

# LING 4130 Discovering Language Data (Tools) Syllabus

Alexander Smith (instructor)

Spring 2019

## BASICS

Email: alexander.smith@unt.edu  
Office: Language building 409L (Tues/Thurs 2 – 4)  
Room: WH 213  
Date and Time: Tues, Thurs, 11:00 – 12:15

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this course we will learn the tools and methods used in documenting, analyzing, and describing language. Regarding tools, we will study both hardware and software used in language study. Hardware will be demonstrated and students will get hands on experience with both audio and video recording. Software will cover the basic software used by most linguists in their work.

There will be a semester-long project where students will record language data themselves and organize it using the various tools discussed during the semester. Here are the details: Students will be split into groups (sorry). Over the course of the semester, each group will be allowed to use my personal recording devices to record 1) a wordlist, 2) elicited sentences, and 3) a single narrative or conversation between 5 and 10 minutes long, from whichever group member feels most comfortable being recorded. If anyone in the group speaks a language other than English as a native language, that would be great. The final product will be turned in at any time during finals week (the last day is Friday May 10<sup>th</sup>.) The files will be too large to email, so you'll have to turn them in directly to me. The final product will include:

1. Unedited files of the recordings.
2. Wordlist data transcribed into an accompanying Praat text grid.
3. FLEx file including all recorded words in the wordlist, analyzed sentences from the elicitation sessions, and analyzed sentences from the narrative recording.
4. Time-aligned ELAN file of the narrative recording.
5. Dictionary created with FLEx.

## GRADING

Participation	50
Final Project	50
Total	100

## TEXTS

No Text.

## ATTENDANCE

Attendance is important for this class. This is where we will discuss the readings and other class materials. We will introduce new ideas in the lecture and answer any questions students may have. If a student misses a class, it is the student's responsibility to catch up with what was missed by asking classmates and/or the instructor. The student's efforts in coming to class on time will be duly recognized.

## PARTICIPATION

To be successful in this class, students must attend class sessions with proper preparation. Students are responsible for all of the information presented in this course, and students' active participation in class and proper preparation for class are also expected. Asking questions is important and will affect grades. Office hours and email are also good ways to get credit for participation if you are not into class participation.

## ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic dishonesty includes plagiarism and cheating. Students who violate the University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course. There is no need to leave information that is taken directly from an outside source uncited, and there is no need to avoid using information from outside sources out of fear of being accused of plagiarism. If you need any help referencing and citing your information, just let me know.

## TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

WEEK	TOPIC
Jan 15, 17	Introduction; Basics of Language Documentation
Jan 22, 24	Audio Recording Hardware and Methods
Jan 29, 31	Video Recording Hardware and Methods
Feb 5, 7	Using Praat
Feb 12, 14	Using Praat
Feb 19, 21	Elicitation and Methods
Feb 26, 28	Unguided/Narrative Recording and Methods
March 5, 7	Using ELAN
March 12, 14	SPRING BREAK
March 19, 21	Using ELAN
March 26, 28	Data Management and Archiving
April 2, 4	Using FLEx
April 9, 11	Using FLEx
April 16, 18	Additional Programs
April 23, 25	Dictionary Making
April 30, May 2	No Class
May 10	Final Project Due

## DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA 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, ODA 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 with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at <http://www.unt.edu/oda>. You may also contact them by phone at 940-565-4323.