

University of North Texas at Dallas
Fall 2015
SYLLABUS

LING 2050D.021: The Language of Now (3 Hrs)	
Instructor Name:	Dr. Katie Welch
Office Location:	UNT Dallas, Building 1, 301C or D
Office Phone:	(972) 863-2796 (call or text)
Email Address:	katie.welch@untdallas.edu
Office Hours:	Wednesday 1 p.m.– 3 p.m. (or by appointment)
Classroom Location:	DAL2 241
Class Meeting Days & Times:	Tuesday 1:00 – 2:20 p.m. (Hybrid)
Course Catalog Description:	Explores the relationship between pop culture, technology, and language change. Examines the linguistic significance of new technologies such as texting, gaming, IM, and social networking.
Prerequisites:	None
Required Text:	Selected readings and handouts posted on Blackboard Learn
Access to Learning Resources:	UNT Dallas Library: phone: (972) 780-3625; web: http://www.unt.edu/unt-dallas/library.htm Texas Education Agency: http://www.tea.state.tx.us/
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)	Activities	Graded Work
Week 1: Introduction to LING2050			
Tues Aug 25	Introductions		
Online	Selfies	Module #1	<i>Online Work</i>
Week 2: Language Variation			
Tues Sep 1	Folk Linguistics		
Online	Regional Dialects	Module #2	<i>Quiz Group: Part A</i>
Week 3: Language & Identity			
Tues Sep 8	Idiolects		
Online	Social Class	Module #3	<i>Online Work</i>
Week 4: Language Patterns			
Tues Sep 15	Jargon		
Online	Slang	Module #4	<i>Quiz Group: Part B</i>
Week 5: Language Evaluations			
Tues Sep 22	Dialects		
Online	Prescriptivism vs. Descriptivism	Module #5	<i>Online Work</i>
Week 6: Defining Linguistics			
Tues Sep 29	Spoken vs Written Language		
Online	Authority: Gatekeepers of Language	Module #6	<i>Online Work</i>
Week 7: Language Homogeneity			
Tues Oct 6	Language Prestige		
Online	Media & Language Change	Module #7	<i>Quiz Group: Part C</i>
Week 8: Language Change			
Tues Oct 13	Neologisms		
Online	Quotative “like”	Module #8	<i>Quiz Group: Part D</i>
Week 9: Etymology			
Tues Oct 20	Etymology	Presentation Assigned	

Online	The OED	Module #9	Quiz <i>Presentations: Prep</i>
Week 10: Data Gathering			
Tues Oct 27	PresentationWork Day		
Online	Boojie	Module #10	<i>Online Work</i>
Week 11: Language Contact			
Tues Nov 3	Language Contact		
Online	Lexical Borrowings	Module #11	Quiz <i>Presentations: Prep</i>
Week 12: English: Then & Now			
Tues Nov 10	Group Presentations		<i>In-Class Presentations</i>
Online	Global English	Module #12	Quiz <i>Group: Part E</i>
Week 13: Language & Technology			
Tues Nov 17	Technology & Language		
Online	Twitter	Module #13	<i>Online Work</i>
Week 14: Psychology of Language			
Tues Nov 24	Computer Interlocutors		
Online	Taboo Language	Module #14	Quiz <i>Group: Part F</i>
Week 15: Mythbusting			
Tues Dec 1	Language Censorship		
Online	Mythbusters	Module #15	<i>Online Work</i>
Tues Dec 8	Group Essay Due by midnight		

Note: Dates highlighted in pink indicate days that our class does not meet face-to-face. On these class dates, class information and instruction will take place online in our class Blackboard Learn site. It is important for you to understand that this is an *asynchronous* hybrid course, therefore, when you complete the online assignments and quizzes, you do *not* have to log in at a specified time. However, there will be deadlines for all the assignments so please follow the syllabus carefully. In general, all online assignments are due at the end of day on the Sunday evening prior to our next face-to-face class session.

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

Online Work –complete and turn in required online assignments
Online Quizzes –designed to measure knowledge of presented course material
Group Project – a collaborative learning assignment designed to simultaneously develop personal and social responsibility and to measure knowledge of presented course material
In-Class Presentation – a collaborative learning assignment that includes a brief (<10 minutes) presentation in front of the class during a face-to-face session

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

Instrument	Weight
Online Work [7 x 5%]	35%
Online Quizzes [7* x 5%] (*A total of 8 quizzes will be assigned throughout the course. The lowest quiz grade will be dropped, provided that at least 80% of the class completes a SETE course evaluation.)	35%
Group Project [1 x 20%]	20%
In-Class Presentation [1 x 10%]	10%
Total:	100%

University Policies and Procedures

Students with Disabilities (ADA Compliance):

Chapter 7(7.004) Disability Accommodations for Students

The University of North Texas at Dallas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodations must first register with the Disability Services Office (DSO) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the DSO will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request accommodations at any time, however, DSO notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet/communicate with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information see the Disability Services Office website at <http://www.untDallas.edu/disability>. You may also contact them by phone at 972-338-1777; by email at UNTDdisability@untDallas.edu or at Building 2, room 204.

