English 6360: Introduction to Descriptive Linguistics for Teachers

Instructor: Dr. John Foreman
Office: ELABS 231
Office Hours: MW 2:00-3:00; W 6:00-7:00; T 2:00-4:00; additional times by appt.
Contact: john.foreman@utrgv.edu; 665-3441

Classroom: ECOBE 111
Class Time: W 7:20-9:50 pm
Final Exam: W 12/12 8-9:45 pm

Required Text:
TITLE: Language Files: Materials for an Introduction to Language and Linguistics, 12th Ed.
bym Ohio State University (OSU Dept Linguistics)
ISBN 13: 9780814252703
Publisher: Ohio State University Press
Binding: Paperback

Additional reading will posted to Blackboard.

Catalog Course Description:
An introduction to the methods of linguistics science with emphasis on problem solving techniques and the application to specific problems. This course includes a research project exploring the application of linguistics to specific situations.

A bit more elaboration:
English 6360 provides hands-on training in the description and analysis of language structures at the sound, word, and sentence levels in a variety of languages with focus on those in the Rio Grande Valley or of interest to the student. Please note, we may discuss ALL aspects of language including taboo vocabulary.

Student Learning Outcomes for MA ESL (SLO’s)

- SLO 1 — Students will demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of linguistic decisions and the English language—phonology, morphology, syntax & semantics.
- SLO 2 — Students will demonstrate an understanding of social, cognitive, and personal variables from research and experience in second language acquisition (SLA).
- SLO 3 — Students will demonstrate a practical application of SLA and the English language to teaching and preparing teaching materials, testing, etc., in prospective real world settings.
- SLO 4 — Students will be able to use discipline-appropriate technology applications (such as library databases, computer applications, Internet research, non-print media, multi-media applications, desktop publishing, WebCT, course-based electronic communication, etc.) in preparation, discussion and presentation of the course assignments and/or projects.
Application of Course Content
The material covered will help (i) provide teachers with the skills to identify and explain variable patterns of language use and (ii) enable teachers to apply these analytical skills to actual examples of language use in classroom contexts. We discuss differences between prescriptive and descriptive practice and how that affects student learning as well as consider why we teach the various aspects of language and give examples of techniques which may assist students having difficulty with language issues in their pronunciation, reading, and writing practice.

Course Requirements: Grading Scale (rounded to nearest whole number):
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Homework</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>90-100 A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>80-89 B</td>
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<tr>
<td>Papers/Projects</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>70-79 C</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exams</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>60-69 D</td>
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Homework: There will be frequent homework assignments, typically one assigned every class day. Unless otherwise noted, homework assignments will be due in two parts, and both must be completed in order to receive credit for the homework assignment:

1. Type up your homework in a computer file or write it out, take a picture/scan it and convert it into a computer file, which you then upload to Blackboard. Unless otherwise noted, homework will be due to Blackboard before the next class period.
2. Once you have uploaded a copy to Blackboard, an answer key will appear. Use the answer key to correct your homework. Again, you can write out the corrections on the original and then scan the corrections to upload or you can type in the corrections into a Word document, but make sure the Track Changes feature is turned on, so that the corrections are visible. However, it is done, CORRECTIONS MUST BE VISIBLE IN THE DOCUMENT. DO NOT SIMPLY UPLOAD THE ANSWER KEY. Corrections will ALSO typically be due before the next class period.

Note the following:
- When submitting work to Blackboard, you may only submit one file once per assignment, and only certain file formats are allowed. So make sure your all of your homework responses are in a single file of the correct format.
- Occasionally Blackboard may be offline for maintenance or because of technical difficulties. Do NOT wait until the last minute to submit homework. Allow yourself time to overcome technical glitches.
- Do NOT merely upload a copy of the answer key to turn in. Make sure the corrections are VISIBLE and OBVIOUS, either because they are written in by hand or because they use the Track Changes features of Word.
- Both parts of the homework must be completed to receive any credit for the homework. Both your original answers and the corrections must be uploaded.
- I will be checking both for completeness. Late homework will NOT be accepted, but a low homework grade will be dropped, which should cover any unforeseeable absences.
- If you go through the steps I have outlined and come to class prepared to ask
questions on anything you don't understand, you will be in good shape for the quizzes and tests.

