

COM 4930/LIN 4930: Language & Social Interaction

Syllabus: Spring 2021

Section: 2A87/ERB1/25EC/25FC

Instructor: Dr. Emily Rine Butler (erbutler@ufl.edu)
Meeting Time: MWF 5 (11:45am-12:35pm), Rolfs 207
Office Hours: Tuesdays 2-4pm & *by appt.*
Office Phone: 352-273-2743

Teaching Assistant: Harrison Cheung (cheung.harrison@ufl.edu)
Office Hours: MW 4:10-5:00pm & *by appt.*

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND GOALS:

The purpose of this course is to increase your understanding of the role of language in social interaction and the construction of identity, and to heighten your awareness of language choices and their consequences. Topics include different approaches to the study of language in social interaction (theories and research methodologies), ways in which language is used to construct social identity (e.g. race, gender, status), and issues concerning language and culture (e.g. code-switching and stance). In addition to providing a conceptual framework with which to think about language and interaction, this course will provide experience in observing and analyzing how verbal and nonverbal conduct are enacted and understood in social situations.

COURSE PREREQUISITES:

None (However, it is helpful if you've taken *Language & Power* in the fall or *Sociolinguistics*. Also, this course is not for Freshmen or Sophomores. It is geared towards advanced undergraduates).

TEXTBOOK & COURSE MATERIALS:

Tracy, K. and Robles, J. S. (2013). *Everyday Talk: Building and Reflecting Identities* (2nd Ed.) NY: The Guilford Press.

A copy of this textbook will be put on reserve in Library West. All other supplementary materials will be available on the class *Canvas* site.

ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION:

Your attendance and participation in class is significant to your success in the class. Attendance will be taken daily. If you come to class unprepared, you may be asked to leave and counted as absent for that class period. NOTE: In the rare case of class being canceled, you will likely be given an assignment to do instead. In order to receive credit for your attendance/participation grade for that day, you must submit that assign by Midnight on Canvas on the day it is due. Always check your email before class for updates from me.

While the university does not mandate video turned on during Zoom lectures in order to participate in class, my classes are quite small and lively, and it will be very noticeable if you are not participating and with your video on (when possible).

How absences affect your grade:

You are allowed 3 unexcused absences for whatever reason, so it is not necessary to explain why you missed class. However, you may only have 6 total absences (excused + unexcused) and still be able to pass this course. In general, reasons for an excused absence from or failure to participate in class include serious illness or hospitalization, serious family emergencies, special curricular requirements (e.g., judging trips, field trips, professional conferences), military obligation, severe weather conditions, religious holidays, and participation in official university activities such as music performances, athletic

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competition, or debate. Absences from class for court-imposed legal obligations (e.g., jury duty or subpoena) are also excused. Here is the point deduction for absences over 3 hours:

- 4th absence = automatic minus 20 points from attendance/participation (A/P) grade, 5th absence another 20 points deducted from the A/P grade; and so on for all absences after 3. Once all participation points are used up, points will be deducted from your final grade.

How tardiness affects your grade:

If students are not on Zoom or in person at the start of class, this disrupts the entire class, and students will be considered late. If a student leaves class early, this will also be considered as a 'tardy.' Three instances of tardiness count as one absence. If a student is only in attendance for under 40 of the 50 minutes of class, the student will be counted as 'absent' and not just 'tardy.'

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

Co-vid19 & Hyflex policies: if you are enrolled in the live section of this course, we will have face-to-face instructional sessions to accomplish the student learning objectives of this course. In response to covid-19, the following policies and requirements are in place to maintain your learning environment and to enhance the safety of our in-classroom interactions.

1. You are required to wear approved face coverings at all times during class and within buildings. Following and enforcing these policies and requirements are all of our responsibility. Failure to do so will lead to a report to the office of student conduct and conflict resolution.
2. This course has been assigned a physical classroom with enough capacity to maintain physical distancing (6 feet between individuals) requirements. Please utilize designated seats and maintain appropriate spacing between students. Please do not move desks or stations.
3. Sanitizing supplies are available in the classroom if you wish to wipe down your desks prior to sitting down and at the end of the class.
4. Follow your instructor's guidance on how to enter and exit the classroom. Practice physical distancing to the extent possible when entering and exiting the classroom.
5. If you are experiencing covid-19 symptoms ([click here for guidance from the cdc on symptoms of coronavirus](#)), please use the uf health screening system and follow the instructions on whether you are able to attend class. [Click here for uf health guidance on what to do if you have been exposed to or are experiencing covid-19 symptoms](#).