Blackboard Learn Accessibility Statement:

University of North Texas at Dallas is committed to ensuring its online and hybrid courses are usable by all students and faculty including those with disabilities. If you encounter any difficulties with technologies, please contact our ITSS Department. To better assist them, you would want to have the operating system, web browser and information on any assistive technology being used. Blackboard Learn course management system's accessibility statement is also provided: <http://www.blackboard.com/Platforms/Learn/Resources/Accessibility.aspx>

NOTE: Additional instructional technology tools, such as Turnitin, Respondus, Panopto, and publisher cartridge content (i.e. MyLab, Pearson, etc.) may NOT be fully ADA compliant. Please contact our Disability Office should you require additional assistance utilizing any of these tools.

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, the following scenarios are applicable:

- 1) Students may contact me at least 24 hours prior to the scheduled deadline to make other arrangements. With prior approval from instructor, there will be no penalty assessed for late work.
- 2) All non-approved late assignments will be penalized one letter grade per day late.
 - a. 10 minutes – 24 hours late: highest grade assessed is a B
 - b. 24 to 36 hours late: highest grade assessed is a C
 - c. 36 to 48 hours late: highest grade assessed is a D
- 3) All non-approved late assignments turned in more than 48 hours late will receive a zero (0). Students concerned about a late assignment grade are encouraged to make an appointment with me to discuss the situation during office hours. Alternative assignments may be available on a case-by-case basis.

Academic Integrity:

Academic integrity is a hallmark of higher education. You are expected to abide by the University's code of Academic Integrity 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 Academic Integrity at

http://www.untDallas.edu/sites/default/files/page_level2/pdf/policy/7.002%20Code%20of%20Academic_Integrity.pdf for complete provisions of this code.

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarizing, fabrication of information or citations, facilitating acts of dishonesty by others, having unauthorized possession of examinations, submitting work of another person or work previously used without informing the instructor, or tampering with the academic work of other students.

Web-based Plagiarism Detection: Please be aware in some online or hybrid courses, students may be required to submit written assignments to Turnitin, a web-based plagiarism detection service, or another method. If submitting to Turnitin, please remove your title page and other personal information.

Classroom Policies

Online Attendance and Participation:

The University attendance policy is in effect for this course. Class attendance in the Blackboard classroom 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 the discussion board. Online presence and participation in all class discussions is essential to the integration of course material and your ability to demonstrate proficiency.

Attendance for this online or hybrid course is considered when you are logged in and active in Blackboard, i.e., posting assignments, taking quizzes, or completing Discussion Boards. To maintain financial aid award eligibility, activity must occur before the census date of the session or term of the course. Refer to <http://www.untDallas.edu/registrar> for specific dates. If you are absent/not active in the course shell, it is YOUR responsibility to let the instructor know immediately, upon your return, the reason for your absence if it is to be excused. All instructors must follow university policy 7.005 covering excused absences; however, it is the instructor's discretion, as outlined in the course syllabus, of how unexcused absences may or may not count against successful completion of the course

Inclement Weather and Online Classes: Online classes may or may not be affected by campus closures due to inclement weather. Unless otherwise notified by your instructor via e-mail, online messaging, or online announcement, students should assume that assignments are due as scheduled.

Online "Netiquette:

In any social interaction, certain rules of etiquette are expected and contribute to more enjoyable and productive communication. Emails, Discussion Board messages and/or any other forms of written communication in the online environment should use proper “netiquette” (i.e., no writing in all caps (usually denotes yelling), no curse words, and no “flaming” messages (angry, personal attacks)).

Racial, ethnic, or gender slurs will not be tolerated, nor will pornography of any kind.

Any violation of online netiquette may result in a loss of points or removal from the course and referral to the Dean of Students, including warnings and other sanctions in accordance with the University’s policies and procedures. Refer to the Student Code of Student Rights Responsibilities and Conduct at <http://www.untDallas.edu/osa/policies>. Respect is a given principle in all online communication. Therefore, please be sure to proofread all of your written communication prior to submission.

Diversity/Tolerance Policy:

Students are encouraged to contribute their perspectives and insights to class discussions in the online environment. However, offensive & inappropriate language (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 Dean of Students as the instructor deems appropriate.

Technology Requirements: In order to successfully access the materials in an online or hybrid course, UNT Dallas advises that your computer be equipped with the minimum system requirements.

Blackboard Learn 9.1 is the platform software for this course. Blackboard Learn supports major web browsers such as Windows Internet Explorer, Apple Safari, Mozilla Firefox, and Google Chrome. However, since the latter two are updated continually, some recent versions may not be compatible. If you experience difficulty accessing or using components of the course, try using Internet Explorer. Also, no matter what browser you use, always enable pop-ups. For more information see:

- <http://www.untDallas.edu/dlit/ecampus/requirements>
- https://help.blackboard.com/en-us/Learn/9.1_SP_12_and_SP_13/Student/040_Browser_Support_for_SP_13
- https://learn.unt.edu/bbcswebdav/institution/BrowserCheck/check_full.html