

**University of Texas at Tyler**  
**Department of Literature and Languages**

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ENGL4376: Introduction to Linguistics

## I. CONTACTS

**Instructor:** Pierre-Luc Paquet, Ph.D    **Office:** CAS-239  
**E-mail:** [ppaquet@uttyler.edu](mailto:ppaquet@uttyler.edu)    **Field of specialization:** Applied Linguistics  
**Schedule:** Online    **Office Hours:** ZOOM Monday/Wednesday 10:00 – 12:00<sup>1</sup>

## II. COURSE OVERVIEW

**Course Description:** *Why do we have language? And what do we “have” when we have it?* Linguistics studies the **structure of human languages** with the goal of developing a general theory of how language works. Linguists closely examine the material, accessible properties of language (the sounds, the words, the phrases...) to get an understanding of its non-material, abstract ones.

Given that language is intimately connected to our cognitive, psychological, and social experience, an understanding of linguistic structure can help illuminate aspects of these domains as well. In this course, you will learn about the various subfields of the discipline —phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, and pragmatics— and get a feel for the various techniques of linguistic analysis through problem-solving experience. The tools and the knowledge that you acquire through this course should give you a new perspective on language and a new sense of respect for the species that can manipulate it so easily.

### Course outcomes:

At the end of the course, students will:

- [...] have exposure to a wide array of linguistic diversity as well as systematic patterns and crosslinguistic connections that constrain this diversity;
- [...] be able to form hypothesis about the human language faculty and discuss/study language issues in an informed way;
- [...] be challenged to examine your attitudes towards language and how it is used in society and culture.
- [...] be prepared for more advanced coursework in linguistics

### Big-picture questions and recurring themes

- What constitutes linguistic data and how can we apply the scientific method to it?
- What does a native speaker of a language actually know?
- What does it mean for something to be “grammatical” or “ungrammatical”
- What are the structural units of language?
- How do languages vary, and do they share common properties?
- How does language change over time? How is this related to how it is acquired and used?
- Is there such a thing as a “good grammar” (Spoiler alert: No. So where does this notion come from?)

### Required texts and materials:

Dawson, H. C. & Phelan, M. (2016). *Language Files: Materials for an Introduction to Language and Linguistics (12<sup>th</sup> ed.)*. The Ohio State University Press. ISBN: 9780814252703

Packback Questions (see section V for more information on how to register)

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<sup>1</sup> For office hours, make sure you make an appointment on canvas and by email ([ppaquet@uttyler.edu](mailto:ppaquet@uttyler.edu)). If you are not available MW 10-12, let me know and we will find another moment to meet. Here is the zoom link and passcode:  
<https://uttyler.zoom.us/j/5665684110?pwd=OjArUkk0U2hGQjJ3NDduMlk3V09yZz09> (passcode: Office)

### III. HOW THE COURSE IS ORGANIZED

<u>ENGL4376: Introduction to Linguistics</u>		
Date	TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE	To read
<b>'USING LANGUAGE TO EXPOSE LANGUAGE'</b>		
<b>Week 1</b> Jan. 09-15	Introduction to the course syllabus (outline, assessment, etc.) What is linguistics?	<i>See document on Canvas</i>
<b>'PHONETICS: The sounds used in languages'</b>		
January 16, 2023: Martin Luther King		
<b>Week 2</b> Jan. 16-22	What is phonetics? (File 2.0) Representing speech sounds (File 2.1) Articulation: English consonants (File 2.2) Articulation: English vowels (File 2.3)	Chapter 2
<b>Week 3</b> Jan. 23-29	Beyond English: Speech sounds of the world's languages (File 2.4) Suprasegmental features ((File 2.5) Acoustic phonetics (File 2.6)	Chapter 2
<b>'PHONOLOGY: The sound patterns used in languages'</b>		
<b>Week 4</b> Jan. 30 – Feb. 05	What is Phonology? (File 3.0) Phonotactic constraints and Foreign Accents (File 3.1) Phonemes and allophones (File 3.2) Phonological rules (File 3.3) Implicational laws (File 3.4) How to solve phonology problems (File 3.5)	Chapter 3
<b>'MORPHOLOGY: Words and how they were formed'</b>		
<b>Week 5</b> Feb. 06-12	What is morphology? (File 4.0) Words and word formation (File 4.1) Morphological processes (File 4.2)	Chapter 4
<b>Week 6</b> Feb. 13-19	Morphological types of languages (File 4.3) Hierarchical structure of derived words (File 4.4) Morphological analysis (File 4.5)	Chapter 4
<b>'SYNTAX: The larger patterns of language'</b>		
<b>Week 7</b> Feb. 20-26	What is syntax? (File 5.0) Basic ideas of syntax (File 5.1) Syntactic properties (File 5.2)	Chapter 5
<b>Week 8</b> Feb. 27 – Mar. 05	Syntactic categories (File 5.4) Constructing a grammar (File 5.5)	Chapter 5
<b>'LANGUAGE ACQUISITION: How we learn languages'</b>		
<b>Week 9</b> Mar. 06-12	What is language acquisition? (File 8.0) Theories of language acquisition (File 8.1)	Chapter 8