Course materials will be provided to you with an excused absence, and you will be given a reasonable amount of time to make up work. [Find more information in the university attendance policies](#)

GRADING POLICIES:

"No Name": Any and all assignments that do not have your full name on each document will receive an automatic 2-point penalty.

Late Assignments: You are permitted to submit 1 late assignment during the semester without penalty (to be turned in no later than 24 hours after the due date in order to receive credit). Except for this one-time allowance, no assignments or make-up exams will not be accepted (*even for partial credit*) without a University-approved absence.

"Re-Do" Assignments: I do not allow students to "re-do" an assignment once it has been graded or to do an additional assignment in place of another assignment (e.g. homework).

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STUDENT CONDUCT:

The Dial Center for Written and Oral Communication strives for a classroom climate that is comfortable for all. Students are expected to behave according to the UF student code of conduct in their classes. This means treating their instructors and fellow classmates with respect. To ensure a positive learning environment, students should not: make complaints publicly (in front of other students); attack the instructor verbally, physically, or in written form; or express reactions in the classroom that would bring harm to other students. Failure to meet the UF code of conduct can impact a student's class participation grade or result in referral to the UF judicial office. Class atmosphere can be made or broken by the approach that students take to the challenges of the course. Students that support others, show good humor in the face of obstacles, show dedication in the face of setbacks, and show grace when others are not doing as well will help to create a positive communication climate. In a communication class, it is especially important for each of us to:

- Display respect for all members of the classroom – including the instructor and students;
- Pay attention to and participate in all class sessions and activities;
- Avoid racist, sexist, homophobic, or other negative language that may unnecessarily exclude members of our campus and classroom;
- Avoid unnecessary disruption during class time (e.g., private conversations, reading the newspaper, surfing the internet, doing work for other classes, making/receiving cell phone calls, text messaging, etc.).

ACCOMMODATIONS:

Please inform me if I can do anything to make sure physical circumstances don't get in the way of your work. UF's official statement on ADA issues includes: "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." **I'd appreciate your paperwork the first week of class.**

Other resources are available at <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/getting-help> for:

- Counseling and Wellness resources
- Disability resources
- Resources for handling student concerns and complaints
- Library Help Desk support

U MATTER, WE CARE:

Your well-being is important to the University of Florida. The U Matter, We Care initiative is committed to creating a culture of care on our campus by encouraging members of our community to look out for one another and to reach out for help if a member of our community is in need. If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu so that the U Matter, We Care Team can reach out to the student in distress. A nighttime and weekend crisis counselor is available by phone at 352-392-1575. The U Matter, We Care Team can help connect students to the many other helping resources available including, but not limited to, Victim Advocates, Housing staff, and the Counseling and Wellness Center. Please remember that asking for help is a sign of strength. In case of emergency, call 9-1-1.

HONOR CODE:

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge, which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: 'On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.'" Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please

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consult the instructor for this class.” For more information, refer to UF’s Student Conduct & Honor Code, <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/students/student-conduct-code/>

COURSE EVALUATIONS:

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. I also offer extra credit if 85% of the class completes teaching evaluations. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>.

GRADING SCALE: (TOTAL: 600 PTS)

Scale for Final Grades:

A=558-600
A-=540-557
B+=522-539
B=498-521
B-=480-497
C+=462-479
C=438-461
C-=420-437
D+=402-419
D=378-401
D-=360-377
F=0-359

Scale for Final Grades:

A=93-100%
A-=90-92%
B+=87-89%
B=83-86%
B-=80-82%
C+=77-79%
C=73-76%
C-=70-72%
D+=67-69%
D=63-66%
D-=60-62%
F=0-59%

COURSE HOMEPAGE:

The course homepage on *Canvas* (<http://lss.at.ufl.edu>) will be central to the class. You will be able to access readings, worksheets, and the class discussion boards through the homepage. I will update it regularly with news and syllabus changes. Although I will make announcements in class and/or send e-mails regarding the assignments and schedule, it is your responsibility to check the homepage for updates.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

All submitted work, written or oral (including exams and power point slides), will be the student’s personal, original work, with credit being given to sources used. Plagiarism, signing another student in, the use of prepared speech texts, and other forms of dishonesty are grounds for failure of this course and referral to the University Judicial process.

