

**Language & Social Interaction**  
**COM 4930/LIN 4930: Spring 2018**  
**Section: 2A87/25EC**  
**Syllabus**

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<b>Instructor:</b>	Dr. Emily Rine Butler
<b>Meeting Time:</b>	MWF 5 (10:40-11:30am)
<b>Classrooms:</b>	Rolfs 211
<b>Office:</b>	Rolfs 412
<b>Office Hours:</b>	T 12-1pm; W 1-2pm
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**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 (Note: However, it is helpful if you've taken *Language & Power* in the fall or *Sociolinguistics*. Also, this is not a good course for you if you are a Freshman. It is geared more towards advanced undergraduates).

**TEXTBOOK & COURSE MATERIALS:**

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

Additional course 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. It is your responsibility to look for and be sure you have signed the roll sheet by the end of class. **If you have not signed the roll sheet, you will be counted as absent.** If you come to class unprepared, you may be asked to leave and counted as absent for that class period.

NOTE: In the 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.

### **How absences affect your grade:**

You are allowed 3 absences (3 hours) for whatever reason, so it is not necessary to explain why you missed class. However, you do not get extra sick days excused if you used the 3 hours for visiting people, vacation, studying for an exam, etc. Therefore, use your 3 hours wisely. If you have university business (e.g. athletics, conference), you must provide documentation from the official UF organization you are representing. If you are hospitalized and expect that to exceed your 3 hours of class, you must also provide documentation that shows you had to use up your 3 absences and then some. Here is the point deduction for absences over 3 hours:

- 4th absence = automatic minus 20 points from attendance/participation (A/P) grade, 5<sup>th</sup> 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. .

### **IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO SIGN IN FOR EVERY CLASS YOU ATTEND!**

**How tardiness affects your grade:** Again, your presence impacts your ability to integrate and contribute to the discussion. Excessive tardiness or leaving early will therefore affect your grade. **You must be in class at least 40 minutes for each 50-minute segment to get credit for that 50-minute block.** Three (3) tardies (entering late or leaving early) will count as one absence as described above. If you ask permission to leave early to study for an exam or other, I will always say yes, but you will still be considered ‘leaving early’ and receive a 1/3 absence. You are accountable for your choices, so I will always accept your right to choose what is best for you, but will also uphold a standard across the board for all students. It is not fair to those that come to class on time and forego preparation for other classes, to excuse some students.

**Missing and making up an assignment:** I do **not** accept assignments that are turned in late without prior approval by me. Prior approval means *before* the due date and not on or after it is due. Do not try to turn in an assignment late and hope for partial credit. I do not accept late assignments.

### **GRADING SCALE: (TOTAL: 500 PTS)**

#### **Scale for Final Grades:**

A=465-500  
A-=450-464  
B+=435-449  
B=415-434  
B-=400-414  
C+=385-399  
C=365-384  
C-=350-364  
D+=335-349  
D=315-334  
D-=300-314  
F=0-299

#### **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.

## **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](mailto: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.

## WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Date		Topic	Readings & HW <b>due</b> today
Week 1 1/8- 1/12	M W F	Syllabus Talk & Identity -----	Tracy & Robles, Chapter 1
Week 2 1/15- 1/19	M W F	<b>NO CLASSES – MLK DAY!!</b> Two Perspectives -----	T & R, Chapter 2
Week 3 1/22- 1/26	M W F	Person-Address Referencing ----- -----	T & R, Chapter 3
Week 4 1/29- 2/2	M W F	Speech Acts ----- -----	T & R, Chapter 4  Breaching Exp. HW due Sun. (Canvas)
Week 5 2/5- 2/9	M W F	Sounds & Sights of Talk ----- -----	T & R, Chapter 5
Week 6 2/12- 2/16	M W F	Interaction Structures ----- -----	T & R, Chapter 6  CA HW due Sun. (Canvas)
Week 7 2/19- 2/23	M W F	----- Language Selection/Code Switching -----	T & R, Chapter 7; <b>Exam 1 Extra Credit due (Canvas) (opt.)</b>
Week 8 2/26- 3/2	M W F	----- <b>EXAM 1 (Ch. 1-7)</b> <b>Intro Final Project</b>	
Week 9 3/5-3/9	M W F	<b>NO CLASSES – SPRING BREAK!!</b>	

Week 10 3/12- 3/16	M W F	Style ----- -----	T & R, Chapter 8 Final Project topic due (Canvas)
Week 11 3/19- 3/23	M W F	Stance ----- -----	T & R, Chapter 9
Week 12 3/26- 3/30	M W F	Narratives ----- NO CLASS – AFA/NIET NATIONALS	T & R, Chapter 10  Read Heath (1982)
Week 13 4/2- 4/6	M W F	NO CLASS – AFA/NIET NATIONALS  Heath (1982) discussion  Genre	Final Project Outline/sources due (Canvas) Heath HW due (hard copy & Canvas) T & R, Chapter 11
Week 14 4/9- 4/13	M W F	----- ----- Case Study	Extra Credit (Canvas) (opt.)  T & R, Chapter 12
Week 15 4/16- 4/20	M W F	EXAM 2 (Ch. 8-12)  FINAL PRESENTATIONS -----	
Week 16 4/23- 4/27	M W	----- -----	Final Paper due (Canvas)

## **DESCRIPTION OF ASSIGNMENTS:**

Class attendance/participation (100 pts)

Homework/In-Class Activities (100 pts)

Exam 1 (100 points)

Exam 2 (100 points)

Final Paper/Final Presentation (100 points)

**TOTAL: 500 Pts**

Extra Credit: 20 pts. possible

### **Exams**

Exams 1 & 2 will be given in class and will cover material from Chapters 1-7 and 8-12, respectively. They will be composed of definitions, multiple-choice questions, matching, and an essay.

### **Final Project**

For your final project, you (or you and a partner) will analyze a piece of discourse (written or oral/visual) to illustrate some principle we learned in the class regarding talk and identities. Examples of topics could include *genre*, *membership categorization*, *speech acts*, *preference structure*, *stance*, *code-switching*, *language styles*, as a means to explore how we construct identities. If you choose spoken discourse, it is expected that you will transcribe it (with line numbers), or find a transcription of it, and provide a key of transcription conventions. You have a lot of latitude, but the topic must be approved by me in advance.

You then have a choice whether you would like to do a final paper or PPT presentation to illustrate your analysis. The amount of time given for the presentation will vary depending on how many students choose this option, but it will likely be between 10-15 min. If you choose to write the paper instead, it should be between 6-10 pages (double-spaced) that gives some background on what you analyzed, methods of analysis, results, and some implications/discussion of what you found. Dress code on presentation day is business casual (e.g. no jeans, shorts, t-shirts, tank tops, PJs, etc.).

### **Extra Credit**

I will use some of the questions for each exam based on questions you have submitted. For extra credit, create 20 questions & answers, using ONLY multiple choice (with 4 options) and T/F types of questions. 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). This assignment is worth up to 10 points added to your total point score for the course.

Additionally, 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. You may earn a maximum of 10 extra credit points this way.