

**University of North Texas at Dallas**  
**Spring 2018**  
**SYLLABUS for Distance Learning**

LING 2050D.020: The Language of Now (3 Hrs)			
Department of	Linguistics	School of	Education
<b>Instructor Name:</b>	Dr. Katie Welch		
<b>Office Location:</b>	UNT Dallas, DAL1 260		
<b>Office Phone:</b>	(972) 338-1318 (office); 972-863-2796 (cell)		
<b>Email Address:</b>	katie.welch@untdallas.edu		
<b>Office Hours (in-person):</b>	Tues & Thurs 10:30 a.m.– 2:30 p.m. or by appointment		
<b>Classroom Location:</b>	Online		
<b>Class Meeting Days &amp; Times:</b>	Online		
<b>Course Catalog Description:</b>	Explores the relationship between pop culture, technology, and language change. Examines the linguistic significance of new technologies such as texting, gaming, IM, and social networking.		
<b>Prerequisites:</b>	None		
<b>Required Text:</b>	Selected readings and handouts posted on Blackboard Learn		
<b>Access to Learning Resources:</b>	UNT Dallas Library: phone: (972) 780-1616 web: <a href="http://www.untdallas.edu/library">http://www.untdallas.edu/library</a> email: <a href="mailto:library@untdallas.edu">library@untdallas.edu</a> UNT Dallas Bookstore: phone: (972) 780-3652 web: <a href="http://www.untdallas.edu/bookstore">http://www.untdallas.edu/bookstore</a> e-mail: <a href="mailto:untdallas@bkstr.com">untdallas@bkstr.com</a>		
<b>Course Goals or Overview:</b>	The goals of this course are as follows - The aim of this course is to explore the relationship between culture, technology, and language change. We will consider how words enter into a language's lexicon, how they are indexed in dictionaries, and how they reflect our culture. We will also examine the linguistic significance of new technologies such as texting, gaming, IM, and social networking.		
<b>Learning Objectives/Outcomes:</b>	At the end of this course, students will be able to:		
1	Clearly state the defining features of language variation and change.		
2	Demonstrate evidence of adjustment in their own attitudes and beliefs about diverse communities and cultures.		
3	Articulate issues or problems comprehensively and convey all relevant information necessary for full understanding.		
4	Identify different cultural systems of speakers of minority languages/dialects who live in the United States.		
5	Systematically analyze one's own and others' assumptions and evaluate the relevance of contexts when presenting a position.		
6	Extend novel ideas and questions that create new knowledge that crosses boundaries.		
7	Recognize ethical issues when presented in a complex, multilayered (grey) context and also recognize cross-relationships among the issues.		
8	Discuss in detail both core beliefs and the origin of core beliefs as it relates to language and attitudes about language use.		
9	Interpret intercultural experience from the perspectives of their own (and more than one worldview); demonstrate ability to act in a supportive manner that recognizes the feelings of another cultural group.		
10	Improve their writing skills by demonstrating a thorough understanding of context, audience, and purpose that is responsive to the assigned tasks.		

**Online/Hybrid Course Outline**

This schedule is subject to change by the instructor. Any changes to this schedule will be communicated in class or via class email or Blackboard announcement. Additional readings and activities may be added, these will be noted in the Readings and Activities/Assignments sections.

Date	Topic(s)	Activities	Point Value	Due Date
<b>Week 1: Introduction to LING2050</b>				
Jan 16 - 21	Syllabus	Module #1A	20 points	Wed Jan 17 @ midnight
	Selfies	Module #1B	40 points	Sun Jan 21 @ midnight
<b>Week 2: Language Variation</b>				
Jan 22 - 28	Regional Dialects	Module #2A	20 points	Wed Jan 24 @ midnight
	Folk Linguistics	Module #2B	40 points	Sun Jan 28 @ midnight
<b>Week 3: Language &amp; Identity</b>				
Jan 29 – Feb 4	Social Class	Module #3A	20 points	Wed Jan 31 @ midnight
	Sociolect	Module #3B	40 points	Sun Feb 4 @ midnight
<b>Week 4: Language &amp; Group Membership</b>				
Feb 5 - 11	Slang	Module #4A	20 points	Wed Feb 7 @ midnight
	Jargon	Module #4B	40 points	Sun Feb 11 @ midnight
<b>Week 5: Grammar</b>				
Feb 12 - 18	Grammar	Module #5A	20 points	Wed Feb 14 @ midnight
	Language Discrimination	Module #5B	40 points	Sun Feb 18 @ midnight
<b>Week 6: Language Prestige</b>				
Feb 19 - 25	Prestige	Module #6A	20 points	Wed Feb 21 @ midnight
	Descriptivism	Module #6B	40 points	Sun Feb 25 @ midnight
<b>Week 7: Language Evaluations</b>				
Feb 26 – Mar 4	Prescriptivism	Module #7A	20 points	Wed Feb 28 @ midnight
	Gatekeepers	Module #7B	40 points	Sun Mar 4 @ midnight
<b>Week 8: Language and Technology</b>				
Mar 5 - 11	Texting: Evidence	Module #8A	20 points	Wed Mar 7 @ midnight
	Texting: Taking Sides	Module #8B	40 points	Sun Mar 11 @ midnight
<b>**Spring Break** March 12-18 No assignments due</b>				
<b>Week 9: Etymology</b>				
Mar 19 -25	OED	Module #9A	20 points	Wed Mar 21 @ midnight
	Triangulation in Research	Module #9B	40 points	Sun Mar 25 @ midnight
<b>Week 10: Language Change</b>				
Mar 26 – Apr 1	Neologisms	Module #10A	20 points	Wed Mar 28 @ midnight