ACCOMMODATIONS:

Please inform me if I can do anything to make sure physical circumstances don’t get in the way of your work. UF’s official statement on ADA issues includes: "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." I’d appreciate your paperwork the first week of class.

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DESCRIPTION OF ASSIGNMENTS:

Class attendance/participation (100 pts)

Homework (Choose **3** x 25 pts each) (75 pts)

- Speech Acts
- CA
- Style
- Stance
- Narrative

3-2-1 Discussion Boards (150 pts)

Reaction Papers (25 pts x 3) (75 pts)

Exam 1 (100 pts)

Exam 2 (100 pts)

TOTAL: 600 Pts

Extra Credit: 20 pts. possible

Homework

Each assignment will involve data analysis focusing on the themes learned in the chapter. Students must complete any **3** of the 5 homework assignments throughout the semester.

3-2-1 Discussion Boards:

There is an expectation that for each lecture you will be participating in our Canvas Discussion Boards (DB) for each of the 10 chapters. For each chapter, you will be expected to post at least 3 things you learned in the chapter lectures, 2 things you found interesting, and at least 1 remaining question you have for me to clarify during our class sessions.

In order to receive full credit for participating in each chapter's DB, you need to make at least 1 post (5 pts) during the week we are discussing the chapter in class, make at least 1 comment on a classmate's post (5 pts), and make at least 1 follow-up (5 pts) to either someone else's comment(s) on your post or someone else's.

Reaction Papers

On Canvas, I provide an array of articles relevant to each chapter that you may find interesting for further reading. Students are required to write 3 reaction papers (25 pts. each) throughout the semester from the array of articles that I have posted. Reaction papers should be approximately 2-4 pages in length (double-spaced, 12-pt, Times New Roman font, 1" margins). Eligible articles will have an asterisk next to them on Canvas.

In each paper, you need to accomplish 3 things for full credit: (1) summarize the main points of the article (10 pts); (2) how does the paper tie into the themes we are talking about in this chapter (10 pts); (3) explain what you liked and/or didn't like about the paper and why (5 pts). You will be expected to utilize the terminology we have learned on a given topic to talk about the article in your paper.

Reaction papers are always due by midnight and will be submitted to CANVAS by the due date listed on the weekly schedule.

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Exams

Exams 1 & 2 will be given in class and will cover material from Chapters 1-5 and 6-10, respectively. They will be composed of definitions, T/F, multiple-choice questions, and 1-2 short essays.

Extra Credit

Students may earn up to 20 points of extra credit in 3 different ways in this course:

Exam Questions (10 points): You may create 20 multiple choice or T/F questions (with 4 options) for each exam. Indicate the answers below each question. (Note: Separate and label questions by chapter.) You may choose to submit questions for Exam 1 OR Exam 2, but NOT both. Extra credit is always due 1 week prior to the exam on CANVAS (no exceptions & **no** late submissions).

Pop Culture Examples (5 points): Second, I am always looking for real-world examples of language use in articles, video clips, etc. to use in class to demonstrate a particular theme. You may email me examples at any time that you find that you think will be interesting to the rest of the class, and if I use it, you will receive 5 extra credit points.

