

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

Fall, 2020

Tuesdays, periods 5,6 Thursdays 6

Dr. Diana Boxer

4131 Turlington Hall, phone 294-7449, dboxer@ufl.edu

Office hours: By appointment, preferably on Wednesdays but also possible Mondays and Fridays

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:

LIN 4930:

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

LIN 6932:

Research proposal	20%
Final research paper	30%
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

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 attending 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 arrived in Zoom 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. 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. I expect that you will not be distracted by other online diversions during class. 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) 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

Other requirements/expectations for online class:

This course is delivered online and synchronous for in-class discussions and lectures. These activities will take place during our assigned class time. You are expected to be available during those times.

Additionally, please keep in mind that all times listed on this syllabus and announced in class are according to Eastern Standard Time (i.e., Gainesville time). If you are not located in the Eastern Standard Time zone, you should adjust times for all synchronous activities and due dates accordingly.

Most of our one-on-one communication will occur via email [OR Canvas] There are two important course policies regarding email: 1) I expect that you are reading your email at least once per day, and 2) All emails that you send must follow basic rules for professional correspondence. If you are unsure of what constitutes professionalism, feel free to ask...or simply err on the side of caution.

Computer Access: The University requires access to and on-going use of a computer. This should not be a tablet device or smartphone, but an actual desktop or laptop computer. To succeed in this course, you will also need a stable internet connection and appropriate space to take online exams. Minimum equipment specifications are available at: <https://it.ufl.edu/policies/student-computing-requirements/>.

Online Class Behavior

Students are expected to behave appropriately during class time, even though class time is virtually conducted. Disruptive behavior is a violation of the Student Honor Code (Section 3D). Some general “netiquette” guidance:

- Arrive/Zoom in on time or a few minutes early if possible. Attendance will be taken at for each class
- When you are assigned to a breakout room, enable your webcam and microphone so that your partners may hear and see who they are working with.

- Dress appropriately for class. Even though you may be alone at home your professor and classmates can see you.
- Find a quiet indoor space with stable internet connection to attend class. The study space does not need to be a separate room; a chair and desk/table set for school work in a quiet corner should be sufficient. The space should be conducive to work, including pair/group work. Make sure you are uninterrupted by other household members, including pets.
- Your professor and classmates can also see what is behind you, so be aware of your surroundings. Make sure the background is not distracting or something you would not want your classmates to see. You may use a virtual background if your device supports this feature. Be sure to avoid using backgrounds that may contain offensive images and language.
- Refrain from eating during the class hour, as you would in a face-to-face course.
- Follow the same rules of respectful interaction as you would in a face-to-face course. This is especially important in a remote situation, where multiple voices attempting to speak at once result in no one being heard.

Outline:

Week 1. Sept. 1-3: Introduction. Background: Politics and Language; Critical Discourse Analysis

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

Week 2: Sept. 8-10: Language and Politics

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

Week 3: Sept. 15-17: Interaction

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

Week 4: Sept. 22-24: Representation

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

Week 5: Sept. 29-Oct.1: Political Interviews

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

Week 6: Oct. 6-8: Parliamentary (Congressional) language

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

Weeks 7: Oct. 13-15

Tuesday, Oct 13: Chilton chapter 7; Boxer and Cortes-Conde Chapter 2 in W & B (Canvas)

Thursday, Oct. 15: review for midterm

Week 8: Oct. 20-22

Midterm exam Tuesday, Oct. 20

Thursday, Oct. 22: Distant Places

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

Week 9: Oct. 27-29: Worlds Apart

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

First pair second debate

Week 10: Nov.3-5: The role of religion

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

Second pair second debate

Weeks 11: Nov. 10-12 Towards a theory of language and politics

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

Third pair second debate

Week 12: Nov17-19, Political Discourse, Linguistic features and Social Media

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

Fourth pair second debate

Week 13: Nov. 24- Political Discourse, Linguistic features and Social Media

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

Week 14: Dec. 1 Final Test