

223.27 • Language and Culture (3 hrs.)
Instructor: Val Hiebert
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Providence College
Fall Session, 2008
Tuesdays 8:30 & Fridays 2:00

SYLLABUS

A. Catalogue Description of the Course

This course examines the complex intersections of language and culture. Sociological and anthropological theories, supplemented by philosophical and psychological perspectives, will be explored and used to examine the intersection of language and various dimensions of culture, such as interpersonal communication, gender, media, religion, race, politics. (Cross credited with TESOL and Anthropology)

B. Purpose of the Course

Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. identify and summarize salient aspects of the study of language in society
2. meaningfully compare the various theoretical perspectives of language within the social sciences
3. recognize the multi-faceted power of language within the everyday lived experience of interpersonal interaction
4. analyze how language functions to reflect, shape, and create reality within the various social institutions and organizations of society
5. display sensitivity to language issues both interpersonally (micro) and in society at large (macro)
6. demonstrate an ability to negotiate the complexities of language analysis and use with skill and grace

Note re. Syllabus:

It is the student's responsibility to retain their course syllabi for use as support for possible future applications to other educational institutions for transfer of credit.

C. Texts

REQUIRED TEXT:

Chaika, Elaine. 2008. *Language; the Social Mirror, fourth edition*. Boston: Heinle Cengage Learning

REQUIRED RESERVE READINGS:

Davis, Kingsley. 2005. "Final Note on a Case of Extreme Isolation." Pp. 89 – 95 in *The Production of Reality* 4th ed., edited by Jodi O'Brien. Thousand Oaks: Pine Forge Press.

Chilton, Paul. 2004. *Analysing Political Discourse*. London:Routledge.
Chp. 7 "Foreigners" p. 111 – 116

Hiebert, Val. 2003. Term Paper: "Female Genital Mutilation in Africa: The Semantic "Tug-of-War."

Norris, Kathleen. 1999. *Amazing Grace; A Vocabulary of Faith*. New York: Riverhead Books. "God Talk" pp. 211 – 214

Pennycook, Alastair. 1995. *The Cultural Politics of English as an International Language*. Harlow:Addison Wesley Publishing Company.
Chp. 1 "The World in English".

Sacks, Oliver. 2005. "Seeing Voices." Pp. 95 – 102 in *The Production of Reality* 4th ed., edited by Jodi O'Brien. Thousand Oaks: Pine Forge Press.

You are expected to bring annotated photocopies of these articles to class on the day they are listed in the class schedule.

NOTE: Further articles for required reading may be assigned as the course progresses.

D. Course Requirements

1. Theoretical Perspectives Paper (10%)

DUE DATE: Oct. 3rd

Write an informal paper (1st person) describing how language 1) reflects, 2) shapes, and 3) creates the world as we perceive it. Provide your own examples of each based on personal observations (i.e. – do not use examples given in lectures

or readings). Then defend the perspective you think is the most accurate. Your paper should be based on information from course lectures and readings. (5 pages)

2. Research Project (20%)

DUE DATE: Oct. 24th

Design and implement a small research study dealing with an aspect of conversational analysis or non-verbal communication, using a minimum of 20 research subjects. Write up a report which includes your study design, results, and interpretation of results (5 pages). Present your research to your classmates (5 – 10 minutes). Your research topic and design must be approved by the course instructor. You may choose to work in pairs, in which case you will need to double the number of research subjects, and grading expectations will be higher.

Paper 10%

Class Presentation 10%

3. Research Paper: Language and Social Change (20%)

DUE DATE: Nov. 28th

Choose an aspect of social/historical conflict/change and 1) identify, 2) track, and 3) describe, the various ways in which language has played a part in that process. This is a formal, academic paper (3rd person) that requires a social scientific style of documentation (See Section G. of this syllabus, “The Bare Basics of ASA Format”). You should have approximately 10 references, and no more than half of the references may be from internet sources other than on-line academic journals, government agencies, or credible public organizations. Your research topic must be approved by the course instructor. (10 pages)

4. Class Preparedness and Participation (15%)

Full attendance at all classes is expected, because active listening, thinking, and discussing are primary learning experiences in this course. The class preparedness and participation portion of this course will be based on

- 1) Completion of assigned readings for discussion
- 2) Assignments will occasionally be given at the end of class for discussion in the following class.
- 3) Meaningful participation in general class discussions

Absence from 4 or more classes will result in 0% for this portion of the course.

5. Exams Mid-Term (15%)
 Final (20%)

You will write two exams, each consisting of approximately 30 questions (multiple choice, true and false, fill in the blank, definitions, short answer). Each exam will hold you responsible for only all the material in the lectures and assigned readings covered since the previous exam; there is no comprehensive exam.

