	
Tues Feb 10 th	Sociolects (Part II)		
Thurs Feb 12 th	Prescriptivism vs. Descriptivism	Online Assignment (5%)	
Tues Feb 17 th	Prescriptivism vs. Descriptivism (Part II)		
Thurs Feb 19 th	Authority: Gatekeepers of Language	Online Assignment (5%)	
Tues Feb 24 th	Standard American English	<i>Jargon Essay Due (15%)</i>	
Thurs Feb 26 th	World Englishes	Quiz #2 (5%)	
Dictionaries and Dictionary Making			
Tues March 3 rd	Types of Dictionaries	<i>Group Project Assigned</i>	
Thurs March 5 th	Word Etymology	Quiz #3 (5%)	
Tues March 10 th	Neologisms		
Thurs March 12 th	Vocabulary Growth	Online Assignment (5%)	
S P R I N G B R E A K			
Tues March 24 th	Language Contact		
Thurs March 26 th	Lexical Borrowings	Online Assignment (5%)	
Tues March 31 st	Language Censorship		

Date	Topic(s)	Assignments & Activities	Learning Objectives
Thurs April 2 nd	Taboo Language	Online Assignment (5%)	
Tues April 7 th	Group Presentation (Etymology)	<i>Group Project Due (10%)</i>	
Technology and Communication			
Thurs April 9 th	The Pencil	Quiz #4 (5%)	
Tues April 14 th	Email		
Thurs April 16 th	Texting	Online Assignment (5%)	
Tues April 21 st	Computer Interlocutors		
Thurs April 23 rd	Computer Interlocutors (Part II)	Online Assignment (5%)	
Tues April 28 th	Gaming Language		
Thurs April 30 th	Twitter	Quiz #5 (5%)	
Tues May 5 th	Review for Final Exam		
Thurs May 7 th	Media & Language Change	Online Assignment (5%)	
May 10-16	Final Exam	Final Exam	Final Exam

Course Evaluation Methods: This course will utilize the following instruments to determine student grades and proficiency of the learning outcomes for the course.

Online Assignments – *complete online modules*

Online Quizzes – *designed to measure knowledge of presented course material*

Short Essay – *compose a reflection, synthesis, analysis and/or summary of course material (1000 word minimum)*

Group Project – *a collaborative learning assignment designed to simultaneously develop personal and social responsibility as well as measure knowledge of course material*

[Grade Determination: A = 90-100%; B = 80-89 %; C = 70-79 %; D = 60-69 %; F = less than 60%]

	Instrument	Weight	
	Online Assignments [10 x 5%]	50%	
	Online Quizzes [5 x 5%]	25%	
	Essays [1 x 15%]	15%	
	Group Projects [1 x 10%]	10%	
	Total:	100%	

University Policies and Procedures

Students with Disabilities (ADA Compliance): The University of North Texas Dallas faculty is committed to complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students' with documented disabilities are responsible for informing faculty of their needs for reasonable accommodations and providing written authorized documentation. For more information, you may visit the Office of Disability Accommodation/Student Development Office (Founder's Hall #246)

Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness Policy: The Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness (SETE) is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT-Dallas. This short survey will be made available to you at the end of the semester, providing you a chance to comment on how this class is taught. I am very interested in the feedback I get from students as I work continually to improve my teaching. I consider the SETE to be an important part of your participation in this class.

Graded Assignment Policy: Exams and quizzes should be taken as scheduled. All graded assignments should be turned in on the due date indicated in the course schedule. If you are unable to complete a graded assignment by the deadline indicated, please contact me PRIOR to the scheduled deadline to make other arrangements. All non-approved late assignments will be penalized one letter grade per day late. All non-approved late assignments turned in more than 5 days late will receive a zero (0).

Exam Policy: Exams should be taken as scheduled. No makeup examinations will be allowed except for documented emergencies (See Student Handbook).

Academic Integrity: Academic integrity is a hallmark of higher education. You are expected to abide by the UNT's code of conduct and Academic Dishonesty policy. Any person suspected of academic dishonesty (i.e., cheating or **plagiarism**) will be handled in accordance with the University's policies and

procedures. Refer to the Student Code of Conduct at http://www.unt.edu/csrr/student_conduct/index.html for complete provisions of this code.

Bad Weather Policy: On those days that present severe weather and driving conditions, a decision may be made to close the campus. In case of inclement weather, call UNT Dallas Campuses main voicemail number (972) 780-3600 or search postings on the campus website www.unt.edu/dallas. Students are encouraged to update their Eagle Alert contact information, so they will receive this information automatically.

Attendance and Participation Policy: Class attendance and participation is expected because the class is designed as a shared learning experience and because essential information not in the textbook will be discussed in class. The dynamic and intensive nature of this course makes it impossible for students to make-up or to receive credit for missed classes. Attendance and participation in all class meetings is essential to the integration of course material and your ability to demonstrate proficiency. Students are responsible to notify the instructor if they are missing class and for what reason. Students are also responsible to make up any work covered in class. It is recommended that each student coordinate with a student colleague to obtain a copy of the class notes, if they are absent.

Although I will be taking attendance for all of our class meeting, your grade is not calculated with attendance points. Yet, class participation and attendance is still **very important!** Please make a genuine effort to attend all of our classes since pertinent information on the exams and other assignments will be discussed during class time. Additionally, you may not turn in any assignment late except in the event of a documented excused absence.

Homework Policy: Throughout the course, you will be assigned homework assignments to help you practice skills learned in class. These will be announced periodically in-class. While these assignments will not be graded, it is extremely important that you complete the work. Your understanding of these homework assignments will directly affect your grades on quizzes and exams.

Diversity/Tolerance Policy: Students are encouraged to contribute their perspectives and insights to class discussions. However, offensive & inappropriate language (e.g., swearing) and remarks offensive to others of particular nationalities, ethnic groups, sexual preferences, religious groups, genders, or other ascribed statuses will not be tolerated. Disruptions which violate the Code of Student Conduct will be referred to the Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities as the instructor deems appropriate.

WebCT/Blackboard: This course meets face-to-face only on Tuesdays for 15 weeks. All class meetings on Thursday will be held online this semester (as noted in red on the syllabus). Even though we will not be meeting in our regular classroom on these dates, you are still required to participate in these sessions.

Electronic Devices: You may bring laptops to class in order *to access electronic copies of the readings or to complete assigned tasks*. Other electronic devices, such as cell phones and MP3/4 players, should not be used during class.