LING 1000: Linguistics at Northeastern (CRN 13652)
Northeastern University, Fall 2014

CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor       H. Littlefield, Ph.D.
E-Mail           h.littlefield@neu.edu (preferred contact)
Office           548 Nightingale Hall; 617.373.3164
Office hours    Tuesdays, 8:30 – 9:40am and 11:35am – 1:30pm
                  Fridays, 8:30 – 9:40am and 12:50pm – 1:30pm
                  If these times are not convenient, please contact me to set up an appointment.

TA                Heather Fielding
Email             fielding.h@husky.neu.edu

COURSE INFORMATION

Class meetings  Fridays, 11:45am – 12:50pm; 9 Snell Library (moved to 545 Nightingale)

Course description
This course is designed to assist students in adjusting to college, living in Boston, and succeeding at Northeastern University. While special attention is paid to the Linguistics major and what the Linguistics Program has to offer students, the materials covered in this class are broadly applicable for all students regardless of major.

COURSE RESOURCES

Blackboard website
The Blackboard site for the course is an excellent reference for course materials including the syllabus, assignment guidelines, and supplemental readings not found in the textbooks.

Reference Materials
The following websites will be used for reference throughout the course:
- The NU Undergraduate Catalog: http://www.northeastern.edu/registrar/courses/welcome1213.html
- The NU Student Handbook/Planner: http://www.northeastern.edu/admissions/undergradhandbook/

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Regular attendance and active participation
Participation in class discussions and activities is essential to your progress in this course. To underscore the importance of this aspect of the class, you will receive a grade for your attendance and participation at midterm and at the end of the term. This grade will be based on the quantity and quality of your efforts in class discussions and activities. Reading, texting, surfing the web, etc. will negatively affect your participation, as will not preparing the required assignments before class. Lastly, it goes without saying that absences and tardiness will negatively affect your attendance and participation grade, and you are responsible for getting notes, solutions to in-class problems, etc. from a classmate for information missed. [Note: While it is not recommended that you miss any class meetings, you may miss one during the semester with or without excuse. This includes absences for any reason, including illness and emergencies. There are no “excused” absences, so be sure to plan wisely.]
Attendance at activities outside of class
Participation at events outside of class are an important part of this course, and you will need to attend a variety of events.

Reflection papers
There will be nine brief writing assignments that ask you to think about your life in college, your progress, your goals, etc. Copies of the guidelines for these papers will be given in class and will be made available on blackboard. The expectations for each paper will be briefly discussed in class the week before it is due.

Extra credit
Opportunities for extra credit may be available occasionally throughout the course. These opportunities must be taken when they are offered, and turned in on time.

COURSE GRADES

Calculation of grades
In calculating grades, I use a criterion-referenced grading system. That means that your final grade for the course is calculated by taking the total number of points that you have earned in the class (including extra credit points) and dividing by the total number of possible points (excluding extra credit points). This percentage is used to assign your letter grade according to the scale below (see “Grading scale”). The anticipated values for the course requirements are provided below. In the unlikely event of the need to shift the total points (i.e. drop an assignment due to lack of time at the end of the term), you will be notified in class. Importantly, all efforts will be made to keep the average weight of each requirement the same, so the relative value of each type of work is not altered.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance and participation</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reflection papers (9)</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total points:</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grading scale
Because I am using a criterion-referenced system, I use an absolute scale (as shown below), and there is no curve. Note that “A” work is exceptional: it goes beyond just completing an assignment accurately and obviously exceeds the minimum requirements. It shows a clear attention to detail and demonstrates the highest levels of depth and breadth of conceptual comprehension.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Grade Range</th>
<th>GPA Value</th>
<th>Level of Achievement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>97 – 100%</td>
<td>4.000</td>
<td>Outstanding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93 – 96.9%</td>
<td>4.000</td>
<td>Outstanding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90 – 92.9%</td>
<td>3.667</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87 – 89.9%</td>
<td>3.333</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83 – 86.9%</td>
<td>3.000</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80 – 82.9%</td>
<td>2.667</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Grade Range</th>
<th>GPA Value</th>
<th>Level of Achievement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77 – 79.9%</td>
<td>2.333</td>
<td>Satisfactory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73 – 76.9%</td>
<td>2.000</td>
<td>Satisfactory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70 – 72.9%</td>
<td>1.667</td>
<td>Poor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67 – 69.9%</td>
<td>1.333</td>
<td>Poor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>63 – 66.9%</td>
<td>1.000</td>
<td>Poor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60 – 62.9%</td>
<td>.667</td>
<td>Poor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0 – 59.9%</td>
<td>0.000</td>
<td>Failure</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note that grading scales vary, depending on each professor and each course.**
**Note also that Northeastern does not allow for the assignment of “A+” grades; however, I report this as the top grade possible in my courses in letters of recommendation.**