Mid-Term Exam Oct. 28th
Final Exam Dec. 9th

E. Grading Summary

1. Grade Components

Theoretical Perspectives Paper	10%
Research Project	20%
Tracking Semantics	20%
Class Participation	10%
Exam #1	20%
Exam #2	20%

2. Grading Scale

Final course letter grades and their Grade Point equivalents will be calculated using the following scale:

<i>Percent</i>	<i>G.P.</i>	<i>Quality</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>G.P.</i>	<i>Quality</i>
91 – 99 = A+	4.0	Exceptional	67 – 69 = C+	2.5	Satisfactory
85 – 90 = A		Excellent	63 – 66 = C	2.0	Adequate
80 – 84 = A-			60 – 62 = C-		
77 – 79 = B+	3.5	Superior	57 – 59 = D+	1.0	Marginal
73 – 76 = B	3.0	Good	53 – 56 = D		Poor
70 – 72 = B-			50 – 52 = D-		
			< 50 = F	0.0	Failure

F. Course Policies

In addition to the policies outlined in the *Student Handbook*, the complete academic policies, procedures, and regulations of Providence College can be found online (http://prov.ca/college/ac_pol-proc-reg.aspx), or in the Library, Admissions Office, or Dean's Office.

1. Plagiarism

Students are expected to demonstrate academic integrity in all its various forms, and will be held accountable for doing so by the policy on Academic Conduct in the Student Handbook (<http://prov.ca/studentLife/handbook.aspx>). One particularly problematic breach of academic integrity is plagiarism, which is stealing from the ideas and writings of another person and passing them off as one's own. For an elaboration of the nature, types, and prevention of plagiarism, see the Providence College document entitled "Academic Dishonesty: The Problem of Plagiarism in Academic Writing," in the Providence College Academic Formation Guide available in the Providence Bookstore, or in the Providence College "Academic Policies, Procedures, and Regulations" (http://prov.ca/college/ac_pol-proc-reg.aspx). Plagiarism will result in either failure of the assignment, or failure of the course. In short, don't.

2. Late Assignments

Late assignments will not be accepted after their due date, and will receive a grade of zero for that component of the course. The instructor will *not* receive requests for extensions. If you feel an extension is warranted, attach a cover letter to your assignment when you hand it in, explaining why it is late, and a decision will be made by the instructor when your paper is graded. A waiving of the zero grade will be granted only in the cases of personal or medical emergencies as detailed in the cover letter. Computer problems, conflicts with co-curricular activities, competition for library resources, and/or long weekends before or after due dates do not constitute such emergencies. Failure to plan ahead, or to maintain a margin of time for unforeseen events prior to the due date, does not warrant an extension either.

G. The Bare Basics of American Sociological Association (ASA) Documentation

For the complete ASA Quick Style Guide for students writing sociology papers, see <http://www.asanet.org/page.wv?name=Quick+Style+Guide§ion=Sociology+Depts>

1. In-text Citations

a) For ideas or information contained in a sentence:

Basic Format:

This is what you should do at the end of the sentence (Author Year-of-Publication).

Example:

This is what you should do at the end of the sentence (Smith 2008).

Basic Format:

According to Author (Year-of-Publication), this is what you should do in the middle of a sentence.

Example:

According to Smith (2008), this is what you should do in the middle of a sentence.

b) For direct quotations contained in a sentence:

Basic Format:

This is what you should do for a quotation “at the end of the sentence” (Author Year:page#).

Example:

This is what you should do for a quotation “at the end of the sentence” (Smith 2008:35).

Basic Format:

For a quotation “in the middle of a sentence” (Author Year:page#), this is what you should do.

Example:

For a quotation “in the middle of a sentence” (Smith 2008:35), this is what you should do.

2. Notes

ASA format does **not** use footnotes at the bottom of the page where a reference occurs. Endnotes numbered consecutively at the end of the whole document are permissible for material that explains or amplifies the main text.

3. References

Full bibliographic information for all citations in the text must appear at the end of the essay in alphabetical order under the centered title of “References” as follows:

a) Books:

Basic Format:

Last Name, First Name and Second Initial. Year. *Title Italicized and in Title Case*. City: Publisher.

Example:

Smith, John Q. 2008. *How to Document a Paper: The ASA Style*. Toronto: Academic Publishers.

b) Edited books, and editions other than the first:

Basic Format:

Last Name, First Name and Second Initial., Editor. Year. *Title Italicized and in Title Case*. Edition. City: Publisher.

Example:

Smith, John Q., ed. 2008. *How to Document a Paper: The ASA Style*. 5th ed. Toronto: Academic Publishers.

c) Journal articles:

Basic Format:

Last Name, First Name and Second Initial. Year. "Title of the Article in Title Case and Quotations." *Title of the Journal in Title Case and Italicized* Volume Number:Pages.