- To input phonetic symbols, you will need to use a special font. There is a font that is generally available with most recent editions of Microsoft Word, which has phonetic symbols. The font is **Lucida Sans Unicode**. In Word 2003, you can find the symbols by going to Insert-Symbol, which brings up a dialog box. Under font, choose Lucida Sans Unicode and scroll through the symbols clicking insert on the symbol you need. Word 2007 and 2010 behave similarly: Under Insert, click on Symbol, then click on More Symbols, which brings up the dialog box. Proceed as described above. **I also have a document posted on Blackboard which lists most of the symbols you will need. You can copy and paste from it.**

**Quizzes:** To further assist students in mastering material, there will be frequent quizzes administered via Blackboard. (Note that Blackboard calls these quizzes "Tests", so you may see that word used as well, but these will be distinct from exams). Quizzes will cover previous lectures, assigned reading, and material that you should have practiced in homework assignments.

Typically, quizzes must be unlocked by first completing and uploading related homework assignments and the corrections to go with them. Some, but not all, quizzes will be timed. On most quizzes, you will be allowed to repeat the quizzes as many times as you like until the end of the semester. Quizzes will typically require that you first complete and correct a homework assignment. Once you complete the homework assignment and correction the quiz will become available and remain open, but there must be at least one attempt before the next class period. A low quiz grade will be dropped so missing one will not adversely affect grades.

**Papers/Projects:** Students will be required to collect primary linguistic data from another language and compare it to English. Depending on student interest, they may also be able to collect primary pedagogical data and write on that. Exact topics to be negotiated with the instructor.

**Exams:** There will likely be two tests during the semester and the final exam. Other exams may be given as needed. The final exam period is scheduled for Wednesday, December 12th at 8:00 pm.

**STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:**
Students with a documented disability (physical, psychological, learning, or other disability which affects academic performance) who would like to receive academic accommodations should contact **Student Accessibility Services (SAS)** as soon as possible to schedule an appointment to initiate services. Accommodations can be arranged through SAS at any time, but are not retroactive. Students who suffer a broken bone, severe injury or undergo surgery during the semester are eligible for temporary services.

**Pregnancy, Pregnancy-related, and Parenting Accommodations**
Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits sex discrimination, which includes
discrimination based on pregnancy, marital status, or parental status. Students seeking accommodations related to pregnancy, pregnancy-related condition, or parenting (reasonably immediate postpartum period) are encouraged to contact Student Accessibility Services for additional information and to request accommodations.

**Student Accessibility Services:**
**Brownsville Campus:** Student Accessibility Services is located in Cortez Hall Room 129 and can be contacted by phone at (956) 882-7374 (Voice) or via email at **ability@utrgv.edu**.
**Edinburg Campus:** Student Accessibility Services is located in 108 University Center and can be contacted by phone at (956) 665-7005 (Voice), (956) 665-3840 (Fax), or via email at **ability@utrgv.edu**.

**MANDATORY COURSE EVALUATION PERIOD:**
Students are required to complete an ONLINE evaluation of this course, accessed through your UTRGV account ([http://my.utrgv.edu](http://my.utrgv.edu)); you will be contacted through email with further instructions. Students who complete their evaluations will have priority access to their grades. Online evaluations for this course will be available on or about: November 15 – December 5

**ATTENDANCE:**
Students are expected to attend all scheduled classes and may be dropped from the course for excessive absences. UTRGV’s attendance policy excuses students from attending class if they are participating in officially sponsored university activities, such as athletics; for observance of religious holy days; or for military service. Students should contact the instructor in advance of the excused absence and arrange to make up missed work or examinations.

**SCHOLASTIC INTEGRITY:**
As members of a community dedicated to Honesty, Integrity and Respect, students are reminded that those who engage in scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and expulsion from the University. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to: cheating, plagiarism (including self-plagiarism), and collusion; 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. Since scholastic dishonesty harms the individual, all students and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced (Board of Regents Rules and Regulations and UTRGV Academic Integrity Guidelines). All scholastic dishonesty incidents will be reported to the Dean of Students.