	L1 Acquisition: Speech sound and phonology (File 8.2) L1 Acquisition: Morphology and syntax (File 8.3) How adults talk to young children (File 8.4)	
Mar. 13-19	<b>Spring break</b>	
<b>Week 10</b> Mar. 20-26	Bilingual language acquisition (File 8.5) Additional language acquisition Multilingualism	To be determined
<b>‘VARIATION &amp; CULTURE: Language as a social fact’</b>		
<b>Week 11</b> Mar. 27 - Ap. 02	What is language variation? (File 10.0) Language varieties (File 10.1) Variation at different levels of linguistics structures (File 10.2) Regional (File 10.3) and Social (File 10.4)	Chapter 10
<b>Week 12</b> Ap. 03-09	What is the study of language and culture (File 11.0) Linguistic anthropology (File 11.1) Language and thought (File 11.2) Language and power (File 11.3) Politeness (File 11.4)	Chapter 11
<b>Week 13</b> Ap. 10-16	What is language contact (File 12.0) Language contact (File 12.1) Borrowings into English (File 12.2) Pidgin (File 12.3) and creole languages (File 12.4) Societal multilingualism (File 12.5)	Chapter 12
<b>Week 14</b> Ap. 17-23	Final exam (10%)	
<b>Week 15</b> Ap. 24-30	Term paper – <b>To be submitted before April 24<sup>th</sup> 2023, 11:59pm</b>	

*\*The instructor has the right to modify the specific content when necessary. Please make sure you follow the schedule and complete all the assignments and assessments on time.*

#### IV. EVALUATION/GRADING SCHEME

Assessment	Weighing (%)	Important dates
	Total	
PackBack questions	20	Throughout the Spring semester (week 1-14)
Weekly quizzes/tasks (X12)	40	Week 1-7 & Week 9-13 (Best 10)
Mid-term exam	10	Week 8
Final exam	10	Week 14
Term paper	20	April 24 <sup>th</sup> 2023, 11:59pm
<b>Final grade:</b>	<b>100</b>	

### **Grading Scale**

100-90% = **A**

89-80% = **B**

79-70% = **C**

69-60% = **D**

59-00% = **F**

#### ***PackBack questions<sup>2</sup> (20%):***

Participation is a requirement for this course, and the Packback Questions platform will be used for online discussion about class topics. Packback Questions is an online community where you can be fearlessly curious and ask open-ended questions to build on top of what we are covering in class and relate topics to real-world applications. Your participation on Packback will count toward 20% of your overall course grade.

There is a **Sundays at 11:59PM CST** deadline for submissions. In order to receive full credit, you should submit the following per each deadline period:

- *Every week, you are required to post and answer one open-ended question, as well as answer to two of your classmates' questions.*

***Weekly quizzes/tasks (40%):*** There will be quizzes or tasks to complete *every* week except weeks - eight (8) and fourteen (14). The quizzes/tasks will be taken from video lectures and textbook readings. A chapter assigned for a given week should be read before watching the video lectures. Quizzes/tasks will cover text material from the present week and occasionally, from previous weeks. You have one full week to complete the quiz/task; for that reason, no weekly quizzes/tasks can be made up. The best 10 scores will count towards the final mark.

