

LING 4391-058: Independent Study for Returning Travelers Spring 2020

Instructor Contact Information

Professor:	Dr. Laurel Smith Stvan
Faculty Profile:	https://mentis.uta.edu/explore/profile/laurel-stvan
Class Meetings:	Asynchronous, via Canvas and Teams
Stvan Office Hours:	Wed. 3-4 and Thur. 12-1, and other times by appointment
Stvan Office:	Online in Teams
Phone:	(817) 272-9489
Email:	via Canvas or stvan@uta.edu (preferred method!)

Description of Course Content

This independent study course in Linguistics will allow returning study abroad travelers to reflect on their anticipated travel experiences, and expand their expertise in language learning and teaching through assessing and editing Wikipedia articles related to second language teaching and learning and/or the country and culture of the location of your study abroad.

This is an undergraduate-level course with two objectives:

- to provide practice reading and reflecting on linguistic topics related to cross-cultural communication
- to provide practice in assessing and adding academic references to Wikipedia pages related to second language teaching and learning and/or the country and culture of the location of the student's study abroad.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successfully completing this course, students should be able to:

- reflect on and explain basic questions investigated in studying in a foreign country
- describe and illustrate what characteristics make a Wikipedia page reliable

- show that you can find, assess, contribute, and cite verifiable definitions and references in order to build up wiki pages on designated topics in SLA and cross-cultural communication

Required Course Materials

1. You will need to be able to access Canvas for our class section, at <https://uta.instructure.com/>
You are encourage to download the [Canvas app](#) on your phone as it offers a very robust experience and will allow you to access your course work anywhere, and any time.
2. You'll need to set up a free account on Wikipedia and do some online training to learn how to contribute to Wikipedia articles on pragmatics. [https://dashboard.wikiedu.org/courses/Univesity_of_Texas_at_Arlington/Travelers_\(Spring_2020\)?enroll=odtpufnw](https://dashboard.wikiedu.org/courses/Univesity_of_Texas_at_Arlington/Travelers_(Spring_2020)?enroll=odtpufnw) (Links to an external site.)

When setting it up, please include an email address. It will be used only to help you recall your login password if you forget it.

3. We will not be using a textbook for this course.

Descriptions of Major Assignments and Examinations

Introduction Essay	10
Get started on Wikipedia	10
Evaluate a Wiki article	15
Add a citation to an existing article	15
Draft the list of things to add	20
Reflection Essay on the editing process	30
No Final Exam	

Grand Total for all Class Work:	(100 points)
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Grading

The grades for each component will be determined as follows:

A+ 97-100%	A 93-96%	A- 90-92%
B+ 87-89%	B 83-86%	B- 80-82%
C+ 77-79%	C 73-76%	C- 70-72%
D+ 67-69%	D 63-66%	D- 60-62%
F 59 or lower		

Students are expected to keep track of their performance throughout the semester and seek guidance from available sources (including the instructor) if their performance drops below satisfactory levels. See “Student Support Services” below.

Grade Grievances

Any appeal of a grade in this course must follow the procedures and deadlines for grade-related grievances as published in the current University Catalog. See the [Undergraduate Grading Policies](#) and non-grade-related [Student Complaints](#).

Expectations for Out-of-Class Study

Plan ahead for how much time you’ll need this semester. Beyond the time required to attend each class meeting, students enrolled in this course should expect to spend at least **an additional three** hours per week of their own time in course-related activities, including reading required materials, completing assignments, preparing for exams, etc.

Attendance

At The University of Texas at Arlington, taking attendance is not required but attendance is a critical indicator of student success. Each faculty member is free to develop his or her own methods of evaluating students’ academic performance, which includes establishing course-specific policies on attendance. As the instructor of this section, I have established the following attendance policy: Class attendance and participation is **required**. You are responsible for the material presented in class lectures and for any handouts or exercises, or any group work from each class session; for your own benefit, come to class. But if you must miss a lecture, please do the reading and homework, get notes and clarification from another student, and then make an appointment to talk to me as soon as possible about any questions you have on that day’s materials.

Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the day listed in the schedule, and no later. No late assignments will be accepted without instructor approval, though even approved late submissions may receive a reduction in points.

However, while UT Arlington does not require instructors to take attendance in their courses, the U.S. Department of Education requires that the University have a mechanism in place to mark when Federal Student Aid recipients “begin attendance in a course.” UT Arlington instructors will report when students begin attendance in a course as part of the final grading process. Specifically, when assigning a student a grade of F, faculty report must the last date a student attended their class based on evidence such as a test, participation in a class project or presentation, or an engagement online via Canvas. This date is reported to the Department of Education for federal financial aid recipients.

Institution Information

UTA students are encouraged to review the below institutional policies and informational sections and reach out to the specific office with any questions. To view this institutional information, please visit the [Institutional Information](https://resources.uta.edu/provost/course-related-info/institutional-policies.php) page (<https://resources.uta.edu/provost/course-related-info/institutional-policies.php>) which includes the following policies among others:

- Drop Policy
- Disability Accommodations
- Title IX Policy
- Academic Integrity
- Student Feedback Survey
- Final Exam Schedule

Emergency Exit Procedures

Now that we’re completely online, I have no instructions to provide on existing our classroom. Stay safe at home, and wash your hands frequently!