	Emoji	Module #10B	40 points	Sun Apr 1 @ midnight
<b>Week 11: Language Contact</b>				
Apr 2 - 8	Lexical Borrowings	Module #11A	20 points	Wed Apr 4 @ midnight
	Borrowing from Other Languages	Module #11B	40 points	Sun Apr 8 @ midnight
<b>Week 12: The History of English</b>				
Apr 9 - 15	History of English: Timeline	Module #12A	20 points	Wed Apr 11 @ midnight
	History of English: Presentations	Module #12B	40 points	Sun Apr 15 @ midnight
<b>Week 13: English: Then &amp; Now</b>				
Apr 16 - 22	History of English: Looking Back	Module #13A	20 points	Wed Apr 18 @ midnight
	History of English: Looking Forward	Module #13B	40 points	Sun Apr 22 @ midnight
<b>Week 14: Texting: LOL</b>				
Apr 23 - 29	Citation and Data Presentation	Module #14A	20 points	Wed Apr 25 @ midnight
	LOL: Pragmatic Particle?	Module #14B	40 points	Sun Apr 29 @ midnight
<b>Week 15: Wrap-Up</b>				
Apr 30 - May 6	Etymology of LOL	Module #15A	20 points	Wed May 2 @ midnight
	Future of LOL	Module #15B	40 points	Sun May 6 @ midnight
<b>LOL Essay due during Finals Week by Sunday, May 13 @ midnight</b>				

## Course Evaluation Methods

**Course Evaluation Methods:** This course will utilize the following instruments to determine student grades and proficiency of the learning outcomes for the course.

- **Online Assignments** –written online assignments in the form of discussion board posts, mini-essays, worksheets, etc.
- **Online Quizzes** –designed to measure knowledge of presented course material
- **LOL Essay**– 4-5 page double-spaced essay that addresses the history, current meaning, and future of LOL. Due during finals week.

Each week of the 16-week course, two (2) graded assignments are due. One online assignment/quiz will be due every Wednesday at midnight. Another online assignment/quiz will be due every Sunday night at midnight.

<b>Grading Matrix</b>	
Instrument	Weight
Mid-week assignment (20 points each x 15 assignments)	300 pts

	End-of-week assignment (40 points each x 15 assignments)	600 pts
	LOL Essay (1 assignment x 100 points)	100 pts
	<b>Total:</b>	<b>1000 pts</b>
	<b>Grade Determination:</b>	
	<i>A = 900-1000 pts;</i> <i>B = 800-890 pts;</i> <i>C = 700-790 pts;</i> <i>D = 600-690 pts</i> <i>F = less than 600 pts</i>	

**University Policies and Procedures**

**Students with Disabilities (ADA Compliance):**

Chapter 7(7.004) Disability Accommodations for Students

The University of North Texas at Dallas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodations must first register with the Disability Services Office (DSO) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the DSO will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request accommodations at any time, however, DSO notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet/communicate with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information see the Disability Services Office website at <http://www.untdallas.edu/disability>. You may also contact them by phone at 972-338-1777; by email at [UNTDdisability@untDallas.edu](mailto:UNTDdisability@untDallas.edu) or at Building 2, room 204.

**Blackboard Learn Accessibility Statement:**

University of North Texas at Dallas is committed to ensuring its online and hybrid courses are usable by all students and faculty including those with disabilities. If you encounter any difficulties with technologies, please contact our ITSS Department. To better assist them, you would want to have the operating system, web browser and information on any assistive technology being used. Blackboard Learn course management system's accessibility statement is also provided: <http://www.blackboard.com/Platforms/Learn/Resources/Accessibility.aspx>

**NOTE:** Additional instructional technology tools, such as Turnitin, Respondus, Panopto, and publisher cartridge content (i.e. MyLab, Pearson, etc.) may NOT be fully ADA compliant. Please contact our Disability Office should you require additional assistance utilizing any of these tools.

**Course Evaluation Policy:**

Student's evaluations of teaching effectiveness is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT Dallas. This short survey will be made available to you at the end of the semester, providing you a chance to comment on how this class is taught. I am very interested in the feedback I get from students, as I work to continually improve my teaching. I consider students' evaluations to be an important part of your participation in this class.

