Course Title: **ENGL:3361 Introduction to Descriptive Linguistics**  
Instructor Name: **Shaun McCrory**

**Term**: Spring 2019  
UTRGV email address: shaun.mccrory01@utrgv.edu

**Office location & hours**: ELABS 205 Thursday 1-3pm

**Textbook and/or Resource Material**

**Course Description and Prerequisites**
English 3361 is an introduction to the methods of linguistic science with emphasis on problem-solving techniques and their application to specific problems. The course introduces the principles governing all language--linguistics--through descriptions of one language (mostly English). We will begin with an overview of the properties of human languages, and then have in-depth understanding of the basic units of meaning/form (morphology), sentences (syntax), sounds (phonetics) and meaning/reality (semantics). If you need technical assistance during the course or to report a problem with Blackboard you have to contact the Center for Online Learning, Teaching & Technology at colthelp@utrgv.edu or at (956) 665-5327.

**Learning Objectives/Outcomes for the Course**
The goal of this course is for students to understand how language works, to discover those principles which are uniquely human and to learn principles of problem solving and analytical thought which will serve you in whatever future endeavor you undertake whether it be law, medicine, education or engineering!

- Students will learn the nature of human language that is unique and powerful. (SLO 1, 2)
- Students will understand the rule-governed properties of human language in words, sentences, sound formations, and meaning relations. (SLO 1, 2)
- Students will learn to analyze the structures of words, sentences, and phonetics features, and meaning (SLO 1, 2, 4)
- Students will learn a variety of rules of English language that allow speakers to create words; to form sentences, to produce sound segments; to produce prosodic speech. (SLO 1, 2, 4)

**Learning Objectives for Core Curriculum Requirements**
SLO 1—Students will articulate the historical, theoretical, cultural, and/or personal significance of language and literature.
SLO 2—Students will analyze and interpret a variety of texts, using a range of theoretical approaches and disciplinary modes of inquiry.
SLO 3—Students will demonstrate a broad and foundational knowledge of the traditions of American, British, Ethnic, and/or World literatures by critically situating specific works of literature within these traditions.
SLO 4—Students will write coherently and demonstrate a consistent use of the conventions of a variety of genres, including, but not limited to, the academic essay.
SLO 5—Students will apply appropriate research methodologies to understand and/or illuminate specific questions about language and literature.
SLO 6—Students will demonstrate information literacy through the use, analysis, and evaluation of appropriate resources, including, but not limited to, those found in electronic databases and websites.
SLO 7—Students in certification tracks will demonstrate knowledge and skills in the areas of writing, literature, reading, oral communication, media literacy, and English language arts pedagogy.
Grading Policies
State the course grading policy. Include graded assignments, weighting, and how late work will be treated. All major graded assignments should be described, at least briefly. UTRGV’s grading policy is to use straight letter grades (A, B, C, D, or F).

Grading Policies

- **Daily Grind 20%** - Attendance is mandatory and participation in class discussions will form part of the student’s continuous assessment. Homework will involve weekly reading and research and students are expected to take a full and active role in debates. Blogs and Blackboard discussion groups may also be used as occasional homework assignments.
- **Research Essay 25%** - This essay is due in exam week and will be involve research from one of the topics discussed. **Deadline Tuesday 7th of May 2019.**
- **Team Project 30%** - A team project involving preparing an artifact that will be of use to teachers in the classroom. **Deadline Tuesday 30th of April 2019**
- **Leading the debate 15%** - A team project from week 2 (as if you were a teacher).
- **Reflective Essay 10%** - A short essay to review and reflect on what you have learned.
- **Linguistics Seminar – Extra Credit.** I help to organise a weekly seminar where presenters present their research on a range of different linguistic themes. These take place every Tuesday from 29th of January 2019.

Calendar of Activities
Include in this section a table or list that provides information for students regarding important dates, assignments or activities. The UTRGV academic calendar can be found at [https://my.utrgv.edu/home](https://my.utrgv.edu/home) at the bottom of the screen, prior to login. Some important dates for spring 2019 include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 14</td>
<td>First day of classes</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 17</td>
<td>Last day to add a course or register for spring 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 21</td>
<td>Martin Luther King Day – NO classes</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 28</td>
<td>Last day to drop a course; will count toward the 6-drop rule</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 11-16</td>
<td>Spring break – NO classes</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 10</td>
<td>Last day to drop a class (grade of DR) or withdraw (grade of W)</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 19</td>
<td>Easter Holidays – NO classes</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 2</td>
<td>Study Day – NO classes</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 3-9</td>
<td>Final Exams</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 9</td>
<td>Spring classes end; Official last day of term</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 13</td>
<td>Grades Due</td>
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Calendar of Activities

**January**
Week 1 (15th and 17th) Introductions, syllabus, required reading, assessments. Arrange teams for debate leaders (3/4 MEMBERS PER TEAM) (THIS IS ALWAYS ON TUESDAY WITH THURSDAY BEING THE AUTOPSY AND FOLLOW UP FROM ME – WITH POSSIBLE QUIZ)

Week 2 (22nd and 24th) What is language?

Week 3 (29th and 31st) Morphology

**February**
Week 4. (5th and 7th). Special Presentations (SEMANTICS)

Week 5 (12th and 14th) Special Presentations (SEMANTICS)

Week 6 (19th and 21st). Syntax (decide by next week’s one-to-ones team project members and topic)
Week 7  (26th and 28th)  One-to-ones

March
Week 8  (5th and 7th).  One-to-ones
Week 9  (12th and 14th).  NO CLASSES – SPRING BREAK (Plan essay topic)
Week 10. (19th and 21st).  Phonetics (decide by next week essay title and topic)
Week 11 (26th and 28th)  Phonology

April
Week 12 (2nd and 4th).  Language in Society
Week 13 (9th and 11th)  Language Change
Week 14 (16th and 23rd)  Language Acquisition
Week 15 (23rd and 25th)  Writing Systems
Week 16 (30th) and 2nd May (study day)  CATCH UP CLASS – SUBMISSION OF GROUP PROJECT

May
Week 17  (7th and 9th)  (EXAM WEEK – NO CLASSES) SUBMISSION OF RESEARCH ESSAY

UTRGV Policy Statements

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); you will be contacted through email with further instructions. Students who complete their evaluations will have priority access to their grades.

**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, 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 (uccentral@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)