

Department of Anthropology

LING 9237B-200: Field Techniques in Linguistics

COURSE OUTLINE

Winter 2024-25

Date: January 7, 2024

Instructor and course information:

Instructor: Dr. Tania Granadillo

Method of delivery: blended, an in-person 2 hour class on Wednesdays and an online component to be completed by students before the class.

Credit value: 0.5

Antirequisites: None.

Prerequisites: Linguistics 2247A/B, Linguistics 2248A/B and registration in third or fourth year of any Linguistics or Anthropology module.

Please ensure you have the correct requisites by checking the Academic Calendar:
<https://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/Courses.cfm?Subject=ANTHRO&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#top>

Note: This course is cross-listed with undergraduate students in the linguistics program, ANTHRO 3237B.

Course Description:

In this class we will be taking a broad approach to language variation and change. We will assume the purpose of this course is to introduce students to Linguistic Fieldwork. As such, this course will lead you into the field to seek native speaker consultants, to collect, transcribe and analyze linguistic data of a given language and to present that data in such a way that it is useful to others. We will be working with a language unfamiliar to the students, Urdu. Students must complete lessons in OWL before coming to the in-person meeting on Wednesdays. After the first two weeks, the Wednesday meeting will be dedicated to data gathering and elicitation with a language consultant. This will be recorded. We will be working with a variety of digital tools and students must be prepared to spend ample time familiarizing themselves with these tools.

A full course schedule including a week-by-week breakdown of topics and assigned readings will be available on the course's OWL Brightspace site before the first day of class.

Learning Outcomes

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

- Design questions to collect particular kinds of linguistic data
- Organize linguistic data for analysis
- Analyze linguistic data to create generalizations and identify gaps
- Present data in a way that is easily understood by others
- Identify best practices for documenting and archiving linguistic data
- Write summaries of linguistic data

Course Materials

No textbook. Required readings will be available through the Course Readings tool on the course site or through the Western Library.

Evaluation

Grades will be based on the following:

Fieldnotes	20%
5/8 Assignments	45%
Elicitation	20%
Final paper	15%

Fieldnotes 20% (top 2 out of 3 x 9% each)

Every two-three weeks beginning on Feb 12 students must turn in scanned copies of their fieldnotes ; the first one is obligatory. These will be evaluated in terms of completeness and comprehensiveness. Top 2 of 3 scores will be added. Last fieldnotes will be due Wednesday March 31. More details will be provided on OWL.

Homework Assignments 50% (5 out of 8 x 10% each)

Every week starting in week 3, there will be an assignment posted related to that week's elicitations. Students must complete 5 out 8 assignments each one worth 9%. If more than 5 are completed, the top 5 will be used to calculate the final grade. At least 1 must be completed by Feb 26. More details will be provided on OWL.

Elicitation 20%

Students will plan and execute an elicitation on one of the suggested topics. They will then transcribe the session and present a summary of findings and future questions. Students will be evaluated on the planning (5%) execution (5%), transcription (5%) and summary of findings (5%). Students will select a date for their elicitation beginning on Jan 29; there will be max 2 groups per day. More details will be provided on OWL. Depending on the number of students enrolled,

groups may do elicitation more than once in which case the best overall grade will be taken.

Final Paper 15%

Students will have the option of writing up a grammar or a squib. Paper will be around 10-15 pages depending on topic. If writing a squib, it must be on a different topic than their elicitation. All students must clear the topic in advance with the professor. Paper must be turned in electronically by the end of the term (April 25). More details will be provided on OWL.

All assignments will be submitted in electronic format through the assignments tab on the Owl Brightspace course website.

Academic Statements and Policies:

Academic Rights and Responsibilities

All students should familiarize themselves with Western's current [Academic Policies in the Academic Calendar](#) which include, but is not limited to, academic consideration for medical illness, accommodation for religious holidays, academic appeals, academic accommodation for students with disabilities, as well as scholastic discipline.

Academic considerations

University policy on academic considerations are described [here](#). This policy requires that all requests for academic considerations must be accompanied by a self-attestation. Further information about academic considerations, and information about submitting this self-attestation with your academic consideration request may be found at the link above. Please note that any academic considerations granted in this course will be determined by the instructor, in consultation with the academic advisors in your Faculty of Registration, in accordance with information presented in this course outline. No considerations will be granted retroactively more than 10 days after a deadline. Please see your academic counsellor immediately if you will be seeking considerations. All missed work must be made up by the end of the exam period in the applicable term.

Students with disabilities work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD) which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here: [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#).

Course Assessments that Require Supporting Documentation

For this course the following assessment has been designated as requiring supporting documentation: Elicitation.

Academic Consideration for Course Components with Flexible Deadlines

This course has 8 assignments with only 5/8 counted towards your final grade. If students miss 3/8 assignments, the remaining will be used in the calculation of the final grade. If students miss more than 3 assignments, they will receive a grade of zero on each missed assignment.

Additionally, there are flexible deadlines for homework assignments. The assignment deadlines can be found in the weekly schedule. For each assignment, students are expected to submit the assignment by the deadline listed. Should illness or extenuating circumstances arise, students are permitted to submit their assignment up to 48 hours past the deadline without academic penalty. No assignments will be accepted after that without academic consideration. As flexible deadlines are used in this course, requests for undocumented academic consideration will not be granted. If you have a long-term academic consideration or an accommodation for disability that allows greater flexibility than provided here, please reach out to your instructor at least one week prior to the posted deadline.

OWL Brightspace

All course material will be posted to OWL Brightspace:

<https://westernu.brightspace.com/>. This course management program will be used for providing the final course outline and weekly schedule, completing weekly quizzes, and communicating with the class. Pdf copies of Powerpoint presentations will be made available in the Content pages after each class. All grades will be posted in the Gradebook. If students need assistance with OWL Brightspace, they can seek support on the [OWL Brightspace Help](#) page. Alternatively, they can contact the [Western Technology Services Helpdesk](#) online or by phone at 519-661-3800 or ext. 83800 for technical support. Current versions of all popular browsers (e.g., Safari, Chrome, Edge, Firefox) are supported with OWL Brightspace; what is most important is that you update your browser frequently to ensure it is current. All JavaScript and cookies should be enabled.

Academic Integrity - Statement on Plagiarism and use of AI

Students must write their assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing. It is also a scholastic offence to submit the same work for credit in more than one course. Plagiarism is a major scholastic offence. Use of AI to generate assignments is considered academic

dishonesty. Scholastic offences are taken seriously, and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Grades

Grades will not be adjusted on the basis of need. Claims by students of an excellent academic history, good attendance record, need to obtain or maintain a scholarship, desire to be admitted to a competitive program or graduate school, or other personal issues, cannot be used to justify a higher grade in the course or a reweighting of course components. There is no extra work or assignments available for extra credit or to “make up” for a course component that was missed or performed poorly. It is important to monitor your performance in the course. Remember: You are responsible for your grades in this course.

Please note that although course grades are rounded to the nearest whole number, no further grade rounding will be done. No additional assignments will be offered to enhance a final grade; nor will requests to change a grade because it is needed for a future program be considered. To maximize your grade, do your best on each and every assessment within the course.

Gender-based and sexual violence

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence (GBSV) and providing compassionate support to anyone who is going through or has gone through these traumatic events. If you are experiencing or have experienced GBSV (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at the following website:

https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html

To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca.

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

<https://www.uwo.ca/health/>