



ENG 331 (01E & 01W), Introduction to Linguistics

COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2026

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Shelby Miller

Office Location: Hall of Languages, Room #318

Office Hours: Wednesday and Fridays, 9:00 am - 11:00 am (however, please make an appointment first!).

If these days/times do not work for you, just reach out and we'll find a time that works for both of us!

Office Phone: Phone? Psh, let's zoom instead.

Office Fax: Do you really have something to fax to me? Just email it instead.

University Email Address: Shelby.Miller@etamu.edu

Zoom: Link provided in course shell under "Contact Information & Office Hours"

Preferred Form of Communication: Email

Communication Response Time: I will respond within 24 hours. If you have not heard from me, please assume I have not received your message and reach out to me again. I may not immediately respond to emails on weekends and holidays.

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Modality: This course is offered in both face-to-face and online formats.

Face-to-Face Section: We meet Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m. in the Applied Language Lab (David Talbot Hall of Languages, Room 307). Please note that although the course schedule previously lists Education South 134, we will not meet there.

Online Section: Online students are not required to attend the live class, but you are welcome (meaning it is fully optional) to join us via Zoom each Wednesday at 1:00 p.m. (The Zoom link will be provided in the course shell). If you cannot attend, a recording of the lecture will be posted in the course shell each week.

Textbook(s) Required: This class utilizes an OER (Open Educational Resource). Free to you and accessible online at

[Essentials of Linguistics, 2nd edition](#)

Optional Texts and/or Materials: If you want to own a book that has some but not all of the ideas presented in the course, you may like:

[Brown, S., Attardo, S., & Vigliotti, C. \(2014\). *Understanding language structure, interaction, and variation: An introduction to applied linguistics and sociolinguistics for nonspecialists* \(3rd ed.\). University of Michigan Press.](#)

[Welch, C., & Shappeck, M. \(2012\). *Linguistics for pre-service educators*. CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform.](#)

Course Description

Structure of the English Language. Three semester hours.

A survey of major areas of linguistic theory: phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, pragmatics, historical/comparative studies, sociolinguistics, psycholinguistics. Prerequisites: ENG 1302.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Describe the fundamental properties of human language and explain key concepts and terminology from the core subfields of linguistics, including phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, and pragmatics.
2. Analyze spoken, written, or signed language using introductory linguistic methods, including phonetic transcription, morphological analysis, syntactic analysis, and semantic and pragmatic interpretation.
3. Explain how language varies across individuals, communities, and cultures, and evaluate the relationships among language, identity, society, and power.
4. Apply linguistic principles to real-world issues involving language acquisition, multilingualism, language change, language diversity, and language use.

Course Evaluation Methods

Detailed information and guidelines for each assignment will be available on the course site. For the course organization, please check the course calendar below.

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

Total points corresponding to final letter grade

A = 900 - 1000 Points

B = 800 - 899 Points

C = 700 - 799 Points

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

D = 600 - 699 Points

F = 0 - 599 Points

Assignment Type	Points	Percentage of Final Grade
Tweet-troductions	1 @ 29	2.9%
Quizzes	13 @ 67 points each	87.1%
Final Exam	1 @ 100	10%

Grade Bump: Oh no, you finished the semester with an 89%, 79%, 69%, or 59%. You were so close to that next grade! Will the professor round my grade up? Each semester, about 10% of my students find themselves on the cusp of the next grade. These students always have something in common; they either missed assignment(s), worked haphazardly on an assignment, and (or) decided not to pursue extra credit opportunities. **You are** responsible for “bumping” your own grade. What does that mean? Take advantage of **every point** through every assignment.

Fudge Points

It is the professor’s discretion on whether to award “fudge” points for quiz questions that seemed problematic. A quiz question is “problematic” when it meets at least two of the following conditions: 1.) at least 40% of the test takers answered it incorrectly, 2.) the material surrounding the question was not overtly addressed in the materials, and 3.) there is a good argument that the question was generally confusing or ambiguous.

