

**LIN 4930-26B4/LIN 6932-4D34 Political Discourse**

**Fall, 2019**

**Tuesdays, periods 5,6 Thursdays 6**

**Room: Anderson 32**

**Dr. Diana Boxer**

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**Office hours: Wednesdays, 10-11:30 and Thursdays 2-3:30 pm**

Texts:

1. Chilton, Paul, *Analyzing Political Discourse: Theory and Practice*, Routledge (2004)
2. Wilson, John and Diana Boxer, *Discourse, Politics and Women as Global Leaders* (2015)  
(On Canvas)

Readings:

Weekly readings/websites contributed readings from student presentations

**Course objectives:** By the end of this course you will have acquired the ability to intelligently discuss and debate aspects of spoken and written political discourse and analyze data based on Critical Discourse Analysis theory and method

**Course requirements:**

Midterm examination	25%
Final examination	25%
Participation in two paired presentations	30%
Quizzes	15%
Class participation, attendance, and evidence of reading assignments	5%

**Pair presentation:** Every Tuesday, part of the class will be led by two students who will present a news article, excerpt from a political debate, town hall meeting, social media post, or twitter thread, etc. on a controversial political topic of the current political scene. Presentations will begin during week 3 and cover two opposing views on the same subject. The partners will choose one of two sides: 1). How the material attempts to persuade and to what extent this is successful; and 2) how the material seeks to deceive and to what extent this is successful. The material will be chosen by the paired students and sent one week prior to the presentation for posting on Canvas.

Students will learn how to analyze the subtle ways that political figures spin their own points of view. Students will present the material to the rest of the class in such a way that we are engaged and learn something new from the presentation. The audience will have the opportunity to actively engage in debate on both sides of the issue presented.

**Attendance Policy:** I take attendance seriously. You cannot do well in this course without coming to class and participating in the co-construction of knowledge. This course will not be run as lectures but as discussion almost exclusively. Therefore, you are expected to come to class having prepared to participate with a thorough reading of the assigned material. If you must be absent you will, if possible, bring a written note from a physician, clinic, infirmary, or other authority explaining the reason for your absence. I realize that sometimes you are unable to come to class due to illness that is not treated by a doctor. Because of this, you will be allowed three unexcused absences before your grade is affected. For example, if you have a B average at the end of the course and you have four unexcused absences you will receive a B-. Tardiness disrupts the flow of discussion. If you must come late, please enter as unobtrusively as possible. Three tardies exceeding five minutes each will count as an unexcused absence. Please be vigilant about your attendance and preparation for each class.

**Cell phones, texting, and laptops:** Please turn off your phones before the start of class. If you wish to take notes using your laptop, that is permitted. Please refrain from doing otherwise with laptops or smart phones during class. No texting is allowed during class. I try to move around if the configuration makes this possible. I assure you that I will know if you are distracted.

**Accommodations for 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.

**Academic dishonesty**

Academic dishonesty, including cheating on exams and plagiarism, will not be tolerated. Any student engaging in such activities will be dealt with in accordance with University policy and receive a failing grade for the course ([www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/procedures/academicguide.php](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/procedures/academicguide.php)) It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes plagiarism. If you have any questions about it, please consult the professor.

**Grading Scale:** See UF grading policies for assigning grade points at: <http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html>

- A= 93-100
- A-=90-92.9
- B+=87-89.9
- B=83-86.9
- B-=80-82.9
- C+=77-79.9
- C=73-76.9
- C-=70-72.9
- D+=67-69.9
- D=63-66.9
- D-=60-62.9
- E=under 60

**Week 1. August 20-22: Introduction.** Background: Politics and Language; Critical Discourse Analysis

Read: Chilton, Chapter 1; Blommaert Chapter 1(Canvas)

**Week 2: August 27-29: Language and Politics**

Read: Chilton, Chapter 2; Blommaert Chapter 2 (Canvas)

**Week 3: Sept. 3-5: Interaction**

Read: Chilton Chapter 3; Wilson and Boxer, Introduction (Canvas)  
Tuesday, First Pair Presentation

**Week 4: Sept. 10-12: Representation**

Read: Chilton Chapter 4; Sheldon in Wilson and Boxer chapter 8 (Canvas).

**Week 5: Sept. 17-19: Political Interviews**

Read: Chilton chapter 5; Appleby in Wilson and Boxer chapter 6 (Canvas)

**Week 6: Sept. 24-26: Parliamentary (Congressional) language**

Read: Chilton Chapter 6; or Wilson and Irwin, in W & B chapter 1 (Canvas)

**Weeks 7: Oct. 1-3**

**Tuesday, Oct 1:** Chilton chapter 7; Boxer and Cortes-Conde Chapter 2 in W & B (Canvas)

**Thursday, Oct. 3: review for midterm**

**Week 8: Oct. 8-10**

**Midterm exam Tuesday, Oct. 8**

**Return exam and go over Thursday, Oct. 10**

**Week 9: Oct. 15-17: Distant Places;**

Read: Chilton, Chapter 8; Jones in Wilson and Boxer, Chapter 13

**Week 10: October 22-24: Worlds Apart**

Read: Chilton, Chapter 9; Atanga and Djimeli, Chapter 7 in W & B (Canvas)

**Weeks 11: Oct. 29-31 The role of religion**

Read: Chilton, Chapter 10; Kammoun, chapter 5 in W & B (Canvas)

**Week 12: Nov. 5-7, Towards a theory of language and politics**

Read: Wilson and Boxer conclusion (Canvas); Fairclough on Canvas

**Week 13: Nov. 12-14. Political Discourse, Linguistic features and Social Media**

Read: Millar, Chapter 3 in W & B; Davies, Chapter 4 in W & B

**Week 14: Nov. 19-21. Debates**

Read: Adams, Chapter 9 in W & B

Nov. 26: Study Day

Nov. 28: Holiday

**Week 14: Dec. 3: Final Examination**