LIN 4930/6932 Language Documentation

Spring 2022

MWF 12:50-1:40pm in Walter J Matherly Hall 0102

Approximately half of the approximately 7000 languages in the world are not being passed to the next generation of speakers and are in danger of disappearing with little documentation that they every existed. The course covers issues and skills for addressing this situation. Students will read, discuss, and articulate major and recent perspectives and findings about documentary linguistics. Students will learn best practice guidelines to create a language and culture documentation project proposal and evaluate an archived documentary corpus, incorporating the role of theory, ethics, and technical tasks.

This is a mixed graduate and advanced undergraduate course where much of the learning and benefits arise from discussions of the readings in class and presentations by class members.

After the course, students will be able to:

... identify core themes and activities of language documentation

... critically review language documentation literature

... carry out basic technical skills and field methods necessary to complete a language documentation project

... write and evaluate language and culture documentation project proposals, addressing relevant sociolinguistic and other factors

... access, describe, and evaluate an archived documentary corpus, addressing quality of data, metadata, and A/V recordings

Instructor: Sarah Moeller
Email: smoeller@ufl.org
Office hours: Turlington 4017
Mon 3-4 & Wed 4-5
or Zoom by appointment

Grade Breakdown

Assignment	Weight
Attendance and Participation	5%
Presentations	15%
Reading Responses & Labs	20%
Midterm	20%
Final Report/Project	40%

Student Learning Outcomes	Assessment
Identify core themes and activities of language documentation	Textbook readings Midterm exam Seminal literature
Carry out basic technical skills and field methods necessary to complete a language documentation project	Technical labs Elicitation sessions
Evaluate language and culture documentation project proposals	Textbook readings Seminal literature Project proposal
Access, describe, and evaluate an archived documentary corpus, addressing quality of data, metadata, and A/V recordings	Archival report

Textbook

Boerger, Brenda H., Sarah Ruth Moeller, Will Reiman, and Stephen N. Self. 2016. *Language and Culture Documentation Manual*. British Columbia: LeanPub.
https://leanpub.com/languageandculturedocumentationmanual

Software

- Audacity https://www.audacityteam.org/download/
- SayMore https://software.sil.org/saymore/
  A Mac version, useful for data management only, but not for audio data annotation, is available at:
  https://sites.google.com/site/metadatatooldiscussion/
- Aikuma (optional but useful) http://www.aikuma.org/aikuma-app.html
  Be able to walk someone else through downloading and using it.

Other Relevant Software (Installation is not required)

- ELAN https://archive.mpi.nl/tla/elan/
- FLEx https://software.sil.org/fieldworks/
- Bloom https://bloomlibrary.org/landing

The fine print

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY. 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 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." The Honor Code (https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/) specifies behaviors that are in violation of this code. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with me.

CLASSROOM CONDUCT. Students and faculty have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. This applies to online environments as well as onsite. Those who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. I pledge to treat each of you with dignity, respect, and professional courtesy; I expect you to do the same for me and for each other.

ACCOMMODATION POLICIES. If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit your accommodation letter from the Disability Resource Center (https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/) to me in a timely manner so that your needs can be addressed. .

RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES A student should inform me if the religious observances of their faith will conflict with class attendance, tests or examinations, or other class activities prior to the class or occurrence of that test or activity. I am obligated to accommodate that particular student's religious observances.

COURSE EVALUATIONS. Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens.

RECORDING LECTURE CONTENT. Students are allowed to record class lectures. However, the only allowable purposes of these recordings are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor. To "publish" means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. A recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil action and/or discipline the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

GRADING SCHEME.

		B+	87-89%	C+	77-79%	D+	67-69%		
A	94-100%	B	83-86%	C	73-76%	D	63-66%	F	0-59%
A-	90-93%	B-	80-82%	C-	70-72%	D-	60-62%		