Course Description and goals:
This course is an introduction to computational linguistics. Our goals include the following:

- Understand how analysis of language can be done computationally
- Understand why automated analysis of language is so challenging
- Learn core methods in computational linguistics, including both rule-based and statistical methods
- Learn basic Python programming and core natural language processing (NLP) tools using the Natural Language Toolkit (NLTK)

Textbooks:
1. No requirement to purchase texts. Most readings will be posted on Blackboard or made available via digital reserves.
2. Online texts:
   b. Natural Language Processing with Python (NLTK), Steven Bird, Ewan Klein & Edward Loper: A complete new edition of this text is available for free online at http://www.nltk.org/book

   The online version is up-to-date and works with the latest edition of the NLTK. A printed version of the text is only available for the First Edition.

   Important: The printed version of the text is the First Edition. The online version – the third edition - is up-to-date and works with the latest edition of the NLTK. Either version of the book is okay. If you buy the hard copy, you’ll need to occasionally check the online version for small changes. Less than 10% of the book has changed across editions, but some of the changes are important to know about in order to get your code to run.

3. Suggested texts for those interested in learning more: Speech and Language Processing – Daniel Jurafsky & James H. Martin. Second edition, 2009. Pearson Prentice Hall. This is one of the foundational texts for computational linguistics. We will read only selected chapters from this text, and most of those can be found online. HOWEVER, if you anticipate a future in computational linguistics, you will most certainly want to own this book

Class communications
1. Slack: https://ling4140-spring2018.slack.com
   All important communications will happen on the class Slack channel. IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO STAY INFORMED – check Slack at least every weekday. And use Slack to ask questions, discuss the readings, stay in touch with your classmates, share interesting things you find online, etc.
2. Blackboard: All assignments will be posted on Blackboard, with all the details you need to complete them. Unless otherwise specified, please submit all assignments via Blackboard.
3. Course schedule: The course schedule will live in a shared Google spreadsheet, which you can access through the Slack channel.
**Attendance & Participation**
Attendance is REQUIRED, but I’ll give you two free absences, no need to explain, just let me know in advance. If a situation develops such that you will need to miss more class than this, please make an appointment to discuss this with me in person, or email me if in-person isn’t possible.

**Course credit requirements and grading**
1. 25% - Frequent exercises (every week, graded as plus-check-minus)
2. 20% - Midterm exam
3. 30% - Three larger homework assignments
4. 20% - Final group project & presentation
5. 5% - Participation

**Exercises:**
Learning to program is all about practice, practice, practice! The point of the weekly exercises is to give you plenty of opportunities to practice, and for you to get thoroughly comfortable with the process of turning an idea into a bit of Python. Please submit these, even if you know you got things wrong, even if you couldn’t finish everything! You’ll lose some points for being late (see below), but you’ll get plenty of points for the parts you could complete. Also, be sure to copy in results from your interactive sessions, so that I can see what may or may not be going wrong.

**Late assignments:**
For the exercises, you’ll lose 10 points per day that the assignment is late. For larger homework assignments, 5 points per day that the assignment is late. Each assignment is worth 100 points, and as long as there are points remaining to be lost (in other words, up until the 10th day that an exercise is late), it still pays off to submit late assignments!

**Linguistics Colloquia and COI Discovery Series Talks:** The Department of Linguistics and the College of Information each offer a series of talks from experts in the field. This semester we will have a particularly high density of talks from computational linguists. Please plan to attend these if at all possible – I’ll be sure to announce the talks, and they will also appear on the course schedule.

**Class behavior (University policy)**
Student behavior that interferes with an instructor’s ability to conduct a class or other students’ opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at [www.unt.edu/csrr](http://www.unt.edu/csrr)

**Academic Integrity**
Please make sure that all the work you submit in this course is your own!!!
It is your responsibility to know the definitions and consequences of plagiarism, cheating etc. as outlined in the Code of Student Conduct and Discipline, available in the Undergraduate Catalog and online at [http://catalog.unt.edu/content.php?catoid=5&navoid=244#Student_Standards_of_Academic_Integrity](http://catalog.unt.edu/content.php?catoid=5&navoid=244#Student_Standards_of_Academic_Integrity)
Disability Accommodation Statement

“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.”

Students with any special needs or disabilities (including learning disabilities) should inform me of their needs as soon as possible so that proper accommodations can be made.

SEXUAL DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT, & ASSAULT

UNT is committed to providing an environment free of all forms of discrimination and sexual harassment, including sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. If you (or someone you know) has experienced or experiences any of these acts of aggression, please know that you are not alone. The federal Title IX law makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender are Civil Rights offenses. UNT has staff members trained to support you in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, helping with legal protective orders, and more.

UNT’s Dean of Students’ website offers a range of on-campus and off-campus resources to help support survivors, depending on their unique needs: http://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources_0. Renee LeClaire McNamara is UNT’s Student Advocate and she can be reached through e-mail at SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu or by calling the Dean of Students’ office at 940-565-2648. You are not alone. We are here to help.