



ENG 555 General Linguistics

Fall 2024

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Masha Kostromitina

Email: maria.kostromitina@tamuc.edu

Office Hours: By appointment on Zoom (please email to schedule!)

Optional Zoom lectures: Fridays @ 5:00 – 6:00 pm

Preferred Form of Communication: TAMUC email or D2L messages.

I will normally try and respond within 24 hours of your initial email. Please allow me some extra time to respond to you on weekends. 😊

COURSE INFORMATION

Textbook Required

Meyer, C. F. (2009). *Introducing English Linguistics*. Cambridge University Press. (E-book fully accessed through our university library website.)

Additional readings will be uploaded to the electronic course shell.

Course Description

This course introduces knowledge about core areas in the field of general linguistics. In this course, you will become familiar with the assumptions, goals, terminology, and methodology of modern descriptive linguistics. We will cover in detail English phonetics/phonology (sound and sound pattern), morphology (word formation), syntax (sentence structure), semantics (meaning), and pragmatics (meaning in context).

Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. identify and explain in detail the linguistic components of languages (e.g., phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics);
2. use the International Phonetic Alphabet to transcribe the English orthographic system in phonetic symbols;
3. identify sounds and sound patterns that can distinguish meaning in a given language;
4. distinguish the different processes in which words are formed in English;
5. understand how sentences are formed and analyze internal structures;
6. explain how the English language expresses meanings;
7. explain the role of context and media in written and oral communication.

COURSE POLICIES

- Being successful in an online course requires tremendous self-discipline and high motivation.
- In this course, all work will be completed through D2L. You should check the course website frequently for assignments, announcements, and discussions. I strongly recommend dedicating set days/times to completing your work and working in advance so that you are always a day or two ahead. **Please note that assignment due dates are crucial. No delayed assignments will be accepted.**
- Moreover, we are co-constructing our knowledge in the online community. Please be prepared, share thoughtfully, respond respectfully, and engage in all learning processes.
- I also expect that students will exhibit courtesy and respect toward others in this online class. This means NOT engaging in online rudeness or refusing to focus on group or class discussion. This also means engaging in such behaviors as listening carefully to others, accepting that various points of views can be valid, maintaining a focus on the discussion in hand and treating others as you wish to be treated.

GRADING

Final grades in this course are based on the following 100-point scale:

Online café	2 points
Online Quizzes	14 points (2 + 2 x 3)
Online Discussions	20 points (4 x 5)
Chapter assignments	30 points (6 x 5)
Midterm creative multimodal project	8 points
Final exam	26 points

A = 90-100; B = 80-89; C = 70-79; D = 60-69; F = 59 or below

Assessments

The following assignments help students achieve the learning outcomes listed above. Detailed information and guidelines for each assignment will be posted to the course website.

Online Café (2 points) - Students will self-introduce themselves in the discussion forum. They may include information such as the name, major, academic/personal interests, learning/teaching experience, as well as career goals.

Online Quizzes (14 points) --- Students will take the orientation quiz, and 3 other quizzes to demonstrate their knowledge and learning about the course topics. [Meet Learning Outcomes # 1-7]

Online Discussions (20 points) - Online discussions provide students with opportunities to demonstrate their learning and ability to apply the course contents. Reading the required texts, supplemented with the personal findings, will help the quality of the contribution that they are able to make. There will be 5 online discussion assignments. [Meet Learning Outcomes # 1-7]

Chapter Assignments (30 points) --- Students will complete 5 chapter assignments in relation to course contents. [Meet Learning Outcomes # 1-7]

Midterm Creative Project (8 points) --- In this review/reflection assignment, students will produce a creative multimodal project (using PowerPoint, Prezi, Storybird, or WeVideo, etc.) in which they cumulatively make sense of the linguistic knowledge they have learned from the class. [Primarily Meet Learning Outcome # 1]

Final Exam (26 points) --- The final exam is to provide students with opportunities to demonstrate their knowledge of the topics covered in this course and synthesize their understanding of relevant issues. Question types may include multiple-choice questions, true or false questions, fill-in-the-blank questions, and short answer questions. [Meet Learning Outcomes # 1-7]

Note: An 'A' grade reflects work that is clearly superior and exceeds the minimum criteria in all dimensions. A 'B' grade means a good, solid performance which fulfils the requirements for a particular assignment.

Assignment Submissions

- Our work week runs from Monday to Sunday. For your convenience, however, I release each learning module three days earlier (i.e., Friday) on D2L. All assignments must be submitted to D2L by the designated due time (mostly Sunday 11:59pm). No late work will be accepted.
- Chapter Assignments should be submitted to the designated submission folders through "Assignments" under "Activities" on D2L.