***Midterm and final exam (20%):*** These exams aim at measuring your grasp of the course materials and identifying areas that need further study. You are required to complete a midterm exam (week 8) and a final exam (week 14). These exams will cover the following:

- Midterm exam (10%): Phonetics, phonology, morphology and syntax
- Final exam (10%): Language acquisition, language variation, contact & culture

***Term paper (20%):*** During this online course, you will briefly study and analyse different sub-domain of linguistics (see tentative course outline). You will be provided with a list of discussion questions organized in different sections. You will select one question per section and research it further. You are required to cite/refer (in-text references and bibliography), including at least one outside *academic source* per question (the textbook not included as academic source).

- All included in one document
- 500 words per discussion question (+/- 10%)
- Name and title at the top center of first page
- Standard twelve-point font -Times New Roman-
- One-inch margins
- [.docx](#) or [.pdf](#) file format only

## **V. HOW TO REGISTER TO PACKBACK**

An email invitation will be sent to you from [help@packback.co](mailto:help@packback.co) prompting you to finish registration. If you don't receive an email (be sure to check your spam), you may register by following the instructions below:

1. Create an account by navigating to <https://app.packback.co> and clicking "Sign up for an Account"  
Note: If you already have an account on Packback you can log in with your credentials.
2. Then enter our class community's lookup key into the "Looking to join a community you

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<sup>2</sup> See section V for the information about registration

don't see here?" section in Packback at the bottom of the homepage.  
Community Lookup Key: **68c24883-79ed-4c15-aa2a-f08cf98a00b6**

3. Follow the instructions on your screen to finish your registration.

Packback may require a paid subscription. Refer to [www.packback.co/product/pricing](http://www.packback.co/product/pricing) for more information.

### **How to Get Help from the Packback Team:**

If you have any questions or concerns about Packback throughout the semester, please read their FAQ at [help.packback.co](http://help.packback.co). If you need more help, contact their customer support team directly at [help@packback.co](mailto:help@packback.co).

For a brief introduction to Packback Questions and why we are using it in class, watch this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OV7QmigrD68>

## **VI. COURSE GROUND RULES:**

### ***Course Ground Rules:***

**Late work policy:** (1) Discussion/Papers/Assignments must be uploaded to CANVAS *by the deadline*. This policy will be waived only under special circumstances (e.g., a serious illness accompanied by a doctor's note). (2) PackBack must be thoroughly completed by the deadline. No late comments will be accepted.

**Communication policy:** The best way to communicate with the instructor outside of class is through [UTTyler.edu](http://UTTyler.edu) e-mail or during office hours. Students can expect replies within 48 hours excluding weekends and holidays. Students who do not receive a reply within this timeframe should attempt to contact the instructor again.

**Class conduct policy:** All comments and behavior must be classroom appropriate. What does "classroom appropriate" mean? It does *not* mean that students cannot express themselves freely. It means practicing reasoning and logical argumentation. Disrespect can manifest in what is said, in insults, snide comments, name-calling, cutting someone off, derogatory tones, sarcasm, ridicule, cussing, vulgarity, personal attacks, racial slurs, misogynistic remarks, etc.. all of which will not be allowed. The instructor will act as the final word on what is or is not classroom appropriate. Violators may be ejected from the class.

**Extra credit policy:** You have 15 weeks to show the instructor what you know and understand. NO extra credit will be offered; be consistent, do the readings, complete the assignments, work hard, ask questions *and everything is going to be just fine*.

**Final grade policy:** Grades are final once the final grade percentage has been posted in Canvas at the end of the semester. No changes will be made unless the instructor has made a mistake. Grades are not bumped up unless the student is within .5% of the next letter grade. For example, an 89.5% is an A. An 89.4% is a B. No extra credit opportunities will be given during finals week or the week prior. A request for an "incomplete" may be approved only if (1) the request is made prior to the second to last exam, (2) the student has a valid reason, e.g. a verifiable medical condition, and (3) the student has a C or higher at the time the request for an "incomplete" is made. The terms of satisfying an "incomplete" will be set by the instructor.

