



EAST TEXAS A&M
UNIVERSITY

ENG 358, 01W & Language and Society

COURSE SYLLABUS: Summer 2026

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Haomei Meng-Briscoe

Office Location: DTH Room 215

Office Hours: Tuesdays, Thursdays 11 am-12:30 pm (but please make an appointment first!).

I'm flexible. If the prior days/times do not work for you, just email me, and we'll find a time that works for both of us!)

University Email Address: Haomei.Meng@etamu.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: Email

Communication Response Time: 24 hours on weekdays.

Feedback for the assignment in one week.

Zoom meeting ID: 552 532 9657

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is an online course with live teaching at 5 pm CST on Zoom on both Tuesday and Thursday. I would use the interaction moments to clarify challenging terms, offer students more practice opportunities, and answer students' questions. It is strongly recommended to attend the live sessions, but it is not required if there are time conflicts. However, you should watch the recorded video at your convenience. The video is posted to D2L on the same day it is recorded.

In this course, you will attain an advanced understanding of the sociocultural nature of human language. Language may be studied at several structural or functional levels (such as

phonology or syntax, for example). However, your attention to this course will be directed to the components of society and culture and to the relationships between these components and language variation within and across individuals. You will also be encouraged in the class to examine carefully your beliefs about your own language and your attitudes toward the language varieties that you and others use. Doing so will help you better understand the change that language constantly undergoes in personal and social use. Examining your beliefs and attitudes will also help you become more aware of the variation in language use from one group to the next and from one individual to the next.

COURSE MATERIALS

Textbook(s) Required:

Textbook(s) Required: This class does NOT utilize a textbook. 🍷 🙌 Instead, all the learning materials you'll need are provided to you in the course shell (D2L).

Students can find the learning materials on D2L – Content – Learning materials each week.

Computer and technologies

- This class will be delivered online, using Desire2Learn Brightspace. To get started with the course, go to <https://leoportal.tamuc.edu/uPortal/f/welcome/normal/render.uP>. You will need your CWID and password to log into the course. All students are required to have regular access to a computer with an internet connection.
- A word processing program: Students have free access to Office 365.
- If you experience problems in accessing the course site or have other technological difficulties, please contact the CITE Help Desk at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

A student who completes ENG 358 will:

1. become aware of the constant interplay between language and society in both English speaking as well as in societies that speak other languages.
2. become aware of his/her attitudes to varieties of English and other languages.

3. learn to respect all varieties of languages and to put this respect in the language-teaching classroom.

COURSE EVALUATION METHODS

This course will utilize the following instruments to determine student grades and proficiency of the learning outcomes for the course. Detailed information and guidelines for each assignment will be available on the course site. For the course organization, please check the course calendar on the last two pages of the syllabus.

- **Oral Quizzes (60 points)** --- Students will participate in three brief oral assessments designed to evaluate their ability to synthesize course material in real-time. There are two weekly oral quizzes (Weeks 2 to 3) and one final oral quiz (Week 5) in total.
- **Online Discussions (16 points)** --- Online discussions provide students with opportunities to demonstrate their learning and ability to apply the course content. Reading the required texts, supplemented with the personal findings, will help improve the quality of the contribution that they are able to make. There will be 8 online discussion assignments. To earn the full points (2) for each discussion post, you are required to answer the question correctly **AND** comment on at least two of your classmates' posts informatively. Perfunctory comments like "Yes, I agree with you/You are correct" do not count as an informative answer and get zero.
- **Discourse Analysis Assignment (10 points):** A hands-on assignment where students code a short dialogue to familiarize themselves with the methodology of Discourse Analysis.
- **Final Creative Project (14 points)** --- In this review/reflection assignment, students will produce a meme, a cartoon, an infographic, a PowerPoint show, a short story, or a poster, along with a 5-10 minute oral presentation that explains the linguistic knowledge they have learned from the class.

GRADING

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

A = 90%-100%

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

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.

Oral quizzes 60%

Discussion board 16 %

Discourse analysis assignment 10%

Final creative project and presentation 14% (written form 10% + presentation 4%)

TOTAL 100%

Extra credits: Attend live sessions to earn up to **8 extra credit points**. Please note: no points will be awarded if you attend fewer than **three quarters of the sessions** this semester.

Final oral quiz: If you have an “A” (90% or higher) in the course after all your coursework is completed and graded, you do not have to take the final oral exam.

SUBMITTING ASSIGNMENTS

Our work week runs from Monday to Sunday. I release each learning module on Monday on D2L.

- ❖ Final creative project must be submitted to D2L before 8 am on July 2 (**Monday**).
- ❖ For the weekly oral quiz, the **registration** opens at the start of the week, with assessments conducted **on Friday**. The final oral quiz is conducted on **June 29 and 30, based on students' convenient times**.
- ❖ There are two discussion topics each week on D2L, one on Monday and the other on Wednesday. The due date for each Q&A is before 11:59 pm on the day it is posted.

MAKE-UP WORK POLICY

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Generally, I accept NO make-up work, except in extraordinary circumstances. Students must discuss the make-up work with me BEFORE the due date. As the instructor, it is my prerogative to approve or deny a student's request for make-up work.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

LMS

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

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

| D2L | Student email expectations |
|--|--|
| Check/Logon: Every day | Check ideally, every day |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Learning materials *Read course announcements *Submit assignments | Kindly fill in the “Subject” line. Address me as “Mrs. Briscoe.” |
| Check the feedback from the instructor and your scores | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *A brief greeting and a reminder of who you are *Explain your problem and offer your proposal or available times. *A closing |

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

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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 coursework 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

I am committed to supporting your success in this course and encourage open communication. For most inquiries, please contact me via **Haomei.Meng@etamu.edu**; I generally respond within **24** hours, excluding weekends. For more complex questions or to discuss your progress, please visit me during my scheduled office hours, 11 am - 12:30 pm **Tuesdays and Thursdays in DTH Room 215, or apply for a Zoom meeting**. To ensure a timely response, please include the course name and a brief description of your topic in the subject line of all emails.

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

Notes: The syllabus is subject to change. Please check the announcement on D2L daily to get the most updated information.

| Weeks | Live session (on Zoom at 5:00 pm CST, Thursday and Thursday. | Assignments |
|---------------------------|--|---|
| Week 1 (June 1-7) | <u>Tuesday</u> : Course introduction <u>Thursday</u> : An introduction to sociolinguistics continued | Discussion board |
| Week 2 (June 8-14) | <u>Tuesday</u> : Language domains, diglossia, and code-switching <u>Thursday</u> : Standard languages & language change | Discussion board Oral Quiz 1 on Friday |
| Week 3 (June 15-21) | <u>Tuesday</u> : Lingua Francas, pidgins, and creoles <u>Thursday</u> : African American language & introduction of the final project | Discussion board Oral Quiz 2 on Friday Proposal for the final project (non-graded assignment) |
| Week 4 (June 22-28) | <u>Tuesday</u> : Language and gender <u>Thursday</u> : Discourse Analysis | Discussion board Discourse Analysis assignment |
| Week 5 (June 29 - July 1) | N/A | Final oral quiz falls on June 29 and 30. The final project and presentation are due at 8 am, July 2. |