LING 5380: Field Methods  
Fall 2011 Syllabus and Course Policies

Co-Instructor: Dr. Colleen Fitzgerald  
Office: Hammond Hall 403  
Phone: 817-272-3133  
Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:45 am – 10:45 am and by appointment  
Email: cmfitz@uta.edu

Co-Instructor: Dr. Jason Kandybowicz  
Office: Hammond Hall 126  
Phone: 817-272-3133  
Office Hours: M: 4-5pm, Th: 10:30am-12 and by appointment  
Email: jason.kandybowicz@uta.edu

Course Details
Prerequisites: LING 5320 and LING 5330 or instructor permission  
Section info: LING 5380 Section 001 M 12:00 am – 2:50 pm, Carlisle Hall 102  
Plus additional readings

Shared archiving site for Choctaw field notes, database, etc.  
http://dropbox.com Folder: LING 5380 & 6380 F11 Field Methods (enrolled class members will receive an invitation to the folder; software installation is required)

Course materials will be posted on the course Blackboard site: https://elearn.uta.edu

Description of Course Content:
This course introduces students to linguistic field methods, via hands-on work with a speaker or speakers of a minority/underdocumented language unknown to the class participants. The language for AY 2011-12 will be Choctaw, a severely endangered language in the Muskogean family. We will work to learn as much as possible about this language using a combination of approaches, including structuring elicitations, using texts and developing techniques for analyzing and presenting complex linguistic data. The goal is to learn, describe and document the language's grammar: its phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics and pragmatics. Current best practices in language documentation (data management and archiving, linguistic software, ethical considerations and use of appropriate technology) will be incorporated into the class. As is the practice at most departments that offer rigorous training in language documentation and description, the course will also necessitate additional time commitments (individual/small group meetings with speakers, group meta-discussion of data and readings, etc.). The work with our Choctaw speakers this semester will provide enrolled students with sufficient understanding of the language to contribute a substantial service project in the spring semester with LING 6380. This course will thus lay the groundwork for a community-oriented project by the students. Debriefings are scheduled for Tuesdays at 3:30 pm until 4:50 pm in the Linguistics Lab (Trimble 004). Small group sessions will start at the beginning of November; the time slot is tentatively scheduled from 10 am – 11 am on Mondays (location TBA), but that may change in consultation with our speaker(s). This is the first semester of a two-semester sequence, with enrollment in LING 6380 Field Methods Seminar continuing work on the same language in the spring; students cannot take LING 6380 without first completing LING 5380.
Note: Our work with Choctaw this year is possible due to discussions with the Choctaw Language Program. Our agreement with them requires the vetting and approval of Choctaw data by their Program prior to presenting or publishing anything from this class.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**
- Demonstrate an ability to work with linguistic consultants and communities, with the goal for the second semester continuation of this work to produce a community-driven service project.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the ethical issues that are at play in doing linguistic fieldwork.
- Demonstrate an ability to work with the technological tools for linguistic documentation (FLEex, Elan, etc.).
- Demonstrate knowledge of the best practice principles for tracking workflow, metadata, and archiving.
- Demonstrate adequate understanding of Choctaw grammar.

**Requirements:**

Descriptions of major assignments and examinations:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Phonetics/phonology sketch</td>
<td>November 7 at noon</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morphosyntax sketch</td>
<td>December 12 at noon</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FLEEx database (current backup to be turned in with each of the two grammar sketches)</td>
<td>most current backups on November 7 and again on December 12</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qualitative assessment of elicitations and shared archived field notes</td>
<td>Weekly (to the Dropbox subfolder with your initials)</td>
<td>30%</td>
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**Grading Policy:**

Students must turn in work on time in order to receive full credit. Assignments turned in late will receive a deduction of a letter grade.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-96 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>97-100 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-86 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-72 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73-76 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60-62%</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>63-66%</td>
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<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67-69%</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>59 or lower</td>
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</tbody>
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**Attendance Policy:**

It is impossible to succeed in the course without attending the elicitation sessions. Attendance is required. If circumstances force an absence, students will be required to listen to the entire audio of the class session and turn in a 2-3 page summary of the session in consultation with the instructors.

**Make-up Exams:**

There are no exams for this course.

**Drop Policy:**

Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration
period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance.** Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. Contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships for more information.

**Americans with Disabilities Act:**

The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Any student requiring an accommodation for this course must provide the instructor with official documentation in the form of a letter certified by the staff in the Office for Students with Disabilities, University Hall 102. Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

As a student, your responsibility rests with informing the instructor in writing or email and providing the official documentation from the Office for Students with Disabilities no later than the end of the second week of classes.

**Academic Integrity:**

At The University of Texas at Arlington, academic dishonesty is a completely unacceptable mode of conduct and will not be tolerated in any form, including but not limited to) “cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts” (UT System Regents’ Rule 50101, §2.2). Suspected violations of academic integrity standards will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student’s suspension or expulsion from the University.

While the Department of Linguistics and TESOL hopes to foster a sense of community in which students can enhance their educational experience by conferring with each other about the lectures, readings, and assignments, all work submitted must be the product of each student's own effort. Students are expected to know and honor the standards of academic integrity followed by American universities; ignorance of these standards is not an excuse for committing an act of academic dishonesty (including plagiarism). If you have questions, please speak with your instructor, your academic advisor, or the department chair.

Please be advised that departmental policy requires instructors to formally file charges with the Office of Student Conduct, following procedures as laid out for faculty (http://www.uta.edu/studentaffairs/conduct/faculty.html), as well as notify the department chair of the filing of the charges.

**Student Support Services Available:**

The University of Texas at 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. These resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals to resources for any reason, students may contact the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107 or visit www.uta.edu/resources for more information.

**Final Review Week:**
A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week unless specified in the course syllabus. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week.

**Electronic Communication:**
UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at [http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php](http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php).

**Student Feedback Survey:**
At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as lecture, seminar, or laboratory will be asked to complete an online Student Feedback Survey (SFS) about the course and how it was taught. Instructions on how to access the SFS system will be sent directly to students through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. UT Arlington’s effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback data is required by state law; student participation in the SFS program is voluntary.

**Librarian to Contact:**
Jody Bailey, MA, MLIS,
Central Library, Room 312
jbailey@uta.edu
http://libguides.uta.edu/profile/jodybailey

**Auditors:**
The Department of Linguistics and TESOL has a "no audit" policy. However, with instructor permission, Department of Linguistics and TESOL faculty, staff, and students enrolled in a linguistics/TESON program may be able to sit in on a course. These courses cannot be used to satisfy any degree or program requirements/electives, nor will any credit (including retroactive credit) be granted.