Teaching Evaluations (5 points): Lastly, if **85%** of the class does the teaching evaluations towards the end of the semester, I will add 5 extra credit points to everyone's grades. Note: teaching evaluations are still anonymous. I can only see how many students have completed it, not who has completed it.
<https://evaluations.ufl.edu>

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WEEKLY SCHEDULE

*All assignments due by midnight on Canvas unless otherwise noted

Date		TOPIC	Mtg	Activities	HW Prep	HW due today
Week 1 1/11- 1/15	M	Welcome	ZOOM	Syllabus & Icebreakers		
	W	1.1: Talk & Identity	ZOOM/ROL	1.1.1 Background knowledge		
	F	1.2: Context & Meaning	ZOOM/ROL			
Week 2 1/18- 1/22	M	NO CLASSES - MLK Jr. Day				
	W	1.3: Interactional Meanings	ZOOM/ROL			
	F	2.1: Rhetorical Perspective	ZOOM/ROL			
Week 3 1/25- 1/29	M	2.2: Cultural Perspective	ZOOM/ROL			
	W	2.3: Two Perspectives	ZOOM/ROL			
	F	3.1: Social Referencing & Address	ZOOM/ROL	3.1.1 Address forms		
Week 4 2/1-2/5	M	3.2: Naming Practices	ZOOM/ROL			
	W	3.3: Identity Implications of Address	ZOOM/ROL			
	F	3.4: Gender & MCD	ZOOM/ROL	3.4.1 Lexical Inequality		React Paper 1 due Sun*
Week 5 2/8-2/12	M	4.1: Speech Acts (SA)	ZOOM/ROL	4.1.1 Speech Acts		
	W	4.2: Classifying SA	ZOOM/ROL	4.2.1 Guess the identity		
	F	4.3: Principles of SA	ZOOM/ROL			Speech Act HW due Sun*
Week 6 2/15- 2/19	M	4.4: FTA	ZOOM/ROL			
	W	----	ZOOM/ROL			
	F	FLEX DAY	ZOOM		Watch 5.1: Transcription 101; Read Ochs (1979)	

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Week 7 2/22- 2/26	M	5.2: Gesture, Gaze, & Para-linguistic Devices	ZOOM/ROL	5.2.1: Discussion of Ochs (1979)	Read "vocal fry" articles	Exam 1 Extra Cred. due* (opt.)
	W	5.3: Stable Features of Voice	ZOOM/ROL	5.3.1: Vocal Fry		
	F	Exam Prep (opt.)	ZOOM			
Week 8 3/1-3/5	M	EXAM 1 (Ch. 1-5)	HONORLOCK			
	W	6.1: Turn Taking	ZOOM/ROL			
	F	6.2: Adjacency Pairs	ZOOM/ROL			React Paper 2 due Sun*
Week 9 3/8-3/12	M	6.3: Preference Organization	ZOOM/ROL			
	W	6.4: Ethnomethodology	ZOOM/ROL			
	F	6.5: Sequential Organization	ZOOM/ROL			CA HW due Sun*
Week 10 3/15- 3/19	M	7.1: Code Switching & Identity	ZOOM/ROL			
	W	----	ZOOM/ROL			
	F	7.2: Language Contact & Change	ZOOM/ROL			
Week 11 3/22- 3/26	M	7.3: Language & Immigrant Identity	ZOOM/ROL			
	W	NO CLASS				
	F	8.1: Style & Directness	ZOOM/ROL		Watch 8.2. Directness & Culture	React Paper 3 due Sun*
Week 12 3/29- 4/2	M	8.3: Arguments & Politeness	ZOOM/ROL			
	W	8.4: Expressiveness & Texting Style	ZOOM/ROL			
	F	8.5: Master Identity-Marked Styles	ZOOM/ROL		Watch 9.1: Stance Overview	Style HW due Sun*
Week 13 4/5- 4/9	M	9.2: Stance & Markedness	ZOOM/ROL			
	W	9.3: Modals & Interest	ZOOM/ROL			
	F	9.4: Hostility & Negativity	ZOOM/ROL	9.4.1: Avowals of feelings	Watch 10.1: Everyday Narratives	Stance HW due Sun*

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Week 14 4/12- 4/16	M	----	ZOOM/ROL	10.1.1: Chief Koby		
	W	10.2: Functions of Narratives	ZOOM/ROL			Exam 2 EC due* (opt.)
	F	----	ZOOM/ROL			Narrative HW due Sun*
Week 15 4/19- 4/23	M	Exam Prep (Opt.)	ZOOM			
	W	EXAM 2 (Ch. 6-10)	HONORLOCK			