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LING 570.01: Seminar - Issues in Language Documentation

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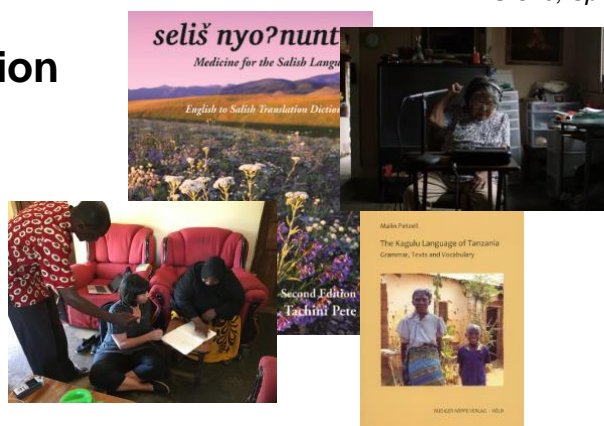
Issues in Language Documentation

Graduate Seminar in Linguistics

LING 570

Spring 2022

SYLLABUS



The University of Montana acknowledges that we are in the aboriginal territories of the Salish and Kalispel people. We honor the path they have always shown us in caring for this place for the generations to come.

Office hours and contact information

Instructor: Leora Bar-el ([she/her](#))



leora.bar-el@umontana.edu



Drop-in office hours (Mountain Time) take place on [Zoom](#). No appointment required.

- Wednesdays 11am-12pm
- Thursdays 4pm-5pm
- Fridays 2pm-3pm



To schedule a meeting at other times, please use my [online scheduler](#). Scheduled meetings must be booked 24hrs in advance. Meetings take place at my [Office Hours Zoom link](#).

Course meeting times

Tuesdays/Thursdays
12:30pm-1:50pm
Liberal Arts Building (LA) 336

Course description

“Language documentation, also known as documentary linguistics, is the subfield of linguistics that deals with creating multipurpose records of languages through audio and video recording of speakers and signers and with annotation, translation, preservation, and distribution of the resulting materials” (Austin 2016). In this course we examine some of the issues, challenges, and controversies relating to the field of language documentation. We explore what it means to engage in language documentation, address the relationship of language documentation to other fields, and examine our roles as linguists and our responsibilities to the field, to communities, to the public. Topics include, but are not limited to: collaboration, interdisciplinarity, resources, training, outcomes, archiving, etc.

Moodle

This course has an [online supplement Moodle site](#) (click on Moodle NetID Login).

Technical Support

UMOnline: 406-243-4999 or toll-free 866-225-1641; [email](#); [website](#)
IT Central: 406-243-4357; [e-mail](#); [website](#)

Course structure

Class meetings will include discussions of assigned readings, presentations, project and paper development, academic training, etc.

Assessment

Participation	25%
Assignments	25%
Documentation project	25%
Paper	25%

- **PARTICIPATION:** This is essential in a graduate seminar. You are expected to attend every class, come to class prepared, having completed the assigned readings, assignments, etc., and actively participate in class discussions on a regular basis.
 - **ASSIGNMENTS:** Throughout the semester, you will complete a variety of assignments based on our readings and related topics, which may include summaries/responses, leading discussions, locating resources, presentations, etc. Some of these assignments may be completed in class and other may be uploaded to Moodle before class. Some assignments may include academic training activities (e.g., abstract writing and review, developing research proposals, etc.).
 - **DOCUMENTATION PROJECT:** You will design or work on a documentation project. We will discuss this in more detail.
 - **PAPER:** You will write a paper on a topic within the field of language documentation. Assignments and/or in-class discussions will be allocated to developing your paper.
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Grading criteria

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

Readings

- There is no main textbook for this course. We will read from a variety of books, journals, online materials, etc. that will be linked to or downloadable from our course Moodle site.
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Mansfield Library