Example:

Smith, John Q. 2008. "How to Document in ASA Format." *Journal of Documentation Styles* 27:44-51.

d) Articles from edited collected works:

Basic Format:

Last Name, First Name and Second Initial. Year. "Title of the Article in Title Case and Quotations." Pages xx-yy in *Title of the Book in Title Case and Italicized* (edition), edited by First and Last Name. City: Publisher.

Example:

Smith, John Q. 2008. "How to Document in ASA Format." Pp. 65-76 in *A Comparison of Documentation Styles* 3rd ed., edited by Jane X. Doe. New York: Scholar's Press.

e) Internet sites:

Basic Format:

Last Name, First Name and Second Initial. Publication or update date. "Title in Title Case and Quotations," Access date. Internet address.

Example:

Smith, John Q. 2008. "A Quick Style Guide for Students Writing Sociology Papers." Washington, DC: American Sociological Association, Retrieved July 1, 2008.
<http://www.asanet.org/page.wv?name=Quick+Style+Guide§ion=Sociology+Depts>

H. Class Schedule

The readings appearing below each class topic are to be read in conjunction with that class. All assigned readings other than the Chaika text are on reserve in the Library. Ask for them by title at the front desk. Full bibliographic references are given in the texts list above. The instructor reserves the right to assign additional readings during the course of the term or to alter the schedule of topics as she sees fit.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Readings</u>
Sept. 5	Orientation to the Course	
Part I: Theoretical Perspectives		
Sept. 9	Sociology and Language	O'Brien, Jodi <i>The Production of Reality</i> Reading 9: <i>Seeing Voices</i>
Sept. 12	Sociology and Language	O'Brien, Jodi <i>The Production of Reality</i> Reading 8: <i>Final Note on a Case of Extreme Isolation</i>
Sept. 16	Sociology and Language	Hiebert, Val, <i>Female Genital Removal in Africa: The Semantic "Tug-of-War"</i>
Sept. 19	Anthropology and Language	Chaika, Chapter 2, <i>Field Methods</i>
Sept. 23	Anthropology and Language	
Sept. 26	Psychology and Language	
Part II: Micro Perspectives		
Sept. 30	Conversation Analysis	Chaika, Chapter 5, <i>Pragmatics and Conversation</i>
Oct. 3	Conversation Analysis	Chaika, Chapter 3, <i>Style of Speech</i> Theoretical Perspectives Paper Due

- Oct. 7 Non-verbal Communication
 Chaika, Chapter 4, *Kinesics: The Silent Language*
- Oct. 10 **Class Cancelled** (Thanksgiving break)
- Oct. 14 Non-Verbal Communication
- Oct. 17 Non-verbal Communication
- Oct. 21 Video: *In a manner of speaking; the phenomenon of conversation*
- Oct. 24 **Student Presentations**
- Oct. 28 **Mid-term Exam**
- Part III: Macro Perspectives**
- Oct. 31 Language and Gender
 Chaika, Chapter 10, *Vocabulary and Gender*
- Nov. 4 Language and Gender
- Nov. 7 Language and Media
 Chaika, Chapter 6, *Orality and Literacy*
- Nov. 11 **Class Cancelled** (Remembrance Day)
- Nov. 14 Language and Media
- Nov. 18 Language and Race
- Nov. 21 Language and Race
- Nov. 25 **Evening Lecture:** Guest Lecture: Cameron McKenzie
 Language and Christian Hermeneutics
- Nov. 28 Religion and Language
 Norris, Kathleen *Amazing Grace; A Vocabulary of Faith*
 God-Talk, p. 211 – 214
 Research Paper Due

- Dec. 2 The International Language of English
 Pennycook, Alastair *The Cultural Politics of English as an
 International Language* Chp.1, *The World in English*
- Dec. 5 Language and Politics
1. Chaika, Chapter 8, *Bilingualism: Individual and Social*
 2. Chilton, Paul *Analysing Political Discourse*
 Chp. 7 *Foreigners* p. 111 – 116
- Dec. 9 **Final Exam** 8:30 – 10:30 (Tuesday)

Bibliography

*Prov Library

**U of M Library

Backlund, Philip M. and Mary Rose Williams, eds. 2004. *Readings in Gender Communication*. Belmont: Thomson Wadsworth.

*Berger, Peter and Thomas Luckmann. 1966. *The Social Construction of Reality; A Treatise in The Sociology of Knowledge*. London: Penguin Books.

*Bergvall, Victoria, Janet M. Bing, and Alice F. Freed. 1996. *Rethinking Language and Gender Research; Theory and Practice*. New York: Addison Wesley Longman Limited.

