

LIN 2000
LANGUAGE: HUMANITIES PERSPECTIVE
LANGUAGE IN USE

Instructor

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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 Objectives

- 1) a knowledge of key linguistic concepts embedded in the readings for the course, sufficient to evaluate relevant issues related to language use in society;
- 2) a 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) a practical knowledge of the topic areas and issues that confront the discipline in the real world; and
- 6) the ability to communicate knowledge of the focal areas in a variety of professional specializations.

Course materials

Required Textbook: available at the University of Florida Bookstore

The Five-Minute Linguist: Bite-sized Essays on Language and Languages

Edited by E.M. Rickerson and Barry Hilton (R & H)

Equinox Publishing

Required Course Packet: available at Orange and Blue Textbooks (OBT)

Tentative schedule: this is an estimate plan that may change according to time and or material.

Week	Lecture Dates	TOPICS	ASSIGNMENTS
1	7 January	Course overview: Intro	
	9 January	Sub-fields of Linguistics	
	11 January	Why Language?	R&H- ch 1,2
2	14 January	Language endangerment (LE): Vanishing cultures	Wade Davis: pg 1-10
	16 January	Language endangerment	R&H-ch 24,25
	18 January	The Linguists (video)	
3	21 January	MLK Jr. Day	No class
	23 January	LE: language death & disappearance	Wurm-pg 11-20
	25 January	Quiz 1	
4	28 January	Language change over time and space	R & H-ch 4, 5, 6 HW 1 due today
	30 January	Language change over time and space: The ever-whirling wheel	Aitchison-pg 21-30 Discussion questions
	1 February	Language change over time and space	R & H-ch 7, 48, 52
5	4 February	Dialects and accents	R & H 3, 8
	6 February	Dialects and accents	R & H 26, 27, 41
	8 February	Bilingualism	Introduction
6	11 February	Bilingualism	R & H 13, 15, 19
	13 February	Bilingualism	R & H 20, 29
	15 February	Bilingual education in the United States	Ovando-pg 57-80 Discussion questions
7	18 February	Bilingualism	R&H 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37
	20 February	Quiz 2	
	22 February	Language & culture in everyday life: language & thought	R & H 16 HW 2 due today
8	25 February	Language & culture: language & thought	R & H 17, 18, 21
	27 February	Midterm: Test 1	
	1 March	Language & culture: linguistics & conversational style	Tannen-pg 31-56 Discussion questions
9	2-9 March	Spring break	
10	11 March	Language & culture: linguistics & conversational style	Tannen-pg 31-56
	13 March	Language & culture: linguistics & conversational style	Tannen-pg 31-56
	15 March	Language & culture in everyday life: Narratives / Stories, anecdotes, jokes	Macaulay pg 101-104 McCarthy pg 105-107 Discussion Qs

11	18 March	Varieties of American English: Chicano English	Fought-pg 97-100
	20 March	Varieties of American English: Cajun & Charleston	R & H 38 Baranowski-pg 81-84 HW 3 due today
	22 March	American tongues	Video
12	25 March	Quiz 3	
	27 March	Varieties of American English: Gullah	R&H 40
	29 March	Varieties of American English: New York Tawk	Newman-pg 85-88 Presentation Topic
13	1 April	Varieties of American English: California English	Eckert and Denton-pg 89-92
	3 April	Varieties of American English: African American	Wolfram and Torbert-pg 93-96
	5 April	Varieties of American English	
14	8 April	The language you cry in (video)	
	10 April	Language & media	Video & group discussion HW 4 due today
	12 April	Quiz 4	
15	15 April	Presentations	
	17 April	Presentations	
	19 April	Presentations	
16	22 April	Conclusion & Exam Review	
	24 April	Final: Test 2	

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.

Prerequisites

No Prerequisite. This is a General Education Humanities course.

Assignments

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).

Two or three tasks of the homework assignments will be 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.

There will be four short (approximately twenty minute) scheduled quizzes based on the assigned readings and class discussion.

There will be 2 exams, again based on the assigned readings and class discussions.

You will be asked to choose an article related to any of the topics we have discussed in class and one which is of interest to you. You need to prepare a summary and present it to the class during the last week of the semester. You will receive more explanation and guidance later in the semester.

*Note that there will be NO opportunities to obtain extra credit. Any late or missed assignments must be discussed in advance with the teacher.

Course website

Course website on LSS: <http://lss.at.ufl.edu/>. You'll find the syllabus there. I will also post Homework assignments, questions discussions and PowerPoint slides as the semester progresses. Grades will also be posted on the website. You are responsible for checking the site regularly and informing me *promptly* if there is an issue with your grade.

Grading

Grades are based on the following weights for class requirements:

Attendance and participation	10 %
Homework	10%
Quizzes	20%
Midterm exam	20%
Final Test	25%
Presentation	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

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.

Classroom demeanor

Students are expected to arrive for class on time; a consistent pattern of lateness will result in a lower final grade for the course. Laptops are not allowed for regular classroom use. Cell phones should be turned off during class time. Under no circumstances is text messaging allowed –if you text message you will be asked to leave the classroom and your final grade will be lowered by (2%). 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.