

WLLC 4900 Special Problems (Linguistic Landscape Research)

Instructor Information

Lawrence Williams

LANG 405F

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Office Hours

[Office hours will be announced when the teaching schedule for Fall 2026 is finalized.]

Course Description, Structure, and Objectives

This is a Special Problems course with the structure of an independent study. During the first week of the semester, the focus of the research project and a tentative schedule of meetings will be set by the instructor and the student.

Each third of the semester will focus on a different objective. All three objectives are linked to linguistic landscape research.

1) Reading (Weeks 1-5) The student will gain knowledge of the linguistic landscape by reading and summarizing key studies related to the research project. [Assignment 1: Reading Journal]

2) Analysis (Weeks 6-10) The student will learn how to analyze linguistic landscape artifacts selected from the professor's corpus of linguistic landscape photos. Tasks during this part of the semester will give the student opportunities to break components down into parts. [Assignment 2: Presentation]

3) Writing (Weeks 11-15) The student will draft and revise different parts of the research project. Tasks during this part of the semester will give the student opportunities to synthesize and evaluate data used for the project. [Assignment 3: Report]

ADA Accommodation Statement

The University of North Texas makes reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. To request accommodations, you must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) by completing an application for services and providing documentation to verify your eligibility each semester. Once your eligibility is confirmed, you may request your letter of accommodation. ODA will then email your faculty a letter of reasonable accommodation, initiating a private discussion about your specific needs in the course.

You can request accommodations at any time, but it's important to provide ODA notice to your faculty as early as possible in the semester to avoid delays in implementation. Keep in mind that you must obtain a new letter of accommodation for each semester and meet with each faculty member before accommodations can be implemented in each class. You are strongly encouraged to meet with faculty regarding your accommodations during office hours or by appointment. Faculty have the authority to ask you to discuss your letter during their designated office hours to protect your privacy. For more information and to access resources that can support your needs, refer to the [Office of Disability Access](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/office-disability-access) website (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/office-disability-access>).

Required/Recommended Materials

There is no required textbook for this course. Required readings will be selected from academic journals that students can access for free through the E-Journals area of the website of UNT Libraries.

This course has digital components. To fully participate in this class, you will need internet access to find/download content on the website of UNT Libraries. If circumstances change, you will be informed of other technical needs to access course content. Information on how to be successful in a digital learning environment can be found at [Learn Anywhere \(https://online.unt.edu/learn\)](https://online.unt.edu/learn).

Course Requirements/Schedule

- Since this is a Special Problems course structured as guided research, there are no classroom lectures.
- Topics will be determined in consultation with the student. The general topic of all readings, discussions, and assignments will be the linguistic landscape as an area of inquiry within sociolinguistics.

Assignment 1 (Due on Friday of Week 5) – Reading Journal (30% of course grade)

Assignment 2 (Due on Friday of Week 10) – Linguistic Landscape Presentation (30% of course grade)

Assignment 3 (Due on Friday of Week 15) – Linguistic Landscape Report (40% of course grade)

There is no final exam for this course.

Students will be notified by Eagle Alert if there is a campus closing that will impact a class, in which case, the calendar is subject to change (see the [Campus Closures Policy](#)).

Evaluating Your Work

Artificial Intelligence

You are allowed to use artificial intelligence (AI) in this course. At the beginning of each assignment, you must provide a statement indicating how—if at all—AI was used for the assignment.

Late Work

Late work will only be accepted if the instructor is notified in advance that there are extenuating circumstances.

Course Grade

A = 90-100

B = 80-89

C = 70-79

D = 60-69

F = 0-59

Attendance and Participation

Since this is a Special Problems course, all meetings will be arranged in consultation with the student. Meetings can be rescheduled if the student contacts the instructor in advance.