Student Success Programs

UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include [tutoring by appointment](#), [drop-in tutoring](#), [etutoring](#), [supplemental instruction](#), [mentoring](#) (time management, study skills, etc.), [success coaching](#), [TRIO Student Support Services](#), and [student success workshops](#). For additional information, please email resources@uta.edu, or view the [Maverick Resources](#) website.

The IDEAS Center (<https://www.uta.edu/ideas/>) (2nd Floor of Central Library) offers **FREE** [tutoring](#) and [mentoring](#) to all students with a focus on transfer students, sophomores, veterans and others undergoing a transition to UT Arlington. Students can drop in or check the schedule of available peer tutors at www.uta.edu/IDEAS, or call (817) 272-6593.

The English Writing Center (411LIBR)

The Writing Center offers **FREE** tutoring in 15-, 30-, 45-, and 60-minute face-to-face and online sessions to all UTA students on any phase of their UTA coursework. Register and make appointments online at the [Writing Center](https://uta.mywconline.com) (<https://uta.mywconline.com>). Classroom visits, workshops, and specialized services for graduate students and faculty are also available. Please see [Writing Center: OWL](#) for detailed information on all our programs and services.

The Library's 2nd floor [Academic Plaza](http://library.uta.edu/academic-plaza) (<http://library.uta.edu/academic-plaza>) offers students a central hub of support services, including IDEAS Center, University Advising Services, Transfer UTA and various college/school advising hours. Services are available during the [library's hours](#) of operation.

Librarian to Contact

Each academic unit has access to [Librarians by Academic Subject](#) that can assist students with research projects, tutorials on plagiarism and citation references as well as support with databases and course reserves. Our librarian for language-related classes, is **Diane Shepelwich**: dianec@uta.edu

Places at the Library to Ask for Help

- [Academic Plaza Consultation Services](http://library.uta.edu/academic-plaza) (library.uta.edu/academic-plaza)
- [Ask Us](http://ask.uta.edu/) (ask.uta.edu/)
- [Research Coaches](http://libguides.uta.edu/researchcoach) (<http://libguides.uta.edu/researchcoach>)

Library Resources

- [Library Tutorials](http://library.uta.edu/how-to) (library.uta.edu/how-to)
- [Linguistics and TESOL Research Guides](https://libguides.uta.edu/LinguisticsInfo)
(<https://libguides.uta.edu/LinguisticsInfo>)
- [Librarians by Subject](http://library.uta.edu/subject-librarians) (library.uta.edu/subject-librarians)
- [A to Z List of Library Databases](http://libguides.uta.edu/az.php) (libguides.uta.edu/az.php)
- [Reserves](https://uta.summon.serialssolutions.com/#!/course_reserves) (https://uta.summon.serialssolutions.com/#!/course_reserves)
- [Study Room Reservations](http://openroom.uta.edu/) (openroom.uta.edu/)

Auditors

Department of Linguistics and TESOL faculty, staff, and students currently enrolled in a linguistics/TESOL programs may be able to audit a course (with the permission of the professor). Audited courses cannot be used to satisfy any degree or program requirements/electives, nor will any credit (including retroactive) be granted for audited courses.

Tentative Schedule of Assignments

Last Updated—**April 4, 2020**: As the instructor for this course, I reserve the right to adjust this schedule in any way that serves the educational needs of the students enrolled in this course. I'm happy to be lenient about the due dates, please keep me posted if you'll need extensions. Please check Canvas for any updates as the semester progresses. Laurel Stvan.

Mon. Mar. 9 **Spring Break—No classes**
Wed. Mar. 11 **Spring Break—No classes**

Mon. Mar. 16 **Extended Spring Break—No classes**
Wed. Mar. 18 **Extended Spring Break—No classes**

9. Mon. Mar. 23-27 Enrollment in this post-trip class during quarantine

10. Mon. Mar. 30-April 4 Touch base with the instructor

11. Mon. April 6-10 Introduction Essay due April 6
 Get set up in Wikipedia tasks due April 8

12. Mon. Apr.13-17 Evaluate a Wikipedia page due April 10
 Choose a page to edit from the list, due April 12

13. Mon. Apr. 20-24 Add a Citation to an article, due April 18
 Wed. Apr. 24 Create a list of things to add to your page,
 due April 24

14. Mon. Apr. 27-May 1 Keep working on summarizing sources and editing
 your page

15. Mon. May 4-8 Work on moving all your changes to the live page.

Exam Week **No final exam**
 Reflection Essay on editing your article due in
 Canvas Wednesday, May 13 by 11:59 p.m.

Additional Semester Dates to Note

Wed. Feb. 5 Census Date (last day to add into a class)

Fri. April 10 Last day to drop a course (see your advisor by 4 pm)
 dial 911. The non-emergency number 817-272-3381