

University of Texas at Tyler
Department of Literature and Languages

ENGL4376: Introduction to Linguistics

I. CONTACTS

Instructor: Pierre-Luc Paquet, Ph.D **Office:** CAS-239
E-mail: ppaquet@uttyler.edu **Field of specialization:** Applied Linguistics
Schedule: Online **Office Hours:** ZOOM – Any time, just communicate with me and I will send you a Zoom link to meet.

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:

Language Files: Materials for an Introduction to Language and Linguistics (13rd ed.). The Ohio State University Press. ISBN: 978081425835-4 (PDF Ebook also available)

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

III. HOW THE COURSE IS ORGANIZED

<u>ENGL4376: Introduction to Linguistics</u>		
Date	<i>TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE</i>	Assessment
Week 1	<p>Introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What is linguistics? (see document on Canvas) <p>Chapter 2 - Phonetics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What is phonetics? (File 2.0) ▪ Representing speech sounds (File 2.1) ▪ Articulation: English consonants (File 2.2) ▪ Articulation: English vowels (File 2.3) ▪ Beyond English: Speech sounds of the world's languages (File 2.4) ▪ Suprasegmental features ((File 2.5) ▪ Acoustic phonetics (File 2.6) 	<p>PackBack questions</p> <p>Syllabus Acceptance Statement</p> <p>Quiz #1 (Intro to Linguistics)</p> <p>Quiz #2a (ch.2 – Files 2.0 – 2.3)</p> <p>Quiz #2b (ch.2 – Files 2.4 – 2.6)</p>
Week 2	<p>Chapter 3 – Phonology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What is Phonology? (File 3.0) ▪ Phonotactic constraints and Foreign Accents (File 3.1) <p>Chapter 4 – Morphology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What is morphology? (File 4.0) ▪ Words and word formation (File 4.1) ▪ Morphological processes (File 4.2) ▪ Morphological types of languages (File 4.3) ▪ Hierarchical structure of derived words (File 4.4) ▪ Morphological analysis (File 4.5) 	<p>PackBack questions</p> <p>Task #1 (ch.3 Phonology - Foreign accent)</p> <p>Quiz #3 (ch.4 morphology)</p>
Week 3	<p>Chapter 5 – Syntax</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What is syntax? (File 5.0) ▪ Syntactic properties (File 5.1) ▪ Syntactic categories (File 5.2) ▪ Syntactic categories (File 5.4) ▪ Constructing a grammar (File 5.5) <p>Chapter 8 – Language Acquisition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What is language acquisition? (File 8.0) ▪ Theories of language acquisition (File 8.1) ▪ L1 Acquisition: Speech sound and phonology (File 8.2) ▪ L1 Acquisition: Morphology and syntax (File 8.3) 	<p>PackBack questions</p> <p>Quiz #4 (ch.5 syntax)</p> <p>Task #2 (ch.8 Language Acquisition)</p>
Week 4	<p>Chapter 10: Language Variation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Regional & geographic factors (10.3) ▪ Social factors (10.4) ▪ Language & identity (10.5) 	<p>PackBack questions</p> <p>Quiz #4 (ch.10 language variation)</p> <p>Task #3 (ch.12 Language Contact)</p>

	Chapter 12: Language Contact <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Language Contact (12.1) ▪ Borrowings into English (12.2) ▪ Societal Multilingualism (12.5) ▪ Language endangerment & death (12.6) 	
Week 5	Chapter 6: Semantics Chapter 7: Pragmatic Chapter 8: Psycholinguistics	Task #4 (your choice, ch.6, 7 or 8) Term paper (20%)

**The instructor has the right to modify the specific content when necessary.*

IV. EVALUATION/GRADING SCHEME

Assessment	Weighing (%)	Deadlines
	Total	
PackBack questions	25	○ Every week, deadline on Sunday
Quizzes	25	○ <i>Syllabus Acceptance</i> : June 4 th , 2023 (0.5%) ○ <i>Quiz #1</i> : June 4 th , 2023 (2.5%) ○ <i>Quiz#2a</i> : June 4 th , 2023 (5%) ○ <i>Quiz#3</i> : June 11 th , 2023 (5%) ○ <i>Quiz#4</i> : June 18 th , 2023 (7%) ○ <i>Quiz#5</i> : June 25 th , 2023 (5%)
Tasks	30	○ <i>Task #1</i> : June 11 th , 2023 (6%) ○ <i>Task #2</i> : June 18 th , 2023 (7%) ○ <i>Task #3</i> : June 25 th , 2023 (7%) ○ <i>Task #4</i> : July 1 st , 2023 (10%)
Term paper	20	○ July 1 st , 2023
Final grade:	100	

Grading Scale

100-90% = **A** 89-80% = **B** 79-70% = **C** 69-60% = **D** 59-00% = **F**

PackBack questions¹:

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 25% of your overall course grade.

¹ See section V for the information about registration

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 open-ended questions as well as answer to two of your classmates' questions. See requirements in PackBack.*

Quizzes: After you have finished reading the corresponding chapter and you have watched and understood the weekly video, you are required to complete the quiz. There are no surprises, all contents of the quizzes come from the reading and lectures. You have 2 attempts and the highest one will be kept.

Tasks: While you are reading or after you finished reading the assigned Files, you are required to complete a task. All instructions for each task are clearly explained on the uploaded document or in the assignment section.

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 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 don't see here?" section in Packback at the bottom of the homepage. (see the automatic message sent on May 25th, 2023 from PackBack)
3. Follow the instructions on your screen to finish your registration.

Packback may require a paid subscription. Refer to 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. If you need more help, contact their customer support team directly at 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=OV7QmkrD68>

IV. 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 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 5 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.

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

- UT Tyler Tutoring Center (903.565.5964), 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)