

Spring 2022

January 5th – April 29th

Lecture Information

Lecture: MWF 6th Period (12:50 – 1:40 pm)

Instructor: R. Khari Clemmons

Building and Room Number: TUR 2350

Office and Office Hours: by appointment

Email: bankole68@ufl.edu

Required Materials

- 1.) *Language in the USA: Themes for the Twenty-first Century*. 2004. Edited by Edward Finegan and John R. Rickford. Cambridge: CUP.

(Supplementary Materials will either be provided or accessible online)

Course Description

General Education Objectives and Learning Outcomes:

This course is a Social Science (S) and Diversity (D) subject area course. The Social and Behavioral Sciences provide instruction in the key themes, principles and terminology of a social and behavioral science discipline of your choice. These courses focus on the history, underlying theory and/or methodologies used in that discipline. You will learn to identify, describe and explain social institutions, structures and processes. **These courses emphasize the effective application of accepted problem-solving techniques as well as the evaluation of opinions and outcomes.** In Diversity courses, students examine the historical processes and contemporary experiences characterizing social and cultural differences within the United States. Students engage with diversity as a dynamic concept related to human differences and their intersections, such as (but not limited to) race, gender identity, class, ethnicity, religion, age, sexual orientation, and (dis)abilities. **Students critically analyze and evaluate how social inequities are constructed and affect the opportunities and constraints across the US population. Students analyze and reflect on the ways in which cultures and beliefs mediate their own and other people's understandings of themselves and an increasingly diverse U.S. society.**

These general education objectives will be accomplished through:

- 1.) **Evaluating** the landscape of linguistic diversity in the United States, including multilingualism, regional dialects, socially-defined dialects and Native American languages, among others.
- 2.) **Critically discussing** the role language plays in defining or reinforcing social classes and personal biases.
- 3.) **Learning** basic tools of linguistic analysis and dialectology.
- 4.) **Discussion** of concepts in language ideology, language policy and language planning.
- 5.) **Applying these principles** to students' own language varieties and communities to evaluate their own attitudes about language.

At the end of this course, students will be expected to have achieved the following learning outcomes in content, communication and critical thinking:

- **Content: Students demonstrate competence** in the terminology, concepts, theories and methodologies used within the discipline. Students will acquire a basic knowledge of linguistic description and analysis and be able to discuss the history and present reality of linguistic diversity in the United States as well as key concepts in language ideology, policy and planning. Achievement of this learning outcome will be assessed through reading responses, three quizzes, a dialect paper, a reflection paper, and a final paper.
- **Communication: Students communicate knowledge, ideas and reasoning clearly and effectively in written and oral forms appropriate to the discipline.** Students will be expected to participate in and spur discussion during class time. In addition, students must participate in a group project to linguistically analyze a language other than English spoken in the U.S. Each group must prepare a presentation of their results to the class, including discussion of distinctive linguistic features, historical development, and sociolinguistic factors such as associated social status and stigmas. Achievement of this learning outcome will be assessed through student discussions during class time, as well as through an assessment rubric for their group presentations.
- **Critical Thinking: Students analyze information carefully and logically from multiple perspectives, using discipline-specific methods, and develop reasoned solutions to problems. Students will critically discuss issues in language policy, planning and ideology.** Achievement of this learning outcome will be assessed by reading responses, a dialect paper, a response paper and a final paper as well as through class discussion time.

Course Credit Requirements and Grading

Component	Weight
Reading Responses	30%
3 Quizzes	15% (5% each)
Group Presentation	15%
Reflection Paper	10%
Final Exam	30%
TOTAL	100%

Assignment Descriptions

Class Participation: You are expected to attend class having completed all assigned readings and homework, to participate in class activities and to contribute to class discussions. If you are using your laptop, please do not be a distraction to your fellow classmates.

Reading Responses: You will be asked to post a 200-word response based on each reading.

Quizzes: You will be given three (3) quizzes that will be held during class time in a location to be announced.