Regrading

If a quiz question was incorrectly set-up in D2L, the professor will regrade the quizzes. This may lead to some students seeing an increase in their quiz grade while others may see a decrease in their grade. If you did **not** receive points for a question that you answered **correctly**, you will then receive those points after the regrading. If you received points for a question that you answer **incorrectly**, you will then lose those points after the regrading.

Assessments

- **Introduction Discussion Board** - During the first week of the semester, you will introduce yourself on the course discussion board. This gives students in both the face-to-face and online sections an opportunity to get to know one another.
- **Weekly Quizzes** - Each week, you will complete a quiz covering that week's lecture and assigned readings. Quizzes are designed as knowledge checks and may include a variety of question types, such as multiple choice, true/false, short answer, matching, open-ended responses, or brief application activities.
- **Final Oral Exam** - Instead of a traditional written final exam, you will complete a 15–20 minute oral exam with me during finals week. You will schedule an individual meeting time, and we will discuss the major concepts from the course. Additional information and preparation materials will be provided later in the semester. No need to be nervous as long as you’ve stayed engaged this semester. 😊

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Submitting Assignments

With the exception of the Final Oral Exam, which will be conducted individually via Zoom, all course assignments will be completed and submitted through D2L.

Your Introduction Discussion Board post will be submitted through the D2L discussion board, and your weekly quizzes will be completed directly in D2L. Occasionally, a quiz may ask you to upload a file (e.g., an image, PDF, or Word document). If so, the quiz instructions will specify the required file format. In general, you should expect to complete and submit nearly all of your coursework within D2L.

If you have technical issues in uploading the assignment to the course site, please contact CITE Help Desk at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@ETAMU.edu and email me to notify me of the problem. Your email should also include your assignment.

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Note: The readings assigned each week are intended to prepare you for the following week's class. Please complete the assigned readings before the start of the next week's class so that you are ready to participate in discussions and activities.

Week	Topics and Classtimes	Readings & Assignments	Due Date
Week 1: Aug. 20–25	Introduce Yourself <i>No class during Week 1, as the semester begins on a Thursday. Our first class meeting will be in Week 2. Please complete the assignment and the reading in the next column before our first class.</i>	Assignment: Tweet-troductions Read: Chapter 1 (<i>in preparation for Week 2</i>)	Tue, Aug. 25
Week 2: Aug. 26–Sep. 1	Linguistics as a Science Live class on Wed, Aug. 26. Join F2F or via Zoom at 1:00 p.m.	Assignment: Quiz #1 Read: Chapter 2	Tue, Sep. 1
Week 3: Sep. 2–8	Sociolinguistics #1 Live class on Wed, Sep. 2. Join F2F or via Zoom at 1:00 p.m.	Assignment: Quiz #2 Read: Chapter 10	Tue, Sep. 8
Week 4: Sep. 9–15	Sociolinguistics #2 Live class on Wed, Sep. 9. Join F2F or via Zoom at 1:00	Assignment: Quiz #3 Read: Chapter 3	Tue, Sep. 15

	p.m.		
Week 5: Sep. 16–22	Phonology #1 Live class on Wed, Sep. 16. Join F2F or via Zoom at 1:00 p.m.	Assignment: Quiz #4 Read: Chapter 4	Tue, Sep. 22
Week 6: Sep. 23–29	Phonology #2 Live class on Zoom at 1:00 p.m. (no F2F option)	Assignment: Quiz #5 No reading for Orthography next week.	Tue, Sep. 29
Week 7: Sep. 30–Oct. 6	Orthography Live class on Wed, Sep. 30. Join F2F or via Zoom at 1:00 p.m.	Assignment: Quiz #6 Read: Chapter 5	Tue, Oct. 6
Week 8: Oct. 7–13	Morphology #1 Live class on Wed, Oct. 7. Join F2F or via Zoom at 1:00 p.m.	Assignment: Quiz #7 No reading for next week.	Tue, Oct. 13
Week 9: Oct. 14–20	Morphology #2 Live class on Wed, Oct. 14. Join F2F or via Zoom at 1:00 p.m.	Assignment: Quiz #8 Read: Chapter 6, sections 6.1 - 6.9	Tue, Oct. 20
Week 10: Oct. 21–27	Syntax #1 Live class on Wed, Oct. 21. Join F2F or via Zoom at 1:00 p.m.	Assignment: Quiz #9 Read: Chapter 6, sections 6.10 - 6.22	Tue, Oct. 27
Week 11: Oct. 28–Nov. 3	Syntax #2 Live class on Wed, Oct. 28. Join F2F or via Zoom at 1:00 p.m.	Assignment: Quiz #10 Read: Chapter 7	Tue, Nov. 3
Week 12: Nov. 4–10	Semantics Live class on Wed, Nov. 4. Join F2F or via Zoom at 1:00 p.m.	Assignment: Quiz #11 Read: Chapter 8	Tue, Nov. 10
Week 13: Nov. 11–17	Pragmatics Live class on Wed, Nov. 11. Join F2F or via Zoom at 1:00	Assignment: Quiz #12	Tue, Nov. 17

