

COM 4930/LIN 4930: Language & Social Interaction

Syllabus: Spring 2022
Sections: 2A87/25EC

Instructor: Dr. Emily Rine Butler (erbutler@ufl.edu)
Meeting Time: MWF 5 (11:45am-12:35pm), Rolfs 207
Classroom: Rolfs 207
Office: Rolfs 402
Office Hours: Tuesdays 2-4pm & by appt. (Zoom: <https://ufl.zoom.us/j/8300868113>)
Office Phone: 352-273-2743

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:

***Note:** University attendance policy regarding illness due to CoVid-19 exposure is evolving. I will relay to you any important changes as soon as they become available to me, but **for now, if you are exposed to Covid, you should not come to class. You will treat it as any other illness**, which is why I have built in a buffer of 3 classes you can miss for any reason without penalty. 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. 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.

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. 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

COM 4930/LIN 4930: Language & Social Interaction

music performances, athletic 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 present 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>

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, extra credit).

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

COM 4930/LIN 4930: Language & Social Interaction

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 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%

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

COM 4930/LIN 4930: Language & Social Interaction

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.

DESCRIPTION OF ASSIGNMENTS:

Class attendance/participation (100 pts)

- Attendance
- Syllabus welcome quiz
- In-class activities & discussions

Homework (Complete 1 from each pair of 6 assignments x 50 pts each) (150 pts)

Politeness **OR** Speech Acts

Transcription **OR** Conversation Analysis (CA)

Stance **OR** Narrative

Reaction papers (25 pts x 4) (100 pts)

Breaching Experiment & write-up (50 pts)

Exam 1 (100 points)

Exam 2 (100 points)

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 1 from each of the 3 pairs of HW assignments throughout the semester for a total of 3 submissions.

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 4 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. Reaction paper 2 is the only one on a specific topic, and it will have specific article(s) and questions you need to address in it.

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.

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.

Breaching Experiment

In this exercise, you will be split into groups of 4-5 and will go around campus studying the role of verbal communication in maintaining social order. You will work with your partners to devise "breaches" of social norms and observe their effects. You will then type up your individual observations and submit them to Canvas (3-6 pages double-spaced).

Extra Credit

COM 4930/LIN 4930: Language & Social Interaction

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>

COM 4930/LIN 4930: Language & Social Interaction

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

*All assignments due by midnight on Canvas unless otherwise noted

Date		TOPIC	Mtg	Activities	HW Prep	HW due today
Week 1 1/5-1/7						
	W	Welcome	ROL 207	Syllabus		
	F	1.1: Talk & Identity	ROL 207	1.1.1 Background knowledge		
Week 2 1/10-1/14	M	1.2: Context & Meaning	ROL 207			
	W	1.3: Interactional Meanings	ROL 207			
	F	2.1: Rhetorical Perspective	Taped Lecture			Politeness HW due Sun*
Week 3 1/17-1/21	M	NO CLASSES - MLK Jr. Day				
	W	2.2: Cultural Perspective	ROL 207			
	F	2.3: Two Perspectives	ROL 207			
Week 4 1/24-1/28	M	3.1: Social Referencing & Address	ROL 207	3.1.1 Address forms		
	W	3.2: Naming Practices	ROL 207			
	F	3.3: Identity Implications of Address; 3.4: MCD	ROL 207	3.4.1 Lexical Inequality		React Paper 1*
Week 5 1/31-2/4	M	4.1: Speech Acts (SA)	ROL 207	4.1.1 Speech Acts		
	W	4.2: Classifying SA	ROL 207	4.2.1 Guess the identity		
	F	4.3: Principles of SA	ROL 207			
Week 6 2/7-2/11	M	4.4: FTA	ROL 207			
	W	----	ROL 207			Speech Act HW*
	F	5.1: Transcription 101	Taped Lecture			Exam 1 Extra Cred.* (opt.)
Week 7 2/14-2/18	M	5.2: Gesture, Gaze, & Para-linguistic Devices	ROL 207			
	W	5.3: Stable Features of Voice	ROL 207			
	F	EXAM 1 (Ch. 1-5)	ROL 207			React Paper 2 due Sun*

COM 4930/LIN 4930: Language & Social Interaction

Week 8 2/21- 2/25	M	6.1: Turn Taking	ROL 207			Transcription HW*
	W	6.2: Adjacency Pairs	ROL 207			
	F	6.3: Preference Organization	ROL 207			
Week 9 2/28- 3/4	M	6.4: Ethnomethodology	ROL 207			
	W	6.5: Sequential Organization	ROL 207			
	F	Breaching Experiment	Around campus			CA HW*
Week 10 3/7- 3/11	M	SPRING BREAK - NO CLASSES				
	W					
	F					
Week 11 3/14- 3/18	M	7.1: Code Switching & Identity	ROL 207			
	W	-----	ROL 207			Breaching Exp. write-up*
	F	7.2: Language Contact & Change	ROL 207			React Paper 3*
Week 12 3/21- 3/25	M	7.3: Language & Immigrant Identity	ROL 207			
	W	8.1: Style & Directness	ROL 207			
	F	8.2: Directness & Culture	ROL 207			
Week 13 3/28- 4/1	M	8.3: Arguments & Politeness	ROL 207			
	W	8.4: Expressiveness & Texting Style	ROL 207			
	F	8.5: Master Identity- Marked Styles	ROL 207		Watch 9.1: Stance Overview	
Week 14 4/4- 4/8	M	9.2: Stance & Markedness	ROL 207			
	W	9.3: Modals & Interest	ROL 207			React Paper 4*
	F	9.4: Hostility & Negativity	ROL 207	9.4.1: Avowals of feelings		Stance HW due Sun*

COM 4930/LIN 4930: Language & Social Interaction

Week 15 4/11- 4/15	M	10.1: Everyday Narratives	ROL 207	10.1.1: Chief Koby		
	W	----	ROL 207			Exam 2 EC* (opt.)
	F	10.2: Functions of Narratives	ROL 207			Narrative HW due Sun*
Week 16 4/18- 4/22	M	----	ROL 207			
	W	EXAM 2 (Ch. 6-10)	ROL 207			