**SEXUAL HARASSMENT, DISCRIMINATION, and VIOLENCE:**
In accordance with UT System regulations, your instructor is a “Responsible Employee” for reporting purposes under Title IX regulations and so must report any instance, occurring during a student’s time in college, of sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, domestic violence, or sexual harassment about which she/he becomes aware during this course through
writing, discussion, or personal disclosure. More information can be found at [www.utrgv.edu/equity](http://www.utrgv.edu/equity), including confidential resources available on campus. The faculty and staff of UTRGV actively strive to provide a learning, working, and living environment that promotes personal integrity, civility, and mutual respect that is free from sexual misconduct and discrimination.

**COURSE DROPS:**
According to UTRGV policy, students may drop any class without penalty earning a grade of DR until the official drop date. Following that date, students must be assigned a letter grade and can no longer drop the class. Students considering dropping the class should be aware of the “3-peat rule” and the “6-drop” rule so they can recognize how dropped classes may affect their academic success. The 6-drop rule refers to Texas law that dictates that undergraduate students may not drop more than six courses during their undergraduate career. Courses dropped at other Texas public higher education institutions will count toward the six-course drop limit. The 3-peat rule refers to additional fees charged to students who take the same class for the third time.

**STUDENT SERVICES:**
Students who demonstrate financial need have a variety of options when it comes to paying for college costs, such as scholarships, grants, loans and work-study. Students should visit the Students Services Center (U Central) for additional information. U Central is located in BMAIN 1.100 (Brownsville) or ESSBL 1.145 (Edinburg) or can be reached by email (ucentral@utrgv.edu) or telephone: (888) 882-4026. In addition to financial aid, U Central can assist students with registration and admissions.

Students seeking academic help in their studies can use university resources in addition to an instructor’s office hours. University Resources include the Learning Center, Writing Center, Advising Center and Career Center. The centers provide services such as tutoring, writing help, critical thinking, study skills, degree planning, and student employment. Locations are:

- Learning center: BSTUN 2.10 (Brownsville) or ELCTR 100 (Edinburg)
- Writing center: BLIBR 3.206 (Brownsville) or ESTAC 3.119 (Edinburg)
- Advising center: BMAIN 1.400 (Brownsville) or ESWKH 101 (Edinburg)
- Career center: BCRTZ 129 (Brownsville) or ESSBL 2.101 (Edinburg)

**IMPORTANT UNIVERSITY DATES AND DEADLINES FOR FALL 2018**

- **August 27** First day of classes
- **August 30** Last day to add a course or register for Fall 2018
- **September 3** Labor Day - NO classes
- **November 14** Last day to drop a course; will count toward the 6-drop rule
- **November 22-24** Thanksgiving Holiday – NO classes
- **December 5** Last regular day of class
- **December 6** Study Day – NO class
- **December 7-13** Fall 2018 Final Exams
- **December 14-15** Commencement Ceremonies
Tentative Schedule (Dates are subject to change (with warning). Students are responsible for attending class regularly and keeping abreast of schedule changes via email and Blackboard.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>8/29</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 2</td>
<td>9/5</td>
<td>IPA; transcription</td>
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<td>Week 3</td>
<td>9/12</td>
<td>Articulation; Natural Classes; Syllable Structure</td>
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<td>Week 4</td>
<td>9/19</td>
<td>Phonemes, Allophones, and Phonological Processes</td>
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<td>Week 5</td>
<td>9/26</td>
<td>Phonology Review/Application; <strong>Exam 1</strong></td>
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<td>Week 6</td>
<td>10/3</td>
<td>Introduction to Morphology</td>
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<td>Week 7</td>
<td>10/10</td>
<td>Inflectional Morphology</td>
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<td>Week 8</td>
<td>10/17</td>
<td>Morphological Typology and Identifying Morphemes</td>
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<td>Week 9</td>
<td>10/24</td>
<td>English Word Structure</td>
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<td>Week 10</td>
<td>10/31</td>
<td>Morphology Review and Application; <strong>Exam 2</strong></td>
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<td>Week 11</td>
<td>11/7</td>
<td>Introduction to Syntax</td>
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<td>Week 12</td>
<td>11/14</td>
<td>Subjects and beginning structure</td>
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<td>Week 13</td>
<td>11/21</td>
<td>Constituency</td>
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<td>Week 14</td>
<td>11/28</td>
<td>Phrase Structure Rules; Typology</td>
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<td>Week 15</td>
<td>12/5</td>
<td>Syntax Review and Application</td>
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<td>Finals Week</td>
<td>12/12</td>
<td><strong>Final Exam 8 pm</strong></td>
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