Bonvillain, Nancy. 2008. *Language, Culture, and Communication: The Meaning of Messages, fifth edition*. Upper Saddle River: Pearson Education Ltd.

**Cameron, Deborah. 2002. *Working with Spoken Discourse*. London: Sage Publications.

*Chaika, Elaine. 2008. *Language: The Social Mirror, fourth edition*. Boston: Heinle Cengage Learning.

**Chilton, Paul. 2004. *Analysing Political Discourse; Theory and Practice*. New York: Routledge Taylor and Francis Group.

Clark, Virginia, Paul A. Eschholz and Alfred F. Rosa, eds. *Language; Introductory Readings*. New York: St. Martin's Press.

**Coates, Jennifer, 1987. *Women, Men and Language*. New York: Longman.

*Coates, Jennifer. 1993. *Women, Man and Language; second edition*. London: Longman.

Coates, Jennifer, ed. 2001. *Language and Gender; a reader*. Malden: Blackwell Publishers.

**Coates, Jennifer. 2003. *Men Talk*. Malden: Blackwell Publishing.

Coupland, Nikolas, Srikant Sarangi, and Christopher N. Candlin, ed. 2001. *Sociolinguistics and Social Theory*. Harlow: Longman Pearson Education.

*Downes, William. 1998. *Language and Society; second edition*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

- *Fairclough, Norman. 2001. *Language and Power; second edition*. Essex: Longman Pearson Education.
- Fowler, Roger. 1991. *Language in the News; Discourse and Ideology in the Press*. London: Routledge.
- **Geirsson, Heimer and Michael Losonsky, ed. 1996. *Readings in Language and Mind*. Cambridge: Black Publishers Inc.
- Georgakopoulou, Alexandra and Dionysis Goutsos. 2004. *Discourse Analysis; An Introduction 2nd Edition*. Manchester: Edinburgh University Press.
- Gleason, Jean Berko and Nan Bernstein Ratner. 2009. *The Development of Language; seventh edition*. Boston: Pearson.
- *Holmes, Janet. 1996. *Women, Men and Politeness*. New York: Longman.
- **Johnson, Sally and Ulrike Hanna Meinhof, eds. 1997. *Language and Masculinity*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishers Ltd.
- Knapp, Mark L. and Judith A. Hall. 2006. *Nonverbal Communication in Human Interaction, sixth edition*. Belmont: Thomson Wadsworth.
- Kramsch, Claire. 1998. *Language and Culture*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- **Macedo, Donaldo, Bessie Dendrinis, and Panayota Gounari. 2003. *The Hegemony of English*. Boulder: Paradigm Publishers.
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- **Myers, Kristen. 2005. *Racetalk; Racism Hiding in Plain Sight*. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc.
- Norris, Kathleen. 1998. *Amazing Grace; A Vocabulary of Faith*. New York: Riverhead Books.
- Ottenheimer, Harriet Joseph. 2006. *The Anthropology of Language: An Introduction to Linguistic Anthropology*. Belmont: Thomson Wadsworth.

- Pence, Khara L., and Laura M. Justice. 2008. *Language Development from Theory to Practice*. Upper Saddle River: Pearson Merrill Prentice Hall.
- **Peyton, Joy Kreeft, Peg Griffin, Walt Wolfram, and Ralph Fasold. 2000. *Language in Action; New Studies of Language in Society*. Cresskill: Hampton Press, Inc.
- **Ricento, Thonmas and Barbara Burnaby, eds. 1998. *Language and Politics in the United States and Canada*. Mahwah: Lawrence Erlbaum Associations, Publishers.
- *Romaine, Suzanne. 1994. *Language in Society; An Introduction to Sociolinguistics*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- **Sapir, Edward. 1968. *Selected Writings of Edward Sapir*. New York: Crowell, Collier & Macmillan, Inc.
- **Schaffner, Christina, and Anita L. Wenden, ed. 1995. *Language and Peace*. Amsterdam: Harwood Academic Publishers.
- **Schiffrin, Deborah, Deborah Tannen and Heidi E. Hamilton, eds. 2006. *The Handbook of Discourse Analysis*. Malden: Blackwell Publishing.
- **Spender, Dale. 1981. *Man Made Language*. London: Routledge & Kegan Paul.
- *Spolsky, Bernard. 1998. *Sociolinguistics*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- **Sunderland, Jane. 2006. *Language and Gender; an advanced resource book*. New York: Routledge.
- **Tannen, Deborah, ed. 1993. *Framing in Discourse*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
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**Whorf, Benjamin Lee. 1956. *Language, Thought & Reality; Selected Writings of Benjamin Lee Whorf*. Cambridge: The M.I.T. Press.

*Yule, George. 1996. *Pragmatics*. New York: Oxford University Press.