

University of North Texas at Dallas
Spring 2016
SYLLABUS for Distance Learning

LING 2050D.022: The Language of Now (3 Hrs)			
Department of	Linguistics	School of	Education
Instructor Name:	Dr. Katie Welch		
Office Location:	UNT Dallas, DAL1 260		
Office Phone:	(972) 338-1318 (office); 972-863-2796 (cell)		
Email Address:	katie.welch@untdallas.edu		
Office Hours (in-person):	Mon, Wed 12:30 – 2:30 p.m.; Tues 10:00 a.m. - Noon (or by appointment)		
Office Hours (virtual)	Thursday: 10 a.m. - noon		
Classroom Location:	DAL1 102 and Online		
Class Meeting Days & Times:	Wednesday 7:00 – 8:20 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) 780-1616 web: http://www.untdallas.edu/library email: library@untdallas.edu UNT Dallas Bookstore: phone: (972) 780-3652 web: http://www.untdallas.edu/bookstore e-mail: untdallas@bkstr.com		
Course Goals or Overview:	The goals of this course are as follows - 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, students 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.		

Online/Hybrid Course Outline

This schedule is subject to change by the instructor. Any changes to this schedule will be communicated in class or via class email or Blackboard announcement. Additional readings and activities may be added, these will be noted in the Readings and Activities/Assignments sections.

Date	Topic(s)	Activities	Graded Work	Due Date
Week 1: Introduction to LING2050				
Wed Aug 24	Introductions			
Online	Selfies	Module #1	Online Work	Tues Aug 30 @ noon
Week 2: Language Variation				
Wed Aug 31	Folk Linguistics			
Online	Regional Dialects	Module #2	Quiz	Tues Sep 6 @ noon
Week 3: Language & Identity				
Wed Sep 7	Sociolects			
Online	Social Class	Module #3	Online Work	Tues Sep 13 @ noon
Week 4: Language Patterns				
Wed Sep 14	Shibboleths			
Online	Slang	Module #4	Quiz	Tues Sep 20 @ noon
Week 5: Language Evaluations				
Wed Sep 21	Grammar			
Online	Prescriptivism vs. Descriptivism	Module #5	Online Work	Tues Sep 27 @ noon
Week 6: Language Prestige				
Wed Sep 28	Language Prestige			
Online	Authority: Gatekeepers of Language	Module #6	Online Work	Tues Oct 4 @ noon
Week 7: Language and Technology				
Online *	Texting	Module #7	<u>Research Report:</u> Texting: Hurting or Helping?	Tues Oct 11 @ noon
<p><i>Please note that we will not be meeting face-to-face on Wed Oct 5. The entire week's session is online. Please plan for at least 3 hours of online instructional time during your week.</i></p>				
Week 8: Language Change				
Wed Oct 12	Neologisms			
Online	The OED	Module #8	Quiz	Tues Oct 18 @ noon
Week 9: The History of English				
Wed Oct 19	Etymology/Language Contact	Presentation Assigned		

Online	History of English	Module #9	<i>Presentations: Prep</i>	<i>Tues Oct 25 @ noon</i>
Week 10: Etymology				
Online <i>Please note that we will not be meeting face-to-face on Wed Oct 26. The entire week's session is online. Please plan for at least 3 hours of online instructional time during your week.</i>	The History of Words	Module #10	<i>Research Report: Slang: New or Old?</i>	<i>Tues Nov 1 @ noon</i>
Week 11: Language Contact				
Wed Nov 2	Presentation Work Day			
Online	Lexical Borrowings	Module #11	<i>Quiz</i>	<i>Tues Nov 8 @ noon</i>
Week 12: English: Then & Now				
Wed Nov 9	Group Presentations		<i>In-Class Presentations</i>	
Online	Global English	Module #12	<i>Quiz</i>	<i>Tues Nov 15 @ noon</i>
Week 13: Psychology of Language				
Wed Nov 16	Computer Interlocutors			
Online	Taboo Language	Module #13	<i>Quiz</i>	<i>Tues Nov 22 @ noon</i>
Week 14: Texting				
Online <i>Please note that we will not be meeting face-to-face on Wed Nov 23. The entire week's session is online. Please plan for at least 3 hours of online instructional time during your week.</i>	Texting: LOL	Module #14	<i>Research Report: LOL: Laughing Out Loud?</i>	<i>Tues Nov 29 @ noon</i>
Week 15: Mythbusting				
Wed Nov 30	Semester Review			
Online	Mythbusters	Module #15	<i>Online Work</i>	<i>TBD</i>
No Final Exam (Module #15 due during exam week)				

Course Evaluation Methods

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

1. **Online Work** –complete and turn in required online assignments

2. **Online Quizzes** –designed to measure knowledge of presented course material
3. **Research Report** – online assignment that includes researching a critical question and responding in a brief essay format
 - The three questions you will research are:
 - Texting: Hurting or Helping?
 - Slang: New or Old?
 - LOL: Laughing Out Loud?
4. **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

Grading Matrix:

Instrument	Weight
Online Work [5 x 50 pts]	250 pts
Online Quizzes [6 x 50 pts]	300 pts
Research Report [3 x 100 pts]	300 pts
In-Class Presentation [1 x 150 pts]	150 pts
Total:	1000 pts

Grade Determination

- A = 900 pts or better**
- B = 800 – 899 pts**
- C = 700 – 799 pts**
- D = 600 – 699 pts**
- F = less than 600 pts**

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 UNTDisability@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.

Course Evaluation Policy:

Student's evaluations of teaching effectiveness 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 to continually improve my teaching. I consider students' evaluations to be an important part of your participation in this class.

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 effected 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://blackboard.secure.force.com/publickbarticleview?id=kAB700000008Oom>
- https://learn.unt.edu/bbcswebdav/institution/BrowserCheck/check_full.html