Tools and Methods for Lexicography and Linguistic Analysis

LING 4130/5400/6000 | Dr. Sadaf Munshi | University of North Texas | Spring 2023 |
Course meets Tue 5:30pm-8:20pm in BLB 260

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Office Hours: By appointment

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Course Description

This is a lab-based course as opposed to a conventional lecture/seminar based one. The course is aimed at learning the application of technical and computational tools to manage, curate, analyze, and produce a variety of research products from text, video, and audio language data. The students will work on a variety of assignments focusing on different aspects of language documentation, archiving and dissemination of language data with a focus on lexical databases. We will investigate the phonetic, morphological and syntactic aspects of a language and get hands on training in methods of language transcription, data analysis, and presentation formats. We will also discuss issues in orthography development and dissemination.

Prerequisites: LING 3070

Course Requirements and Grading

You will be evaluated on the basis of what you have learned in/outside the class in terms of your ability to use various tools in analyzing a language that you do not speak or have not learned before. You’ll be working on a set of assignments using tools/applications such as Audacity, PRAAT, Fieldworks Language Explorer (FLEX), Saymore and more. The courses topics, assignments and due dates will be posted on canvas (unt.instructure.edu).

You will work on a project aimed at creating a lexical corpus using various tools and methods that we will learn and implement throughout the semester. These include: tools and techniques for data collection, transcription, analysis, translation, annotation as well as data management, preservation, and archiving.

Grading will reflect the following aspects of the project and participation in class:

1. Lexical database: 50% (UG) and 40% (Grads)
   a. Part I due March 20 (25% UGs, 20% Grads)
   b. Part 2 due end of semester (25% UGs, 20% Grads)

2. Data management and metadata creation: 20% (due April 10)

3. Transcription and analysis of assigned text: 20% (due April 24)

4. Attendance, participation and classroom performance: 10% (UG), 20% (grads)
Note for graduate students: All graduate students will be required to make a presentation on a topic related to the course content. This will count towards 10% of the grade and will be incorporated in “Attendance/participation/classroom performance”. Doctoral students will submit a paper along with the lexical database (#1) which will be due end of the semester and discusses various aspects of lexicography commenting on the lexical database. Issues discussed will cover the following topics: orthography issues, etymology, language contact, genetic classification, sound changes and/or contact-induced changes in the language under consideration.

You will be graded for the following aspects of your work:
- Quality of work
- Presentation of the data/assignments
- Completion of the assignments
- Organization of your data/assignments/files, and
- Ability to demonstrate the successful use of the tools/methods introduced in this course.

Attendance Policy
We have a strict attendance policy. If you want full credit, full attendance is an absolute must; only legitimate absences (e.g. an illness, accident, or a death in family, etc.) will be excused. Unexcused absences will impact your performance and reflect negatively towards your grade.

Important: Meeting and communicating with your instructor and/or her TA at regular intervals constitute part of your participation. So, feel free to get in touch.

Course Resources
Course readings and other resources will be available in Canvas.

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Plagiarism Policy
For information on the University’s policies regarding academic integrity and dishonesty, see the UNT Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities, http://www.unt.edu/csrr/. For more information on how to avoid plagiarism and how to use citations, see http://anthropology.unt.edu/resources-writingpaper.php.

Non-Discrimination and Accommodation Policy
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