- The [Mansfield Library](#) has a variety of materials (books, journals, databases and other resources) in the collection relevant to the topics of our course.
 - To access Ebooks, you may need to login to your library account and/or create an Ebook Central account for access to some of the available sources.
 - If the library does not own a resource that you are looking for, you can request it through [Interlibrary Loan](#) (ILL). See also the Library's [Research and Find Materials](#) page for additional information.
 - Looking for more help at the library? Explore the resources on the [Mansfield Library website](#), visit the Information Center in person, call, email, or use the chat with a Librarian feature. See the [Contact Us webpage](#) for details.
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Other resources

- There are numerous online resources relevant to the topics of our course. Some links are available on Moodle. Others may be added throughout the semester.
 - You are expected to consult a variety of relevant resources throughout the semester.
 - If you come across articles, links or other resources that our class might benefit from, tell us in class, and I can post it on Moodle where appropriate. If the class finds it beneficial, we can create a Wiki collaborative resource list on Moodle.
 - You are always welcome to come speak to me about advice on materials to consult.
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UM Writing and Public Speaking Center

[The University of Montana Writing and Public Speaking Center](#) provides one-on-one tutoring in-person or online to students from any discipline, and at any level, as they research, write or prepare presentations for any course. Welcoming all students, the center provides a learning environment where students can engage in supportive conversations about their work and receive feedback at any point during their process. To make an appointment or learn more about the Center, visit [their website](#).

Course Policies and Procedures

- **ATTENDANCE:** You are expected to attend every class and be an active participant. Unexcused lateness or absences will result in deductions to your grade. You are responsible for any missed material.
 - **RESPECT YOUR CLASSMATES:** Arrive to class on time. You are responsible for all material covered, including announcements, questions/answers, etc., that may occur at the beginning of class. If you are late, be courteous and avoid being disruptive. If you anticipate being late to class regularly (e.g., due to a work schedule), inform me as soon as possible.
 - **STUDENT CONDUCT CODE:** You are expected to be familiar with the *University of Montana Student Conduct Code*, which is downloadable from the [Community Standards webpage](#). You are also expected to be familiar with the University of Montana Academic Policies and Procedures, which can be found on the [Academic Policies and Procedures webpage](#).
 - **E-MAIL:** Course information will be circulated by e-mail to your UM e-mail address (usually via Moodle, but in some cases, directly to your individual e-mail address). Check your UM e-mail account often. **You are responsible for ensuring that you are able to receive any course information circulated by e-mail.**
 - **TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS:** Using the Moodle learning environment requires your computer to be set up to view webpages and download different file types. More information can be found on the [UMOnline student support website](#). Contact UMOOnline for assistance: 406-243-4999, [UMOnline technical support e-mail address](#). If you are new to the Moodle Learning Environment or would like to access Moodle resources, visit [UMOnline](#), follow the **Moodle NedID Login** link, and navigate to Student News, or the Student Resources tab under Tools for Success.
 - **SUBMITTING GRADED WORK:** Unless otherwise noted, assessed work must be typed and uploaded to Moodle as .pdf or .docx files. UM students get access to a free license of [Microsoft Office 365 ProPlus](#).
 - **COURSE ACCOMMODATION:** The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and the [Office for Disability Equity](#) (ODE; formerly Disability Services for Students DSS). If you anticipate or experience barriers based on disability and you have not yet registered with the ODE, please contact the ODE: 406-243-2243, ode@umontana.edu or visit the [ODE](#) website. If you are already working with the ODE your responsibilities are to contact me as soon as possible to request accommodations. I will work with you and the ODE to discuss reasonable and appropriate accommodations. Retroactive accommodation requests will not be honored. For more information, visit the [ODE](#) website.
 - **CULTURAL AND CEREMONIAL LEAVE** (see [Academic Policies and Procedures](#)) "Cultural or ceremonial leave allows excused absences for cultural, religious, and ceremonial purposes to meet the student's customs and traditions or to participate in related activities. To receive an authorized absence for a cultural, religious or ceremonial event the student or their advisor (proxy) must submit a formal written request to the instructor. This must include a brief description (with inclusive dates) of the cultural event or ceremony and the importance of the student's attendance or participation. Authorization for the absence is subject to approval by the instructor. Appeals may be made to the Chair, Dean or Provost. The excused absence or leave may not exceed five academic calendar days (not including weekends or holidays). Students remain responsible for completion or make-up of assignments as defined in the syllabus, at the discretion of the instructor."
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Academic honesty

