

University of North Texas at Dallas
Fall 2014
SYLLABUS

LING 2050D.091: The Language of Now (3 Hrs)	
Instructor Name:	Dr. Catharine Welch
Office Location:	UNT Dallas, Founder's Hall (Building 2), Room 305
Office Phone:	(972) 863-2796 (call or text)
Email Address:	catharine.welch@unt.edu
Office Hours:	Tuesday & Thursday 12:00 – 1:00 p.m., 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. (or by appointment)
Classroom Location:	DAL1 304
Class Meeting Days & Times:	Tuesday & Thursday 1:00 p.m. – 2:20 p.m.
Course Catalog Description:	An introductory linguistics course that focuses on the structure of English (sociolinguistics, phonology, morphology, orthography, pragmatics, and syntax). 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
Tues, Aug 26	Introduction to course	Reading	
Sociolinguistic Principles			
Thurs, Aug 28	Intro to Linguistics		
Tues, Sep 2	Dialects	Reading	
Thurs, Sep 4	Regional Dialects	Online Assignment #1	Objectives #1 & #4
Tues, Sep 9	Idiolects	Reading	
Thurs, Sep 11	Sociolects	Reading	
Tues, Sep 16	Speech Registers & Slang	Quiz #1	<i>Objectives #4, & #9</i>
Thurs, Sep 18	Prescriptive/Descriptive Grammars	Reading	
Tues, Sep 23	Standard American English	Due: Short Essay #1	<i>Objectives #5, #10</i>
Dictionaries and Dictionary-Making			
Thurs, Sep 25	Authority: Gatekeepers of Language	Online Assignment #2	Objectives #7 & #8
Tues, Sep 30	Types of dictionaries	Reading	<i>Objectives #3 & #10</i>
Thurs, Oct 2	Word Etymology	Group Project #1 (<i>assigned</i>) Reading	
Tues, Oct 7	Neologisms	Reading	
Thurs, Oct 9	Processes of Vocabulary Expansion	Online Assignment #3	Objective #1
Tues, Oct 14	Lexical Borrowings	Extra Credit	
Thurs, Oct 16	Language Contact		
Tues, Oct 21	Group Presentations of Project #1	Group Project #1 (<i>due</i>)	<i>Objective #1</i>
Thurs, Oct 23	Taboo Language	Online Assignment #4	Objective #5
Tues, Oct 28	Language Censorship	Group Project #2 (<i>assigned</i>)	

Date	Topic(s)	Assignments & Activities	Learning Objectives
Language and Technology			
Thurs, Oct 30	Technology & Communication: <i>The pencil</i>		
Tues, Nov 4	Technology & Communication: <i>email</i>	Reading	
Thurs, Nov 6	Technology & Communication: <i>twitter</i>	Due: Short Essay #2	<i>Objective #2 & #10</i>
Tues, Nov 11	Computer Interlocutors	Reading	
Thurs, Nov 13	Technology & Communication: <i>texting</i>	Online Assignment #5	<i>Objective #8</i>
Tues, Nov 18	Gaming Language	Quiz #3	<i>Objective #7</i>
Media and Music			
Thurs, Nov 20	Hip-Hop	Reading	
Tues, Nov 25	Media & Lang Change	Online Assignment #6	<i>Objective #4</i>
Thurs, Nov 27	<i>Happy Thanksgiving!</i>	<i>No Class!</i>	<i>No Homework!</i>
Tues, Dec 2	Jazz		<i>Objective #6</i>
Thurs, Dec 4	Pop Culture	Group Project #2 (<i>due</i>)	
December 8-13	Final Exam	Final Exam	<i>Objective #1, #4, & #9</i>

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

Exams – *written assessment designed to measure knowledge of presented course material*

Quizzes – *short, written assessment 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*

Short Essay – *compose a 2-page reflection, synthesis, analysis and/or summary of course material*

Online Work – *attend online class sessions and engage in online activities*

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

	Instrument	Total	
	Quizzes (3)	20%	
	Group Projects (2)	30%	
	Online Work (6)	20%	
	Final Exam	10%	
	Short Essays (2)	20%	
	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 (Founder's Hall #246) or call Dr. Jennifer Bradford at 972-338-1775, *email:* 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 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 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.