# LIN 6932 Advances in Computational Methods for Low-Resource Languages

Spring 2024

Mon 12:50am-1:40pm & Wed 11:45am-1:40pm Room: Turlington 2349



### Course description

The amount of available data remains a key factor determining the performance of natural language processing (NLP) systems. Most languages have only limited data available. This includes endangered languages such as Arapaho as well as major languages such as Persian. In this seminar, we will explore together intriguing directions in current research that address this "low resource" issue. We will look at proven methods such as cross-lingual transfer data augmentation. We will also explore innovative methods such as human-in-the-loop strategies and the possibilities of large language models (LLMs) such as ChatGPT. No previous experience in computational linguistics or NLP is required but will be helpful. Some grasp of linguistics concepts and terminology is recommended.

Instructor: Sarah Moeller Email: smoeller@ufl.org Tel: (352) 294-7449 Office: Turlington 4017 Office hours: Wednesdays 10:30-11:30am & 3-4pm

#### Goals

After the course, students will:

- ...have engaged with significant recent research in low-resource NLP.
- ... be familiar with trends and advances in low-resource NLP.
- ... have undertaken their own research in low-resource NLP.

#### Grade breakdown

Assignments	15%
Readings & Participation	20%
Paper Presentations	15%
Research Project	50%

#### Assignments

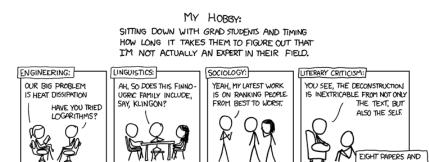
Short assignments are intended to enhance students' engagement with the readings and guide their professional development as researchers.

#### Readings and participation in class discussion.

This course centers on discussing recent peer-reviewed papers. Students should attend every class having already read assigned papers. They should contribute ideas, comments, and questions to discussions and demonstrate critical engagement on the readings. Everyone should ask themselves as they read:

- What in linguistics could contribute to these tools, algorithms, methods?
- What in NLP could advance these resources, technology, methods, or linguistic descriptions?

Students will choose reading roles for each paper. Students must come to class prepared to fulfill their assigned reading roles. Everyone must serve as "Academic Peer Reviewer" at least 6 times during the semester. This person starts the discussion.



SECONDS

### Paper Presentations

48 SECONDS

Students read 1-2 papers individually and then present them to the class. They will give a 10-20-minute overview of the papers which their classmates have not read. Presentations should include slides and handouts as necessary to aid audience's understanding.

4 MINUTES

TWO BOOKS AND THEY

AVEN'T CAUGHT ON.

### Research Project

Students will conduct and present their own research project that will be assessed in three parts: research proposal, research presentation, and research paper. Students will submit a proposal for a research project they wish to conduct related to the topic of this course. During the last weeks of classes, students will present their own research in a clear and engaging way and in a style appropriate for an international academic conference. By the end of the semester, students will submit a paper reporting the motivation, related literature, methods, and outcome of their research.

### The fine print

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY. UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge. On all work submitted for credit at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The Honor Code (https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/ student-conduct-honor-code/) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs.

DIGITAL DISTRACTION. When your device is displaying things irrelevant to class, you distract not only yourself but other students to whom the screen is visible. Research demonstrates that such distraction is detrimental to learning. I expect your full attention and presence, and I expect you to allow the same to others. Violation may result in public reprimand.

CLASSROOM CONDUCT. Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Those who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. I pledge to treat each of you with dignity, respect, and professional courtesy; I expect you to do the same for me and for each other.

ACCOMMODATION POLICIES. If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit your accommodation letter from the Disability Resource Center to me in a timely manner so that your needs can be addressed. Get started with the Disability Resource Center https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/.

RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES A student should inform the instructor of observances of their faith that will conflict with class attendance, tests or examinations, or other class activities *prior* to the class or occurrence of that test or activity. Faculty is obligated to accommodate that particular student's religious observances. See policy details at https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/#religiousholidaystext.

COURSE EVALUATIONS. Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu or via ufl.bluera.com/ufl/.

COLLEGIAL ENVIRONMENT. Students are encouraged to employ critical thinking and to rely on data and verifiable sources to interrogate all assigned readings and subject matter in this course as a way of determining whether they agree with their classmates and/or their instructor. No lesson is intended to espouse, promote, advance, inculcate, or compel a particular feeling, perception, viewpoint or belief. Students are encouraged to share their viewpoints, data, and sources in class and to speak with the instructor or classmates, in class or privately, about any perceived violation of this policy.

