



EAST TEXAS A&M
UNIVERSITY

COURSE ENG 555.01W General Linguistics

COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2026

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: **Dr. Mimi Li**, Associate Professor of Applied Linguistics

Office Location: David Talbot Hall Room 115

Office Hours: Friday 11am-12:30pm on Zoom and other time by appointment

University Email Address: mimi.li@etamu.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: Email correspondence

Communication Response Time: 24 hours

COURSE INFORMATION

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).

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Textbook Required

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

Optional Texts and/or Materials

Journal articles and other course information will be available on D2L Brightspace.

Computer and technologies

This class will be delivered online. Students are required to have regular access to a computer with an internet connection. For PC and Mac users the suggested browser is Mozilla Firefox. Please always check the course website for announcements and updates. Also, all the course assignments will be submitted to D2L.

Course Description

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 REQUIREMENTS

Course Ground Rules

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 learning community. Please be prepared, share thoughtfully, respond respectfully, and engage in all learning processes. I also expect that students will exhibit courtesy toward others. Courtesy means NOT engaging in online rudeness or refusing to focus on group work or class discussion. Courtesy means engaging in behaviors such 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.

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 mimi.li@etamu.edu.

GRADING

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

A = 90%-100%

B = 80%-89%

C = 70%-79%

D = 60%-69%

F = 59% or Below

Weights of the assessments in the calculation of the final letter grade.

Online Quizzes	14 points (2+4x3)
Online Discussions	20 points (4x5)
Chapter Assignments	30 points (6x5)
Midterm Creative Multimodal Project	10 points
Final Exam	26 points

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, Canva, 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]

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by East Texas A&M University 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 at mimi.li@etamu.edu

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>

Writing Center

The Writing Center offers writers free, one-on-one assistance. The center offers 45min, face-to-face or online sessions that writers can book from the website:

www.tamuc.edu/writing-center. All writers, majors, and disciplines—undergraduate and graduate students alike (faculty and staff too!) are welcome. Research shows that all workers benefit from sharing their work with a focused reader. The Writing Center staff is trained to support writers in any stage of the writing process (from the blank page to polishing sentences), and we work with writers to verbalize writing goals and to stay on track with larger writing projects. We work with any form of writing (academic and nonacademic). The writers with whom we work usually bring projects like important emails, weekly writing assignments, midterm and final essays, and theses and dissertations. Contact us with any questions here: writingcenter@etamu.edu.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY 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](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

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 [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

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

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

Academic Integrity

Students at East Texas A&M University 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.R0.03](#)
[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateschool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyFormold.pdf>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.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

East Texas A&M University

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

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

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

Nondiscrimination Notice

East Texas A&M University 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 East Texas A&M University 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 East Texas A&M 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 East Texas A&M campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

East Texas A&M Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M, 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

Department or Accrediting Agency Required Content

Departmental-Specific Procedures

Student Grievance Procedure

Students who have concerns regarding their courses should first address those concerns with the assigned instructor in order to reach a resolution. Students who are unsatisfied with the outcome of that conversation or have

not been able to meet individually with their instructor, whether in-person, by email, by telephone, or by another communication medium, should then schedule an appointment with the Department Head or Assistant Department Head by completing a Student Grievance Form (available in the main office, HL 141). In the event that the instructor is the Department Head, the student should schedule a meeting with the Dean of the College of Arts, Sciences, and Humanities after following the steps outlined above; if the instructor is the Assistant Department Head, students should schedule a meeting with the Department Head. Where applicable, students should also consult [University Procedure 13.99.99.R0.05 \("Student Appeal of Instructor Evaluation"\)](#).

Collection of Data for Measuring Institutional Effectiveness

In order to measure the level of compliance with the accreditation, throughout the semester I may collect some of the ungraded texts you produce solely for an assessment of program effectiveness that in no way affects students' course grades or GPAs.

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Week	Topic	Reading and Assignment Due
Week 1 (1/29-2/8)	<i>Course Introduction & Overview of Languages</i>	Meyer (2009), Chapter 2 (pp. 20-30) Online Café (due: 1/30) Orientation Quiz (due: 2/8 midnight)
Week 2 (2/9-2/15)	<i>Overview of Linguistics</i>	Meyer (2009), Chapter 1 (pp. 1-18) Lecture Online Discussion #1 (initial post due: 2/12; response due: 2/15 midnight)
Week 3 (2/16-2/22)	<i>Phonetics</i>	Meyer, Chapter 7 (pp. 195-205); Phonetics lecture; Online Discussion #2 (initial post due: 2/19; response due: 2/22)
Week 4 (2/23-3/1)	<i>Phonetics (cont'd)</i>	Chapter Assignment #1 (due: 3/1)
Week 5 (3/2-3/8)	<i>Phonology</i>	Meyer, Chapter 7 (pp. 205-217) Phonology lecture Quiz #1 (due: 3/8)
Week 6 (3/9-3/15)	Spring Break, No class	Enjoy your spring break!
Week 7 (3/16-3/22)	<i>Morphology</i>	Meyer, Chapter 6 (pp. 152-156; pp. 176-182) Online Discussion #3 Chapter Assignment #2 (due: 3/22)
Week 8 (3/23-3/29)	<i>Midterm Review</i>	Midterm Creative Multimodal Project (due: 3/29)
Week 9 (3/30-4/5)	<i>Syntax</i>	Meyer, Chapter 5 (pp. 111-147); Syntax lecture Chapter Assignment #3 ; Quiz #2 (due: 4/5)
Week 10 (4/6-4/12)	<i>Semantics</i>	Meyer, Chapter 6 (157-176;182-193) Aarons (2012) Semantics lecture; Online Discussion #4
Week 11 (4/13-4/19)	<i>Language Change</i>	Meyer, Chapter 2 (pp. 39-44) Hollmann (2009) Chapter Assignment #4 (due: 4/19)
Week 12 (4/20-4/26)	<i>Pragmatics</i>	Meyer, Chapter 3 (pp. 47-62) Pragmatics lecture Online Discussion #5 ; Chapter Assignment #5 (due 4/26)
Week 13 (4/27-5/3)	<i>Pragmatics (cont'd)</i>	Review Meyer, Chapter 3 Quiz #3 (due: 5/3)
Finals	Final review and final exam	

Note. This is a tentative schedule. The instructor reserves the right to make modifications as needed.