

LIN 2000
LANGUAGE: HUMANITIES PERSPECTIVE
LANGUAGE IN USE

Instructor: Souad Kheder
Office: 4118 Turlington Hall
Class meeting: T: 4; R: 4-5 in AND 32.
Office hours: **T: 2:00-3:00 pm**
R: 2:00- 3:30 pm, and 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; 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;
- 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	TOPICS	ASSIGNMENTS
1	22 August	Course overview: Introduction Sub-fields of Linguistics	
2	27 August	Sub-fields of Linguistics	
	29 August	Why Language? Language endangerment (LE): Vanishing cultures	R&H- ch 1,2 Wade Davis: pg 1-10
3	3 September	Language endangerment (LE): Vanishing cultures	R&H-ch 24,25
	5 September	The Linguists LE: language death & Disappearance	Video Wurm-pg 11-20
4	10 September	Quiz 1	
	12 September	Language change over time and space: The ever-whirling wheel	R & H-ch 4, 5, 6 Aitchison-pg 21-30 Discussion questions HW 1 due today
5	17 September	Language change over time and space:	R & H-ch 7, 48, 52
	19 September	Dialects and accents	R & H-ch 3, 8 R & H- ch 26, 27, 41
6	24 September	Bilingualism	Introduction
	26 September	Bilingualism	R & H-ch 13, 15, 19 R & H-ch 20, 29
7	1 October	Bilingual education in the United States	Ovando-pg 57-80 Discussion questions
	3 October	Bilingualism Language & culture in everyday life: language & thought	R&H-ch 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37 R & H-ch 16
8	8 October	Quiz 2	HW 2 due today
	10 October	Language & culture: language & thought Linguistics & conversational style	R & H-ch 17, 18, 21 Tannen-pg 31-56 Discussion questions
9	15 October	Language & culture: linguistics & conversational style	Tannen-pg 31-56

	17 October	Language & culture: linguistics & conversational style Midterm: Test 1	Tannen-pg 31-56
10	22 October	Language & culture: Narratives/Stories, anecdotes, jokes	Macaulay pg 101-104 Discussion Qs
	24 October	Language & culture: Narratives/Stories,... Varieties of American English: Chicano English	McCarthy pg 105-107 Discussion Qs Fought-pg 97-100
11	29 October	Varieties of American English: Cajun & Charleston	R & H 38 Baranowski-pg 81-84 HW 3 due today
	31 October	Varieties of American English: Gullah Quiz 3	R&H 40 Presentation Topic
12	5 November	Varieties of American English: New York Tawk	Newman-pg 85-88
	7 November	Varieties of American English: California English African American	Eckert and Denton-pg 89-92 Wolfram and Torbert-pg 93-96
13	12 November	The language you cry in	Video
	14 November	The language you cry in	Video Group discussion
14	19 November	Quiz 4 Presentations	HW 4 due today
	21 November	Presentations	
15	26 November	Presentations Review for final	
	27-30 NOV	Thanksgiving Break	
16	3 December	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).

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, or watch a short report or a video and answer questions accordingly.

There will be four short (approximately thirty 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 handout summary/PowerPoint 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.