

LANGUAGE: HUMANITIES PERSPECTIVE

LANGUAGE IN USE

LIN 2000
Section 1700

Spring 2015

Instructor: Yi-An Chen

Office: Turlington 4118

Office hours: Tue & Thu 9:35 – 10:20; Thu 1:50 – 2:35 or by appointment

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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 or knowledge of foreign language(s); 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 (OBT)
- 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.

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 four homework assignments will be given 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, or writing a short reflection paper on an article or a relevant film.
- (3) Please submit your homework in hard copy at the beginning of class on due date. Any assignment not completed on time will impact your grade (any assignment handed in late will be marked off 20 points per day). Any assignment handed in after four days late will not be accepted.
- (4) There will be short (approximately ten minutes or less) quizzes based on the assigned readings and class discussion. Four of these quizzes are scheduled. Any missed quizzes must be discussed in advance with the instructor for rescheduling.
- (5) Tests – There will be two tests given over the course of the semester. There will be a study guide provided for each test. There are no make-up tests.
- (6) Panel Discussion – Students will choose and lead the discussion for topics in class. The work of panel discussion includes presenting point of view in the topics and related readings, and conducting class discussions by asking questions and making comments. Student performance will be evaluated individually. This grade will be based partly on the quality of the outline and partly on the actual performance of leading the discussion. Each panel discussion should take at least 35 minutes.
- (7) There will be one individual final presentation. The dates of presentation are scheduled.

- (8) Final Project – The final project will consist of a 5-7 page paper. This will be discussed more in detail later in the semester.

Grading criteria

1. Attendance and Participation-----10%
2. Panel Discussion-----15%
3. Homework-----20%
4. Quizzes-----16%
5. Tests -----24%
6. Final Project -----15%

Associated letter grades

A	93 – 100	B-	80 – 82.9	D+	67 – 69.9
A-	89 – 92.9	C+	77 – 79.9	D	63 – 66.9
B+	86 – 88.9	C	73 – 76.9	D-	60 – 62.9
B	83 – 85.9	C-	70 – 72.9	E	< 60

Make-up

There are no make-up tests. 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. I will check attendance most days. 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 unexcused absences are allowed for this course. If you have more than three hours unexcused absence, then your final grade will be lowered one point per additional absence. Remember, it is impossible to participate if you are not in class. Students are expected to arrive for class on time. A total of three late arrivals are equivalent to one unexcused absence.

Classroom demeanor

Cell phones should be silenced 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.



Course Schedule:

This schedule is subject to change according to class needs. Please see Sakai for the most up-to-date schedule.

(R & H: The 5-Minute Linguist; OBT: Yellow Book; SR: Supplemental Reading)

Week	Day	Topic	Assignments
1	Jan. 6	Introduction to Course	
	Jan. 8	Naming and Identity What is Language?	SR: Man, Tan R & H: 1, 2
2	Jan. 13	What is Language?	R & H: 3, 4
	Jan. 15	PANEL 1 What is Language?	R & H: 5, 6, 9 SR: Andersson HW 1 DUE
3	Jan. 20	Quiz 1 Language Change	R & H: 8 OBT: <i>The Ever-whirling Wheel</i>
	Jan. 22	PANEL 2 Language Change Pidgin and Creole	R & H: 51 SR: Aitchison R & H: 10 OBT: <i>Topics from the Tropics</i>
4	Jan. 27	Language Death	R & H: 44
	Jan. 29	Language and Grammar	R & H: 13, 14, 19 SR: (Winifred) Bauer HW 2 DUE
5	Feb. 3	Quiz 2 Language and Grammar	R & H: 16 SR: (Laurie) Bauer
	Feb. 5	Language Acquisition	R & H: 15, 25 Test 1 Review
6	Feb. 10	Test 1	
	Feb. 12	Language Acquisition	Language & Brain Development Video: <i>The Secrets of the Wild Child</i>
7	Feb. 17	Bilingualism	R & H: 17, 22, 32
	Feb. 19	Quiz 3 PANEL 3 Bilingualism	R & H: 38, 39 OBT: <i>Bilingual Education in the US</i>
8	Feb. 24	Writing Systems	R & H: 11, 12
	Feb. 26	Selected Topic	TBA Video: Speaking in

			Tongues
9	Mar. 3	NO CLASS – Spring Break	
	Mar. 5	NO CLASS – Spring Break	
10	Mar. 10	Spoken Language	R & H: 31 SR: Esling HW 3 DUE
	Mar. 12	PANEL 4 Spoken Language	OBT: <i>Narratives; Stories, anecdotes, jokes</i> OBT: <i>The Problem Is the Process; The Workings of Conversational Style</i>
11	Mar. 17	Test 2 Review	
	Mar. 19	Test 2	
12	Mar. 24	Language and Gender	OBT: <i>The Construction of Gender in a Teen Magazine</i>
	Mar. 26	PANEL 5 Language and Gender	SR: Cameron, Wetzel, Holmes
13	Mar. 31	Language Learning	R & H: 23, 24
	Apr. 2	PANEL 6 Language Learning	R & H: 33, 34, 36 R & H: 61, 62
14	Apr. 7	Careers in Linguistics	R & H: 45, 47 HW 4 DUE
	Apr. 9	Quiz 4 Selected Topic	TBA
15	Apr. 14	Presentation Workshop	TBA
	Apr. 16	PRESENTATIONS	
16	Apr. 21	PRESENTATIONS	
	Apr. 23	NO CLASS	
17	Apr. 25 – May. 1	FINALS WEEK Final Project DUE on April 28	