

LANGUAGE: HUMANITIES PERSPECTIVE

LANGUAGE IN USE

LIN 2000

Spring 2012

Instructor: Sarah Howard

Office:

Office hours:

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Course description

This course is designed to introduce undergraduate students to a variety of topics of current interest in linguistics. It does not require prior linguistic training; it takes a descriptive, theoretically-neutral perspective in introducing linguistic concepts as needed for an understanding of the required readings for the course and, in general, of the role of language in society. As an introduction to language in use, it covers areas such as languages, dialects, and accents; language endangerment, language change over time and space; the relationship between language, culture, and thought; language and the media, and language and literature.

Course materials

- Required Textbook: *The Five-Minute Linguist: Bite-sized Essays on Language and Languages* - Edited by E.M. Rickerson and Barry Hilton (R & H) Equinox Publishing (available at the University of Florida Bookstore)
- Required Course Packet: available at Orange and Blue Textbooks (OBT)
- Optional References: *The Five-Minute Linguist* by Rick Rickerson (available on iTunes U)
- Any other supplemental resources will be provided by the instructor

Course Objectives

- (1) Knowledge of the key linguistic concepts embedded in the readings for the course, sufficient to evaluate relevant issues related to language use in society
- (2) Knowledge of principles and terminology of the subject areas
- (3) An understanding of the macro processes in society that affect human language use
- (4) A basic understanding of relevant underlying theories and methodologies used by researchers in the topic areas
- (5) Practical knowledge of the topic areas and issues relevant to the discipline in the real world
- (6) The ability to communicate knowledge of the focal areas in a variety of professional specializations.

Tentative schedule: *(This schedule is subject to change according to time and or material. Students will be updated as needed)*

Week	Day	Topic	Assignments
1	Jan. 8	Introduction	Introduction
	Jan. 10 - HW 1 due		R&H 1-2, 16
2	Jan. 15	Defining Language	R&H 3-4;
	Jan. 17 – Quiz 1		R&H 9 -10
3	Jan. 22	Speaking vs. Writing	R&H 11-12;
	Jan. 24		R&H 26, 29
4	Jan. 29 – HW 2 due	Grammar	R&H 13, 14
	Jan. 31 - Quiz 2		R&H 14 (review), 19
5	Feb. 5	Language Change	R&H 5-7;
	Feb. 7		R&H 8, 51, 20;
6	Feb. 12 – Quiz 3		R&H 27-28, 53
	Feb. 14 - HW 3 due	Language Learning	R&H 15, 18, 25
7	Feb. 19	Bilingualism	R&H 17, 22 - 23;
	Feb. 21		R&H 21, 31-32
8	Feb. 26 – TOPICS DUE	Foreign Language Learning	R&H 33-34, R&H 36;
	Feb. 28 – Quiz 4		R&H 35, 37
9	March 2-9	Spring Break – NO CLASS	
10	March 12	Languages Abroad	R&H 54 - 56
	March 14		R&H 57 - 59
11	March 19		R&H 60 - 62
	March 21 – HW 4 due		R&H 63-65
12	March 26 – Quiz 5	Language in the United States	R&H 38-39;
	March 28 – HW 5 due		R&H 40, 42, 52
13	April 2	Dialects	R&H 30, 44
	April 4 – Quiz 6		R&H 41, 43
14	April 9	What Can I Do With Linguistics?	R&H 45, 49 R&H 46-48 R&H 50
	April 11 – Quiz 7		R&H 46-48, 50

15	April 16-18 HW 6 due	Presentations	
16	April 23 - 25	Presentations	
17	April 30 – 2	FINALS WEEK	

Group activities and class discussions

This course is heavily based on group work and group discussions. It is expected that the assigned reading will be read thoroughly by the student before coming to class. It is also expected that the students participate actively in group and class discussions. Failure to do so will result in loss of daily participation points.

Prerequisites

No Prerequisite. This is a General Education Humanities course.

Assignments

- (1) For most class meetings, there is an assigned reading and/or an activity to prepare for the class session, such as student-prepared summaries of the assigned readings. Rather than have you read a lot, I would prefer to emphasize the learning that takes place in class through pair and small group activities and problem solving tasks that prepare you for class discussion. These activities or tasks will occur at the teacher's discretion and will sometimes be collected for grading (I will let you know in advance).
- (2) Up to six homework assignments will be assigned that are related directly to the assigned readings and will be assigned throughout the semester. They may require searching for evidence to support a point of view on an issue being discussed in class, interviewing a speaker of a particular variety of English or of another language, or writing a short report on a newspaper article or a relevant film. Students could also suggest topics for a task.
- (3) There will be short (approximately twenty minutes or less) quizzes based on the assigned readings and class discussion. These quizzes may be scheduled or unscheduled and will occur throughout the semester
- (4) Final Project – In lieu of exams, there is a final project, which will consist of a 5-10 page literature review and brief 5-7 minute presentation. This will be discussed more in detail later in the semester.
- (5) Note that there will be NO opportunities to obtain extra credit. Any late/missed homework assignments and/or quizzes must be discussed in advance with the instructor for rescheduling.

Grading criteria

1. Attendance and Participation----- 20%
2. Homework----- 25%

- 3. Quizzes----- 30%
- 4. Final Presentation----- 25%
 - a. Oral Presentation-- 10%
 - b. Final Paper ----- 15%

Associated letter grades

A	93 – 100	B-	80 – 82	D+	67 – 69
A-	89 – 92	C+	77 – 79	D	63 – 66
B+	86 – 88	C	73 – 76	D-	60 – 62
B	83 – 85	C-	70 – 72	E	< 60

Make-up/Late work

There are no make-up exams or submission of late works. Requests for exceptions in case of illness, religious obligations, or emergencies should be made before the due date.

Note on Attendance and Participation

Attendance is required. A lot of learning happens during the class sessions between and among students and teachers. However, if you have to be absent for personal reasons, no more than three absences are allowed for this course. In this case any assigned homework must be returned on time. If you have more than three hours unexcused absence, then your final grade will be lowered. Remember, it is impossible to participate if you are not in class.

Classroom demeanor

Students are expected to arrive for class on time. A total of three late arrivals is equivalent to one unexcused absence. Laptops are not allowed for regular classroom use. Cell phones should be turned off during class time. **Under no circumstances is text messaging allowed** – students who text during class will lose participation points for the day. Mutual respect for all members of the class is expected at all times. Talking during class time or any other general pattern of disturbing others’ opportunities to learn will not be tolerated.

Academic honesty

Any evidence of cheating on assignments and/or exams will result in a failing grade for the course. Where applicable, students must clearly note all sources of information and appropriately reference use of all outside sources, for all forms of media used in work for the course. Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Please see the UF website for the policy regarding plagiarism and academic honesty in general: see “Academic Honesty” or <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/procedures/academicguide.php>

Students with disabilities

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation. Students who believe they may qualify for accommodations should contact the Dean of Students Office: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/current.php> (001 Building 0020 (Reid Hall); 392-8565)

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with me when you need help of any sort. You can email me, visit me at my office hours or make an appointment to see me.