GRADING SCHEME. This course follows UF grades and grading policy: https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/

		B+	87-89%	C+	77-79%	D+	67-69%		
А	94-100%	В	83-86%	C	73-76%	D	63-66%	F	0-59%
A-	90-93%	B-	80-82%	C-	70-72%	D-	60-62%		

# Assignments

**5% Citation manager**. Choose, set up, and use a citation manager tool such as those listed here: <u>https://research.com/software/best-academic-writing-software</u>

**10% Annotated Bibliography.** A PDF with consistent formatting that contains at least 10 peerreviewed items with brief annotations (different from your reading notes). The annotations should be relevant to your research interests. Consider: How is this helpful to me? What sections did I read/skim/not understand? What research questions/ideas came to me?

## Research Project Breakdown

**10% Research proposal** with a bibliography of references related to the research proposal. The proposal must be approved to be your term research project. The research must be related to the topic of this course. The proposal must include a research question, an outline of proposed methods, a description of the data or resources to be used. This should be up to one page. Another page will include a bibliography related to the research proposal.

**10% Conference Style Research Presentation**. The last weeks are reserved for you to present your research projects. You should prepare a 15-minute conference-quality presentation and be ready for a 5-10-minute Q/A.

**30% Research and Paper**. You will undertake original research related to the topic of this class and submit a paper. The paper should describe the motivation, related literature, methods, and outcome of your research. It should 6-8 pages long and follow <u>ACL formatting template, policies</u>, and guidelines (i.e. it should have a "Limitations" section, which *does* count toward your total length). The paper is due on the scheduled finals day.

1/8	Introduction		
1/10	AI and Linguistics		
	NLP Evolution: Rule-based, ML, DL	(Johri et al. 2021) Similar but w/pix <u>here</u> Timeline <u>here</u>	
1/15	NO CLASSES		
1/17	NLP Overview	(Khurana et al. 2023)	Citation Manager
	Data Quality	(Hedderich & Klakow 2018) (Xie et al. 2018) <i>or</i> (Al Sharou, Li & Specia 2021)	Start role-playing
1/22	Low-Resource Challenge	(Simons, Thomas & White 2022) <i>or</i> (Joshi et al. 2020) <i>or</i> (Blasi, Anastasopoulos & Neubig 2021)	
1/24	Model Engineering	(Wu, Cotterell & Hulden 2021)	

## Schedule

	Low Resource Methods Overview	(Hedderich et al. 2021) Condensed version w/pix <u>here</u>	
1/29	Joint Learning,	(Hakimi Parizi & Cook 2021) (Abudouwaili et al. 2023)	Choose LLM papers
1/31	Transfer Learning, and Multilingual Models	(Wang, Ruder & Neubig 2022) (Adelani et al. 2022) <i>or</i> (Kondratyuk & Straka 2019)	
2/5		(Ramponi 2023)	
2/8	LLMs & Low-Resource Languages	Student Presentations. Choose one: (Luukkonen et al. 2023; Purkayastha et al. 2023; Winata et al. 2021; Zhang et al. 2023; Koto et al. 2023; Gehrmann et al. 2022)	
2/12	Data Augmentation	(Feng et al. 2021)	Annotated Bibliography
2/14	Data Augmentation: Synthesis & Hallucination	(Bartelds, Jurafsky & Wieling 2023) (Samir & Silfverberg 2023)	
2/19	Guest: Zoey Liu		
2/21	Leveraging Resources	(McCarthy et al. 2018) <i>or</i> (Beemer et al. 2020) (Christianson, Duncan & Onyshkevych 2018)	
2/26	Unmen in the Leen 9	(Wu et al. 2022)	
2/28	Human-in-the-Loop & Active Learning	(Gessler, Levine & Zeldes 2022) (Dossou et al. 2022)	
3/4	Human in the Leon 9	(Kartchner et al. 2022)	Research Proposal
3/6	Human-in-the-Loop & Active Learning	(Liu, Guo & Mahmud 2021) (Ikhwantri et al. 2018)	
		BREAK	
3/21	ComputEL-7	Attend online or in person	
3/22			
3/25	Student's Choice	Student Presentations.	
3/27			
4/1	Linguistically Informed	(Eskander, Klavans & Muresan 2019)	
4/3	NLP	(Beemer et al. 2020) (Morita & Iwakura 2019)	
4/8	Dealing with Realities	(Millour & Fort 2019)	
4/10	Linguistically Informed NLP	(Silva & Amarathunga 2019) (Gungor, Gungor & Uskudarli 2019)	

4/15	NLP Ethics & Minority Communities	(Caselli et al. 2021) (Liu et al. 2022) <i>or</i> (Schwartz 2022)	
4/17	The Future of Linguistics in the Age of AI	(McShane & Nirenburg 2021) sections 1.1, pages 7-9, skim 1.4.1-4, 1.6.3, 1.6.6, 1.6.7, 1.6.11, 1.6.12	
4/22	Research Presentations		
4/24	Research Fresentations		

# Readings

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