- All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University. All students must be familiar with the [Student Conduct Code](#). You are welcome (and encouraged!) to work together with classmates, but you must write up your submitted work on your own.
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Basic Needs

Any student who faces challenges securing food or housing, and believes that this could affect their performance in this course, is urged to contact any or all of the following campuses resources:

- The [UM Food Pantry](#) is located on the first floor of the UC. Emergency food for students can be accessed from there and from satellite self serve cupboards across campus. See the [UM Food Pantry website](#) for hours of operation, locations and services.

- [ASUM Bear Necessities](#) provides support for students living through or on the edge of basic needs insecurity. Contact information, hours of operation and links to additional campus and community resources are available on the [ASUM Bear Necessities website](#).
- [TRiO Student Support Services](#) serves UM students who are low-income, first-generation college students, or have documented disabilities. Services include a textbook loan program, scholarships and financial aid help, academic advising, coaching, and tutoring. Students can check their [eligibility online](#).

COVID-19

This semester, COVID-19 continues to spread in Missoula County. What follows is some important information and resources to help safely and successfully navigate the Spring 2022 semester:

- **Vaccines and boosters** are highly effective at preventing serious covid outcomes. UM continues to recommend that all students and employees to get vaccinated. I am fully vaccinated and have received a booster. COVID-19 vaccines are available free to students on a walk-in basis at the [Health Service Pharmacy in Curry Health Center](#) Monday to Friday 9am-4pm. Call 406-243-5171 if you have any questions. Vaccines are also available through the [Missoula City-County Health Department](#).
- **Masks** are required in indoor public spaces on the UM campus, regardless of vaccination status. Make sure you have a mask (or two) with you when you head to class next week. If you need a mask, they are available at several locations across campus, including most student service offices and the Griz Card office in the UC. Masks must be worn and positioned correctly (masks must cover your nose and mouth) at all times during class. Refusal to wear a mask in the classroom constitutes a violation of the Student Conduct Code. UM does not recommend bandanas, gaiters or masks with exhalation valves as face coverings. For more information, see the [UM mask policy webpage](#).
- **Self-assess your health regularly.** If you feel sick and/or are exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms, do not come to class. Instead, contact the [Curry Health Center](#): 243-4330. If you are required to isolate or quarantine, you will receive support to ensure your continued academic progress.
- **Stay updated.** Read the [UM Coronavirus communications](#) that are circulated by email to campus and regularly refer to information made available on the [UM Coronavirus Information website](#).
- **Some additional resources:**
 - [UM Coronavirus Information website](#)
 - [COVID Operations Plan](#)
 - [Student information](#)
 - [Keep on Learning](#)
 - [Curry Health Center COVID-19 Information](#)

HELP MITIGATE THE SPREAD OF COVID-19.

REMAIN VIGILANT AND PROTECT YOURSELVES AND EACH OTHER INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM.

Proposed schedule (subject to change)

Week	Topics
1	What is language documentation?
2	Collaborative language documentation
3	Interdisciplinarity
4	Language ownership, accessibility
5	Outcomes: grammars
6	Outcomes: dictionaries
7	Archiving
8	From documentation to revitalization (and back)

Week	Topics
9	Training
10	No classes – Spring Break
11	Language documentation in Africa
12	Documenting variation
13	TBD
14	Abstract review
15	TBD
16	Paper presentations

Other topics for consideration

- Data and language documentation
 - Designing a documentation project
 - Orthography development
 - Naming and cataloguing languages; Issues in standardization
 - Language documentation and typology
 - Technology for language documentation
 - Resources (compilation, development, dissemination, assessment, accessibility, etc.)
 - Discourses surrounding language documentation (and revitalization)
 - Focus on: language documentation in a particular country/region
 - Focus on: documentation of specific grammatical features
 - Etc.
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This syllabus is subject to change

Changes will be announced in class and updated on Moodle