- If you have trouble uploading the assignment to the course site, please e-mail your paper to me at maria.kostromitina@tamuc.edu

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

This class will be delivered completely online using Desire2Learn (D2L) Brightspace. To get started with the course, go to <http://www.tamuc.edu/myleo.aspx>. You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log in to the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password or have other technological difficulties, please contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

Zoom Video Conferencing Tool

https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

Interaction with Instructor Statement

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

University Specific Procedures

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the Student Guidebook.

<https://inside.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/documents/studentGuidebook.pdf>.

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum:

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedures 13.99.99.Ro.01](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.Ro.03](#)

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.Ro.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

Graduate Students Academic Integrity Policy and Form[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<https://inside.tamuc.edu/aboutus/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.Ro.10.pdf>

Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: [Student Disability Services](#)

<https://www.tamuc.edu/student-disability-services/>

Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

A&M-Commerce Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.tamuc.edu/counsel

Mental Health and Well-Being

The university aims to provide students with essential knowledge and tools to understand and support mental health. As part of our commitment to your well-being, we offer access to Telus Health, a service available 24/7/365 via chat, phone, or webinar. Scan the QR code to download the app and explore the resources available to you for guidance and support whenever you need it.



<http://telusproduction.com/app/5108.html>

AI use policy [Draft 2, May 25, 2023]

Texas A&M University-Commerce acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course.

Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism).

Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and

follow their instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed.

In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources.

13.99.99.Ro.03 Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty

13.99.99.Ro.10 Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Subject to (unlikely) change

Week	Topic	Assignments and Reading Due
Week 1 (8/26 – 9/1)	<i>Course Introduction & Overview of Languages</i>	Meyer (2009), Chapter 2 (pp. 20-30) Online Café (initial post due: 8/27 @ midnight; response due: 8/30 @ midnight) Orientation Quiz (due: 9/1 @ midnight)
Week 2 (9/2 – 9/8)	<i>Overview of Linguistics</i>	Meyer (2009), Chapter 1 (pp. 1-18) Lecture Online Discussion #1 (initial post due: 9/5 @ midnight; response due: 9/8 @ midnight)
Week 3 (9/9 – 9/15)	<i>Phonetics</i>	Meyer, Chapter 7 (pp. 195-205); Phonetics lecture; Online Discussion #2
Week 4 (9/16 – 9/22)	<i>Phonetics (cont'd)</i>	Chapter Assignment #1 (due 9/22 @ midnight)
Week 5 (9/23 – 9/29)	<i>Phonology</i>	Meyer, Chapter 7 (pp. 205-217) Phonology lecture Quiz #1 (due 9/29 @ midnight)
Week 6 (9/30 – 10/6)	<i>Morphology</i>	Meyer, Chapter 6 (pp. 152-156; pp. 176-182) Online Discussion #3 Chapter Assignment #2 (due 10/6 @ midnight)
Week 7 (10/7 – 10/13)	<i>Midterm Review</i>	Midterm Creative Multimodal Project (due 10/13 @ midnight)
Week 8 (10/14 – 10/20)	<i>Syntax</i>	Meyer, Chapter 5 (pp. 111-147); Syntax lecture Chapter Assignment #3 (due 10/20 @ midnight)
Week 9 (10/21 – 10/27)	<i>Syntax (cont'd)</i>	Review Meyer, Chapter 5 Quiz #2 (due 10/27 @ midnight)
Week 10 (10/28 – 11/3)	<i>Semantics</i>	Meyer, Chapter 6 (157-176;182-193) Aarons (2012) Semantics lecture; Online Discussion #4
Week 11 (11/4 – 11/10)	<i>Language Change</i>	Meyer, Chapter 2 (pp. 39-44) Hollmann (2009)

		Chapter Assignment #4 (due 11/10 @ midnight)
Week 12 (11/11 – 11/17)	<i>Pragmatics</i>	Meyer, Chapter 3 (pp. 47-62) Pragmatics lecture Online Discussion #5; Chapter Assignment #5 (due 11/17 @ midnight)
Week 13 (11/18 – 11/24)	<i>Pragmatics</i>	Review Meyer, Chapter 3 Quiz #3 (due 11/24 @ midnight)
Week 14 (11/25 – 12/1)	<i>Thanksgiving week</i> No class	
Week 15 (12/2 – 12/8)	Final review and Final exam	