

**LANGUAGE: HUMANITIES PERSPECTIVE**  
***LANGUAGE IN USE***

**LIN 2000 – 3598/7750**

**Fall 2013**

**Room: AND 0021**

**Instructor:** Sarah Howard

**Office:** Turlington 4118

**Office hours:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Period (9:35am) MWF

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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)
- All 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.)

<b>Week</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Assignments</b>
1	Aug. 21	Syllabus and Introduction	
	Aug. 23	Introduction	<b>DUE: HW 1</b> Read: Introduction, Chapter 1 Supplemental Reading (SR) 1
2	Aug. 26	What is Language?	Chapters 2, 3
		What is Language?	Chapters 26, 28, 49
	Aug. 28	<b>Quiz 1</b> What is Language?	Chapter 8, 56 SR 2
	Aug. 30	What is Language?	Chapter 14, 55 SR 3 & 8
3	Sept. 2	<b>NO CLASS</b>	
	Sept. 4	Written Language	Chapters 9 & 10
	Sept. 6	Spoken Language	<i>The Problem is the Process</i> p. 32-38 <i>The Workings of Conversational Style</i> p. 38 - 46
4	Sept. 9	Spoken Language	Chapters 23, 28 <i>Conversational Signals</i> p. 47 – 55
	Sept. 11	Spoken Language	<b>DUE: HW 2</b> <i>Narratives</i> p.101 – 104 <i>Stories, anecdotes, jokes</i> p.105 - 107

	Sept. 13	<b>Quiz 2</b> Universal Grammar	Chapters 11 & 12
5	Sept. 16	Universal Grammar	Chapter 17 SR 4
	Sept. 18	<b>Test 1 REVIEW</b>	
	Sept. 20	<b>TEST 1</b>	
6	Sept. 23	First Language Acquisition	Ch. 13 SR 5 & 6 Video: <i>A Child's Guide to Language</i>
	Sept. 25	First Language Acquisition	Ch. 22 Video: <i>The Secrets of the Wild Child</i>
	Sept. 27	First Language Acquisition	VIDEO
7	Sept. 30	<b>Quiz 3</b> Bilingualism	<b>DUE: HW 3</b> Chapter 15, 20 Video: <i>The Linguistic Genius of Babies</i>
	Oct. 2	Bilingualism	Chapters 29, 35
	Oct. 4	Foreign Language Learning	Chapters 19, 27, 30
8	Oct. 7	FLL	Chapters 31, 33
	Oct. 9	<b>Quiz 4</b> FLL	<i>Bilingual Education in the United States</i> p. 57 - 68
	Oct. 11	FLL	<i>Bilingual Education in the United States</i> p. 68- 80
9	Oct. 14	FLL	<b>Due: HW 4</b> Chapters 32 & 34
	Oct 16	FLL	Chapters 57, 58

	Oct. 18	<b>Test 2 Review</b>	
10	Oct. 21	<b>Test 2</b>	
	Oct. 23	Language Change	Chapters 4, 5 & 6
	Oct. 25	Language Change	Chapters 7, 18, 48
11	Oct. 28	Language Change	Chapters <i>The ever-whirling wheel</i> p. 21 - 29
	Oct. 30	Language Change	Chapters 24, 25, 50
	Nov. 1	<b>Quiz 5</b> Language Change	Chapter 41 <i>Language death and disappearance</i> p. 11- 19
12	Nov. 4	Language Change	<b>Due: HW 5</b> Chapters 51, 52
			Chapter 37 <i>Talkin' with mi Gente</i> p. 97 - 100
	Nov. 6	Language Change	Chapters 39, 54 SR 7
	Nov. 8	<b>Homecoming - No Class</b>	
13	Nov. 11	<b>Veteran's Day – No Class</b>	
	Nov. 13	Language Change	Chapter 40 <i>When Linguistic Worlds Collide</i> p. 93 - 97
	Nov. 15	Language Change	<i>Doing the Charleston</i> p. 81 – 87 <i>Getting Real in the Golden State</i> p. 89 - 91
14	Nov. 18	Careers in Linguistics	Chapters 42, 46

	Nov. 20	Careers in Linguistics	Chapters 43 - 44
	Nov. 22	Careers in Linguistics	Chapters 45, 47
15	Nov. 25		<b>Due: HW 6</b>
	Nov. 27	<b>Thanksgiving Break – No Class</b>	
	Nov. 30	<b>Thanksgiving Break – No Class</b>	
16	Dec. 2	<b>Test 3 review</b>	
	Dec. 4	<b>Test 3</b>	

### **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. 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 can also suggest topics for a task.
- (3) There will be short (approximately ten minutes or less) quizzes based on the assigned readings and class discussion. Seven of these quizzes are scheduled and at least three will be given at the teacher's discretion.
- (4) Tests – There will be three tests given over the course of the semester. There will be a study guide provided for each test. Tests will be a combination of short answer and essay questions.
- (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 ----- 20%
4. Tests ----- 35%
  - a. Test 1 – 10%
  - b. Test 2 – 10 %
  - c. Test 3 – 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. Students are expected to arrive for class on time. A total of three late arrivals is equivalent to one unexcused absence.

## Classroom demeanor

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.