### **Additional policies and expectations:**

- Students will set up their Canvas accounts so that they will be aware of announcements sent out via the Canvas e-mail tool.
- Students will e-mail the instructor with questions.
- Students will not wait until the drop deadline to discuss lower than expected grades on assignments; instead, the **student will take the initiative early** in the semester to meet with the instructor to discuss ways of improving.
- Students will meet with the instructor during office hours or by appointment if extra help is needed on assignments.
- Students will complete assignments on time.
- Students will actively participate in class discussions every day.
- Students will participate in a civil and respectful way.
- Students will not cheat on tests.
- Students will not plagiarize. Plagiarism is cheating, taking credit for material that is not your own whether it is copied from a classmate, textbook, or online source. Plagiarism is still plagiarism even if it is unintentional. It will result in an F on the assignment and a possible F in the course. So, students should be sure to use proper citation style and do their own work. If not sure whether something constitutes plagiarism, they should contact the instructor before submitting the assignment.

## **VII. IMPORTANT INFORMATION:**

### ***UT Tyler Honor Code***

Every member of the UT Tyler community joins together to embrace: Honor and integrity that will not allow me to lie, cheat, or steal, nor to accept the actions of those who do.

### ***Students Rights and Responsibilities***

To know and understand the policies that affect your rights and responsibilities as a student at UT Tyler, please follow this link: <http://www.uttyler.edu/wellness/rightsresponsibilities.php>

### ***Campus Carry***

We respect the right and privacy of students 21 and over who are duly licensed to carry concealed weapons in this class. License holders are expected to behave responsibly and keep a handgun secure and concealed. More information is available at <http://www.uttyler.edu/about/campus-carry/index.php>

### ***UT Tyler a Tobacco-Free University***

All forms of tobacco will not be permitted on the UT Tyler main campus, branch campuses, and any property owned by UT Tyler. This applies to all members of the University community, including students, faculty, staff, University affiliates, contractors, and visitors. Forms of tobacco not permitted include cigarettes, cigars, pipes, water pipes (hookah), bidis, kreteks, electronic cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, snuff, chewing tobacco, and all other tobacco products.

There are several cessation programs available to students looking to quit smoking, including counseling, quitlines, and group support. For more information on cessation programs please visit [www.uttyler.edu/tobacco-free](http://www.uttyler.edu/tobacco-free).

### ***Grade Replacement/Forgiveness and Census Date Policies***

Students repeating a course for grade forgiveness (grade replacement) must file a Grade Replacement Contract with the Enrollment Services Center (ADM 230) on or before the Census Date of the semester in which the course will be repeated. Grade Replacement Contracts are available in the Enrollment Services Center or at <http://www.uttyler.edu/registrar>. Each semester's Census Date can be found on the Contract itself, on the Academic Calendar, or in the information pamphlets published each semester by the Office of the Registrar.

Failure to file a Grade Replacement Contract will result in both the original and repeated grade being used to calculate your overall grade point average. Undergraduates are eligible to exercise grade replacement for only three course repeats during their career at UT Tyler; graduates are eligible for two grade replacements. Full policy details are printed on each Grade Replacement Contract.

The Census Date is the deadline for many forms and enrollment actions of which students need to be aware. These include:

- Submitting Grade Replacement Contracts, Transient Forms, requests to withhold directory information, approvals for taking courses as Audit, Pass/Fail or Credit/No Credit.
- Receiving 100% refunds for partial withdrawals. (There is no refund for these after the Census Date)
- Schedule adjustments (section changes, adding a new class, dropping without a "W" grade)
- Being reinstated or re-enrolled in classes after being dropped for non-payment
- Completing the process for tuition exemptions or waivers through Financial Aid

### ***State-Mandated Course Drop Policy***

Texas law prohibits a student who began college for the first time in Fall 2007 or thereafter from dropping more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career. This includes courses dropped at another 2-year or 4-year Texas public college or university. For purposes of this rule, a dropped course is any course that is dropped after the census date (See Academic Calendar for the specific date).