	p.m.	Read: Chapters 11 & 12	
Week 14: Nov. 18–24	Language Acquisition Live class on Wed, Nov. 18. Join F2F or via Zoom at 1:00 p.m.	Assignment: Quiz #13	Tue, Nov. 24
Week 15: Nov. 25–Dec. 1	Thanksgiving Break		
Week 16: Dec. 2–11	Final - Oral Exams (running December 2 - 11)	Final - Oral Exams (running December 2 - 11)	Must complete final oral exam by Fri, Dec. 11 - <i>A sign up sheet will be available in the course shell beforehand.</i>

Unless stated otherwise, assignments will be graded within two weeks, and emails will be answered within one business day. Before emailing, check the syllabus and the course shell on myLeo Online (D2L Brightspace) to see if your question is already answered.

Students who have concerns about this course or the instructor should speak to the instructor about those concerns first. If the student is not satisfied with the outcome of that conversation, the next person to talk to is the Department Head of Literature and Languages.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Computer Technologies

This class will be delivered completely online using Desire2Learn Brightspace (D2L), the new Learning Management System used by East Texas A&M University. To get started with the course, go to [MyLeo](#). You will need your CWID and password to log in to the course. Students are required to have regular access to a computer with an Internet connection. At a minimum, you must have Microsoft Office 2013, 2010, 2007 or Open Office. Microsoft Office is the standard office productivity software utilized by faculty, students, and staff. Microsoft Word is the standard word processing software, Microsoft Excel is the standard spreadsheet software, and Microsoft PowerPoint is the standard presentation software. 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@ETAMU.edu.

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](#)
- [LMS Browser Support](#)
- [Zoom Video Conferencing Tool](#)

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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@ETAMU.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 ETAMU campus open computer lab, etc.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES FOR COURSE

CWID and Password

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@etamu.edu.

Technology-Related Issues

Personal computer or internet connection problems do not excuse late or missing work. Every student should have a backup method for completing assignments, such as access to a friend's computer, a library, a campus lab, or another reliable location.

If you experience issues with myLeo Online (D2L Brightspace)—for example, submitting assignments or participating in discussions—contact the Help Desk at 1-866-656-5511, file a ticket, and email the instructor with your ticket number. Only issues directly related to myLeo Online (D2L Brightspace) are valid reasons for technical assistance. Make sure your browser is compatible and consider completing the myLeo Online tutorial if needed.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS AND SUPPORT

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Students will need reliable computer and internet access for this course. Students must be able to effectively use myLeo email, myLeo Online D2L, and Microsoft Office.

Learning Management System (LMS) – D2L

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 the technical requirements:

- View the [Learning Management System Requirements Webpage](#).
- Learn more on the [LMS Browser Support Webpage](#).

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 on the [Brightspace Support Webpage](#).

D2L runs monthly updates during the last week of the month, usually on Wednesday. The system should remain up during this time unless otherwise specified in an announcement. You may experience minimal impacts to performance and/or look and feel of the environment.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

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

Interaction with Instructor Statement

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your instructor. Correspondence will always be through university email (your “myLeo” mail) and announcements in myLeo online (D2L). You will not RECEIVE email through D2L (if you enabled notifications), so be sure to check your ETAMU email for communication. Students are encouraged to check university email daily.