Group Presentation: You, along with other members of your group, will present on one speech community found in the United States using PowerPoint, supplemented with examples and graphics (video, sound files, images, news articles, etc.). Your group will also need to provide 2-3 discussion questions at the end of the presentation. The total time of your presentation, including the discussion at the end, should be 25 minutes long maximum.

Reflection Paper: This reflection paper is a reflection of the experience of the Group presentation and how it impacted you, what you learned from it, and how it connects to the topics we have covered in the course up to that point.

Final Exam: The Final Exam will test your knowledge and comprehension of the material covered throughout the semester. It is important to note that the Final Exam is a comprehensive examination of the entire semester. Therefore, the date, time, and location of the Final Exam are determined by the Department of Academic Affairs and is included in the course content at the beginning of the semester. "Final's week" is a part of the semester. You will be expected to be present, in person, to take the Final exam.

Research participation (optional): As a member of the UF community, you are encouraged to participate in experiments to gain experience and insight into the types of research conducted by linguists. For every hour of research participation, you will receive ONE extra credit point, limited to TWO points total. A list of valid experiments can be found at: <https://slhs.php.ufl.edu/research/participant-pool/>. To obtain credit, you must turn in a signed consent form.

Grading Scale

Grades will be assigned based on the following distribution:

93 – 100 A, 92.9 – 90 A-, 89.9 – 87 B+, 86.9 – 83 B, 82.9 – 80 B-, 79.7 – 77 C+, 76.9 – 73 C, 72.9 – 70 C-, 69.9 – 67 D+, 66.9 – 63 D, 62.9 – 60 D-, Below 60 E

Course Website

This course will make use of its associated Canvas course website. You can log in using your Gatorlink information at elearning.ufl.edu. Certain course content, including lecture slides will be distributed via the Canvas website.

Other policies

Attendance: Up to **five unexcused absences** are allowed during this semester. **For each unexcused absence after five, one point will be subtracted from your final overall grade.** If

you know ahead of time that you will not be able to make it to class, please let me know through e-mail.

Tardiness: Entering class (whether physically or online) more than 5 minutes late to class will result in a tardy for that class period. Three tardy marks is equivalent to one absence. Arriving more than 15 minutes late will result in an absence unless there is documentation provided.

"Mulligan": At the start of the semester, each student is afforded the use of one (1) 'Mulligan', to be applied to an assignment of the student's choosing during the semester. A 'Mulligan' is essentially a "do-over". If a student misses an assignment, does poorly on an assignment, or simply wants to do an assignment over for a better grade, that student can use their 'Mulligan' for that assignment and redo it. Once a 'Mulligan' is used, however, the grade of the 'do-over' is the final grade regardless of whether it is higher or lower than the first attempt. Each student has one and only one 'Mulligan' to use for the entire semester. The 'Mulligan' **CANNOT**, however, be used on the Group presentation, Reflection Paper, or the Final Exam. If a student goes through the entire semester without using their 'Mulligan', that student can return the 'Mulligan' and receive one (1) percentage point toward their final grade. I reserve the right to determine how and if a 'Mulligan' can be used.

Recording: Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A "class lecture" is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, clinical presentations such as patient history, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

Publish: Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To "publish" means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third-party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

Students with Special Needs: 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. Accommodations can be obtained through online correspondence. For more information, please visit: <https://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>

Religious holidays: Students and faculty must cooperate to allow each person to observe the holy days of his or her faith. Following UF policy, a student must inform the faculty member of the religious observances of his or her faith that will conflict with class attendance, with tests or examinations, or with other class activities prior to the class or occurrence of that test or activity. No make-ups will be given after a holiday unless arrangements were made in advance with the instructor.

Academic honesty: You are required to complete work individually. That is, every assignment submitted must be the student's original work, without copying or sharing from other classmates (Note, however, that you may work with others to solve homework problems as long as you submit your own work and credit the person/people you worked with). In attending this course, you have acknowledged that "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." You can read the UF Honor Code at: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>. Students found in violation of this policy will be referred to the appropriate administration for appropriate action according to the student judicial process.

Electronics: Cell phones are expected to be on silent/Do Not Disturb mode and stored away. Laptops and tablets are allowed in class for note-taking purposes only.