GPA
Please note that while this course is only worth one credit, the grade for it is included in the calculation of your GPA.
COURSE POLICIES

Academic integrity and plagiarism
All work that you turn in must be your own: cheating, plagiarism, fabrication (the invention of data) of any kind will not be accepted. Any violation of academic integrity will be immediately reported to the Office of Student Conduct & Conflict Resolution (OSCCR) and will be given an automatic zero. If you are unsure as to what constitutes cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, etc., please see me before you turn in any work. I strongly recommend that you read the information at the following sites:
  www.lib.neu.edu/online_research/help/avoiding_plagiarism/
  www.northeastern.edu/osccr/

Students with disabilities
If you have a documented disability (learning or otherwise) and anticipate needing accommodations in this course, please meet with me as soon as possible so we can work out a plan to meet your needs.

Electronic devices
Using personal electronic devices in the classroom can hinder instruction and learning, not only for you, but also for your classmates, and for me, your instructor. Please be courteous to all, and make sure to turn your cell phone off and keep it put away during class. Laptops, tablets and other electronic equipment are not allowed in class except for the express purpose of taking notes.

Expectations for participation
You should come to class prepared to contribute your perspectives and opinions, be open to engaging in hands-on learning, and be prepared to listen respectfully to others. This includes being sensitive to the opinions and observations of others, and everyone’s right to participate: participants should not dominate class time or engage in disruptive behaviors (chatting with a neighbor, texting, surfing the web, etc.).

Submission of coursework
All work must be submitted in hardcopy, unless otherwise noted. Electronic submissions will only be accepted if you have organized with me in advance (i.e. when you will need to miss a class). I will not print papers that you have e-mailed me; please plan in advance, as InfoCommons is often busy just before the start of the class period.

General formatting guidelines
All work must be typed with a standard 11- or 12-point font, be single-spaced, and have 1-inch margins.

Late work
All work must be turned in on time or ahead of time. “On time” for work due in class means at the beginning of class on the day that it is due; other deadlines will be specific as to date and time. If you must miss class for any reason, you must submit the assignment before the deadline. Late work will not be accepted, and will receive a score of ‘0’.

COURSE SCHEDULE
This schedule is tentative and may be revised over the course of the semester. If the schedule is revised, you will receive an updated copy of the schedule in class, and it will be posted on Blackboard. On some dates we may meet in a different location; I will remind you of this ahead of time.

September 5  Introduction to the Course: First impressions at NU [Littlefield]
Turn in:  Reflection 1: Letter to myself
September 12  Advising Structure: Where to Find Help; Goals  [Littlefield]
Turn in: Reflection 2: Goals for college

September 19 Getting involved on campus: Clubs, Sports, and Other Events  [Fielding]
Turn in: Reflection 3: Life on campus

September 26 Using the Library  [Fielding]
Note: Meet the subject librarian for linguistics (Andrew Gaudio, in for Rebecca Bailey)

October 3 Study Skills and Time Management Workshop  [Littlefield]
Turn in: Reflection 4: Study skills

October 10 Structure of the Major, the Core, Declaring a Minor and/or Double Major  [Littlefield]
Note: Visit from Academic Advisor (Kate Farnham, in for Danielle Massey)

October 17 Life in Boston  [Fielding]
Turn in: Reflection 5: Life in Boston

October 24 Academic Integrity & OSCCR  [Fielding]
Note: Visit from the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution

October 31 Preparing for Registration (begins Nov 17); Degree Audits; MyNEU  [Littlefield; Fielding]

November 7 Attend the BUCLD  [Fielding]
Turn in: Reflection 6: Curriculum plan for next semester

November 14 Study Abroad and Dialogue; Discussion of Problems  [Fielding]
Note: Visit from OISP ambassador
Turn in: Reflection 7: My biggest problem(s) so far at Northeastern

November 21 Jobs, Research Opportunities and Co-ops; Course Wrap-up  [Littlefield]
(Note: This is the last official class meeting)
Turn in: Reflection 8: Future careers in linguistics

November 28 No Class: Thanksgiving Break!

December 3 Attend Poster Session (stop by between 5:00-6:30pm)
Turn in: Reflection Paper 9: Review of the term