Tips for sending emails! I usually only have to provide this to undergraduate students, but sometimes graduate students need a gentle reminder. 😊

Include the Following in Emails with Instructor:

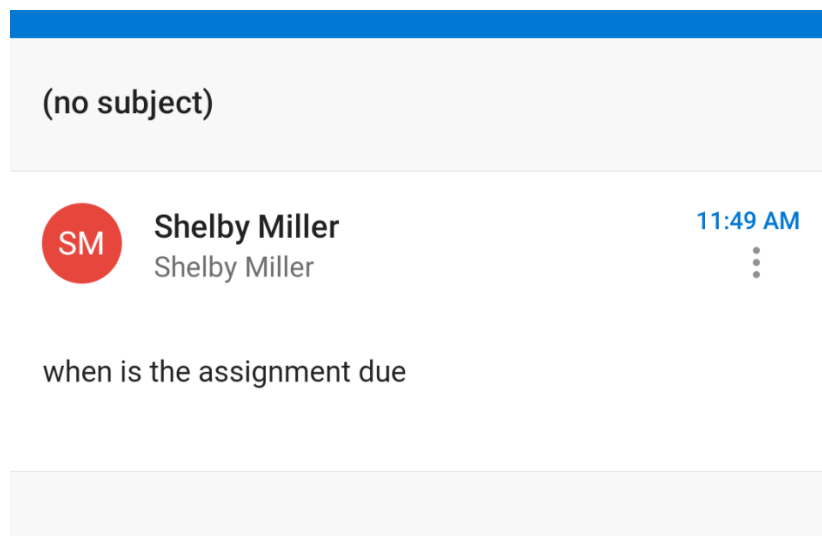
- Course name and subject in the subject line
- Salutation (Good afternoon, Dr. Jackson)
- Proper email etiquette (no “text” emails – use proper grammar and punctuation)
- Student name and CWID after the body of the email (possibly add to student signature on email)

When emailing, it’s always good to follow the genre conventions of a formal letter. This includes a subject line stating the name of the class, a greeting (“Hi, Dr. Miller,” for example), specific details and

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explanation in the body of your email, and a closing ("Thank you, Your Name" for example). Emails should be properly proofread and edited and contain the course number in the subject.

Please, pretty please, don't send me an email like this:



Let's be professional. Each time you send me a new email about a new topic, please compose a new email with a new subject; do not reply to some old email threads unless we discuss the same issue. It can be very confusing and makes it difficult to reply to your emails.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

Being successful in an online course requires self-discipline and high motivation. In this course, all work will be completed through D2L. Access and follow all course instructions found in the content area of the D2L course. Please note that assignment due dates are crucial. No delayed assignments will be accepted. 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 ahead. In order to achieve the outcomes of the course, you will be involved in a number of different activities. It is fundamental to complete all of the readings and activities on time: the quizzes, the discussions, and the assignments. I encourage you to do all the course reading and assignments for each learning module in the order they are presented. Moreover, we are co-constructing our knowledge in the online community. Please be prepared, share thoughtfully, respond respectfully, and engage in all learning processes.

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.

Student Conduct

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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 online in the [Student Guidebook](#).

Students should also consult the [Rules of Netiquette Webpage](#) for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum.

ETAMU Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy, please view the [Attendance Webpage](#) and the [Class Attendance Policy](#).

Academic Integrity

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

- [Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty University Procedure 13.99.99.R0.03](#)
- [Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)
- [Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty University Procedure 13.99.99.R0.10](#)
- [Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

Use of Artificial Intelligence

East Texas A&M University 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

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@ETAMU.edu

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

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 ETAMU 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.

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

East Texas A&M Supports Students' Mental Health – Counseling Services

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M University, 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.ETAMU.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.



Department of Literature and Languages Mission Statement:

The Department of Literature and Languages at East Texas A&M University fosters transformation through the study of language and literature (“Words That Transform, Language That Connects”), preparing students for careers and advanced study by developing strong skills in reading, writing, critical thinking, and communication across diverse contexts.