

**University of North Texas at Dallas**  
**Spring 2015**  
**SYLLABUS**

<b>LING 2050D.021: The Language of Now (3 Hrs)</b>	
<b>Instructor Name:</b>	<b>Dr. Katie Welch</b>
<b>Office Location:</b>	UNT Dallas, Founder's Hall (Building 2), Room 305
<b>Office Phone:</b>	(972) 863-2796 (call or text)
<b>Email Address:</b>	katie.welch@untdallas.edu
<b>Office Hours:</b>	<b>Tuesday 10:00 a.m.– Noon (or by appointment)</b>
<b>Classroom Location:</b>	<b>DAL1 248</b>
<b>Class Meeting Days &amp; Times:</b>	<b>Wednesday 3:00 – 4:20 p.m. (Hybrid)</b>
<b>Course Catalog Description:</b>	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.
<b>Prerequisites:</b>	None
<b>Required Text:</b>	Selected readings and handouts posted on Blackboard Learn
<b>Access to Learning Resources:</b>	UNT Dallas Library: phone: (972) 780-3625; web: <a href="http://www.unt.edu/unt-dallas/library.htm">http://www.unt.edu/unt-dallas/library.htm</a> Texas Education Agency: <a href="http://www.tea.state.tx.us/">http://www.tea.state.tx.us/</a>
<b>Course Goals or Overview:</b>	
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.	
<b>Learning Objectives/Outcomes:</b>	
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
<b>Sociolinguistic Principles</b>			
<b>Week 1</b>			
Wed Jan 21	“Like” quotative		
Online	Slang & Jargon	Quiz #1 (5%)	
<b>Week 2</b>			
Wed Jan 28	Speech vs. Writing	<i>Jargon Essay Assigned</i>	
Online	Regional Dialects	Online Assignment (5%)	
<b>Week 3</b>			
Wed Feb 4	Idiolects		
Online	Sociolects	Online Assignment (5%)	
<b>Week 4</b>			
Wed Feb 11	Sociolects (Part II)		
Online	Prescriptivism vs. Descriptivism	Online Assignment (5%)	
<b>Week 5</b>			
Wed Feb 18	Prescriptivism vs. Descriptivism (Part II)		
Online	World Englishes	Quiz #2 (5%)	
<b>Week 6</b>			
Wed Feb 25	Standard American English	<i>Jargon Essay Due (15%)</i>	
Online	Authority: Gatekeepers of Language	Online Assignment (5%)	
<b>Dictionaries and Dictionary-Making</b>			
<b>Week 7</b>			
Wed March 4	Types of Dictionaries	<i>Group Project Assigned</i>	
Online	Word Etymology	Quiz #3 (5%)	
<b>Week 8</b>			

Wed March 11	Neologisms		
Online	Vocabulary Growth	Online Assignment (5%)	
<b><i>S P R I N G                      B R E A K</i></b>			
<b>Week 9</b>			
Wed March 25	Language Contact		
Online	Lexical Borrowings	Online Assignment (5%)	
<b>Week 10</b>			
Wed April 1	Language Censorship		
Online	Taboo Language	Online Assignment (5%)	
<b>Week 11</b>			
Wed April 8	Group Presentation (Etymology)	Group Project Due (10%)	
<b>Technology and Communication</b>			
Online	The Pencil	Quiz #4 (5%)	
<b>Week 12</b>			
Wed April 15	Email		
Online	Texting	Online Assignment (5%)	
<b>Week 13</b>			
Wed April 22	Computer Interlocutors		
Online	Computer Interlocutors (Part II)	Online Assignment (5%)	
<b>Week 14</b>			
Wed April 29	Gaming Language		
Online	Twitter	Quiz #5 (5%)	
<b>Week 15</b>			
Wed May 6	Review for Final Exam		
Online	Media & Language Change	Online Assignment (5%)	

Wed May 13	Final Exam (in-class)	Final Exam (in-class)	Final Exam (in-class)
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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 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, and to measure knowledge of presented 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%
	<b>Total:</b>	<b>100%</b>

### 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 (Founder's Hall #246) or call Dr. Jennifer Bradford at 972-338-1775, email: [Jennifer.bradford@unt.edu](mailto:Jennifer.bradford@unt.edu) .

#### **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).

**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](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](http://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 will be discussed in class. The dynamic and intensive nature of this course makes it impossible for students to make-up or 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.

**Homework Policy:** Throughout the course, you might be assigned non-graded 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 remarks and insensitive language 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 for 16 weeks. However, the instructor will make extensive use of Blackboard Learn to send course announcements to students and to post relevant course documents. Links to electronic copies of the course readings will be provided there.

**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.

**Food/Drink**

Students are permitted to bring drinks and food into the classroom.