

Language Contact

LIN 4930 . LIN 6932 . Spring 2019 . T2-3 R3 . TUR 2322

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Office: 305 Pugh Hall
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Hours: T 1-3pm
& by appointment
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Multilingualism and language contact are the norm in societies across the globe, despite the fact that much linguistic theory has been built on a monolingual view of language. In this course we will explore the persistence of multilingualism and consider the outcomes of language contact from both formal and social perspectives. Phenomena to be covered include borrowing, diglossia, codeswitching and code-mixing, mixed languages, and pidgins and creoles. Students will become familiar with both classic and up to date theoretical approaches to multilingualism and language contact.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The specific objectives of this course are:

- To understand the role of multilingualism in society
- To explore different approaches to multilingualism
- To survey the multiple outcomes of language contact
- To acquire critical skills for analyzing multilingualism and language contact
- To gain experience in presenting oral and written arguments about multilingualism and language contact

BOOKS and OTHER READINGS

The following textbooks are required for this class:

Winford, Donald. 2003. *An introduction to contact linguistics*. Malden, MA: Blackwell.
Mufwene, Salikoko S. 2001. *The ecology of language evolution*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Additional required readings are available on CANVAS (<https://elearning.ufl.edu>) or through the UF library system.

GRADES

For **undergraduate students**, grades will be based on the following:

Class participation and presentations	20%
Short papers	30%
Test 1	15%
Test 2	15%
Project	20%
Total	100

For **graduate students**, grades will be based on the following:

Class presentations	40%
Short papers	30%
Final paper	30%
Total	100

The assignment of a final letter grade will be based on the following scale:

A 92-100	B 81-84.9	C 71-74.9	D 61-64.9
A- 88-91.9	B- 78-80.9	C- 68-70.9	D- 58-60.9
B+ 85-87.9	C+ 75-77.9	D+ 65-67.9	E Below 58

You may consult the following website to see how the final letter grade is weighted with regard to overall GPA: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

PARTICIPATION, CLASS INVOLVEMENT & CLASSROOM CULTURE

The classroom is where we will accomplish much of our work this semester and you are expected to be a contributing member of our classroom community. This means that attendance and preparation are of paramount importance. This is an early class, especially on Tuesdays, but please make an effort to be there on time so as to avoid disruption. Unexcused absences or repeated tardiness will result in a lowered grade. You should complete all assignments and readings in a timely fashion, and come to class informed and prepared to discuss the topic of the day. Please make sure that your cellphones are turned off or silenced before class starts. Assignments must be handed in both electronically and in hard copy. Makeup exams will be given only in the case of an emergency and with proper documentation. Mutual respect for class members is expected at all times in order to ensure a positive learning environment for a productive and enjoyable semester.

Academic honesty

Most students are honest, and I expect you to uphold UF's honor code at all times. Academic dishonesty, including cheating on tests and plagiarism, is unacceptable. Any student engaging in such activities will be dealt with in accordance with University policy and receive a failing grade for the course (<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/quick-links/academic-integrity/>) It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes plagiarism. If you have any questions about it, please consult the professor.

Students with disabilities

If you have a disability that may affect your performance in this class, you should contact the Dean of Students' Office (<https://disability.ufl.edu>) and I will be happy to make arrangements to accommodate you.

Communication

Many problems can be solved by simple communication between student and professor. Please don't hesitate to send me an e-mail or come by during my office hours as soon as you see a problem developing, rather than procrastinating until it becomes a big problem. I want you to succeed in this class!

SCHEDULE

Schedule of topics, readings and assignments (may be modified by the instructor to suit the needs of the class) *Indicates that a reading is available on electronic reserves.

	Topic	Readings
Week 1 1/8-10	Introduction to language contact and its outcomes Film: <i>Kanraxël</i>	Winford Ch.1
Week 2 1/15-17	Lexical borrowing	Winford Ch.2 *Poplack & Dion 2012
Week 3 1/22-24	Structural diffusion	Winford Ch. 3
Week 4 1/29-31	Codeswitching and codemixing Social motivations	Winford Ch. 4
Week 5 2/5-7	Codeswitching and codemixing Grammatical constraints	Winford Ch. 5 *Torres Cacoullos & Travis 2017
Week 6 2/12-14	Diglossia	* Sayahi 2014 (excerpts)
Week 7 2/19-21	Bilingual mixed languages	Winford Ch. 6 *Bakker 2017
Week 8 2/26-28	Pidgins and pidginization	Winford Ch. 8
	SPRING BREAK	
Week 9 3/19-21	Creoles and creolization	Winford Ch. 9
Week 10 3/26-28	Pidgins, creoles and a model of language evolution	Mufwene Ch. 1
Week 11 4/2-4	The founder principle	Mufwene Ch. 2 *McLaughlin 2008
Week 12 4/9-11	Development of American Englishes and bias in linguistics	Mufwene Ch. 3 & 4

Week 13
4/16-18

Filling out the theory

Mufwene Ch 5 & 6

Week 14
4/23

Conclusions

1/22 Short paper

2/12 Short paper

2/26 Test 1

3/19 Short paper

4/2 Short paper

4/16 Test 2

4/23 Final project due