**Assignment Policy:**

Exams and quizzes should be taken as scheduled. All graded assignments should be turned in on the due date indicated in the course schedule. If you are unable to complete a graded assignment by the deadline indicated, the following scenarios are applicable:

1. Students may request an extension by contacting the instructor by 9 p.m. the day the assignment is due. Professor and student will work out a mutually agreed upon extension. With this prior approval from instructor, there will be no penalty assessed for late work.

2. An 8-hour grace period is given between the hours of midnight the day an assignment is due and 8 a.m. the following morning. Assignments received within this grace period will not be penalized.
3. All non-approved late assignments will receive a zero (0). Professor will provide extra credit opportunities throughout the course (explained in detail during Week 4) for students in need.
4. Students may turn in assignments early but are asked not to work more than 1 week ahead so we may all progress through the course topics together.

#### **Academic Integrity:**

Academic integrity is a hallmark of higher education. You are expected to abide by the University's code of Academic Integrity policy. Any person suspected of academic dishonesty (i.e., cheating or plagiarism) will be handled in accordance with the University's policies and procedures. Refer to the Student Code of Academic Integrity at [http://www.untDallas.edu/sites/default/files/page\\_level2/pdf/policy/7.002%20Code%20of%20Academic\\_Integrity.pdf](http://www.untDallas.edu/sites/default/files/page_level2/pdf/policy/7.002%20Code%20of%20Academic_Integrity.pdf) for complete provisions of this code.

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarizing, fabrication of information or citations, facilitating acts of dishonesty by others, having unauthorized possession of examinations, submitting work of another person or work previously used without informing the instructor, or tampering with the academic work of other students.

Web-based Plagiarism Detection: Please be aware in some online or hybrid courses, students may be required to submit written assignments to Turnitin, a web-based plagiarism detection service, or another method. If submitting to Turnitin, please remove your title page and other personal information.

#### **Classroom Policies**

##### **Online Attendance and Participation:**

The University attendance policy is in effect for this course. Class attendance in the Blackboard classroom and participation is expected because the class is designed as a shared learning experience, and because essential information not in the textbook will be discussed in the discussion board. Online presence and participation in all class discussions is essential to the integration of course material and your ability to demonstrate proficiency. .

Attendance for this online or hybrid course is considered when you are logged in and active in Blackboard, i.e., posting assignments, taking quizzes, or completing Discussion Boards. To maintain financial aid award eligibility, activity must occur before the census date of the session or term of the course. Refer to <http://www.untDallas.edu/registrar> for specific dates. If you are absent/not active in the course shell, it is YOUR responsibility to let the instructor know immediately, upon your return, the reason for your absence if it is to be excused. All instructors must follow university policy 7.005 covering excused absences; however, it is the instructor's discretion, as outlined in the course syllabus, of how unexcused absences may or may not count against successful completion of the course

**Inclement Weather and Online Classes:** Online classes may or may not be effected by campus closures due to inclement weather. Unless otherwise notified by your instructor via e-mail, online messaging, or online announcement, students should assume that assignments are due as scheduled.

##### **Online "Netiquette:**

In any social interaction, certain rules of etiquette are expected and contribute to more enjoyable and productive communication. Emails, Discussion Board messages and/or any other forms of written communication in the online environment should use proper "netiquette" (i.e., no writing in all caps (usually denotes yelling), no curse words, and no "flaming" messages (angry, personal attacks).

Racial, ethnic, or gender slurs will not be tolerated, nor will pornography of any kind.

Any violation of online netiquette may result in a loss of points or removal from the course and referral to the Dean of Students, including warnings and other sanctions in accordance with the University's policies and procedures. Refer to the Student Code of Student Rights Responsibilities and Conduct at <http://www.untDallas.edu/osa/policies>. Respect is a given principle in all online communication. Therefore, please be sure to proofread all of your written communication prior to submission.

##### **Diversity/Tolerance Policy:**

Students are encouraged to contribute their perspectives and insights to class discussions in the online environment. However, offensive & inappropriate language (swearing) and remarks offensive to others of particular nationalities, ethnic groups, sexual

preferences, religious groups, genders, or other ascribed statuses will not be tolerated. Disruptions which violate the Code of Student Conduct will be referred to the Dean of Students as the instructor deems appropriate.

**Technology Requirements:** In order to successfully access the materials in an online or hybrid course, UNT Dallas advises that your computer be equipped with the minimum system requirements.

Blackboard Learn 9.1 is the platform software for this course. Blackboard Learn supports major web browsers such as Windows Internet Explorer, Apple Safari, Mozilla Firefox, and Google Chrome. However, since the latter two are updated continually, some recent versions may not be compatible. If you experience difficulty accessing or using components of the course, try using Internet Explorer. Also, no matter what browser you use, always enable pop-ups. For more information see:

- <http://www.untdallas.edu/dlit/ecampus/requirements>
- <https://blackboard.secure.force.com/publickbarticleview?id=kAB700000008Oom>
- [https://learn.unt.edu/bbcswebdav/institution/BrowserCheck/check\\_full.html](https://learn.unt.edu/bbcswebdav/institution/BrowserCheck/check_full.html)