Exceptions to the 6-drop rule may be found in the catalog. Petitions for exemptions must be submitted to the Enrollment Services Center and must be accompanied by documentation of the extenuating circumstance. Please contact the Enrollment Services Center if you have any questions.

### ***Disability/Accessibility Services***

In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA) the University of Texas at Tyler offers accommodations to students with learning, physical and/or psychological disabilities. If you have a disability, including a non-visible diagnosis such as a learning disorder, chronic illness, TBI, PTSD, ADHD, or you have a history of modifications or accommodations in a previous educational environment, you are encouraged to visit <https://hood.accessiblelearning.com/UTTyler> and fill out the New Student application. The Student Accessibility and Resources (SAR) office will contact you when your application has been submitted and an appointment with Cynthia Lowery, Assistant Director of Student Services/ADA Coordinator. For more information, including filling out an application for services, please visit the SAR webpage at <http://www.uttyler.edu/disabilityservices>, the SAR office located in the University Center, # 3150 or call 903.566.7079.

### ***Student Absence due to Religious Observance***

Students who anticipate being absent from class due to a religious observance are requested to inform the instructor of such absences by the second class meeting of the semester.

### ***Student Absence for University-Sponsored Events and Activities***

If you intend to be absent for a university-sponsored event or activity, you (or the event sponsor) must notify the instructor at least two weeks prior to the date of the planned absence. At that time the instructor will set a date and time when make-up assignments will be completed.

### ***Social Security and FERPA Statement***

It is the policy of The University of Texas at Tyler to protect the confidential nature of social security numbers. The University has changed its computer programming so that all students have an identification number. The electronic transmission of grades (e.g., via e-mail) risks violation of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; grades will not be transmitted electronically.

### ***Emergency Exits and Evacuation***

Everyone is required to exit the building when a fire alarm goes off. Follow your instructor's directions regarding the appropriate exit. If you require assistance during an evacuation, inform your instructor in the first week of class. Do not re-enter the building unless given permission by University Police, Fire department, or Fire Prevention Services.

### ***Student Standards of Academic Conduct***

Disciplinary proceedings may be initiated against any student who engages in scholastic dishonesty, including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.

I. "Cheating" includes, but is not limited to:

- copying from another student's test paper;
- using, during a test, materials not authorized by the person giving the test;
- failure to comply with instructions given by the person administering the test;
- possession during a test of materials which are not authorized by the person giving the test, such as class notes or specifically designed "crib notes". The presence of textbooks constitutes a violation if they have been specifically prohibited by the person administering the test;
- using, buying, stealing, transporting, or soliciting in whole or part the contents of an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program;
- collaborating with or seeking aid from another student during a test or other assignment without authority;
- discussing the contents of an examination with another student who will take the examination;
- divulging the contents of an examination, for the purpose of preserving questions for use by another, when the instructors has designated that the examination is not to be removed from the examination room or not to be returned or to be kept by the student;
- substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for oneself to take a course, a test, or any course-related assignment;



- paying or offering money or other valuable thing to, or coercing another person to obtain an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program or information about an unadministered test, test key, home solution or computer program;
  - falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other academic work offered for credit;
  - taking, keeping, misplacing, or damaging the property of The University of Texas at Tyler, or of another, if the student knows or reasonably should know that an unfair academic advantage would be gained by such conduct; and
  - misrepresenting facts, including providing false grades or resumes, for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial benefit or injuring another student academically or financially.
- II. “Plagiarism” includes, but is not limited to, the appropriation, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means another’s work and the submission of it as one’s own academic work offered for credit.
- III. “Collusion” includes, but is not limited to, the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any section of the rules on scholastic dishonesty.
- IV. All written work that is submitted will be subject to review by plagiarism software.

***UT Tyler Resources for Students***

- UT Tyler Writing Center (903.565.5995), [writingcenter@uttyler.edu](mailto:writingcenter@uttyler.edu)
- UT Tyler Tutoring Center (903.565.5964), [tutoring@uttyler.edu](mailto:tutoring@uttyler.edu)
- The Mathematics Learning Center (RBN 402) is the open access computer lab for math students, with tutors on duty to assist students who are enrolled in early-career courses.
- UT Tyler Counseling Center (903.566.7254)