

APLNG 200: Introduction to Language, Culture, and Social Interaction

Fall 2009

Pennsylvania State University

Instructor Information

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Lectures: Monday & Wednesday, 1:00pm-2:15pm, 101 Althouse
Office hours: Wednesday, 2:30-3:30pm

Teaching Assistant Information

Name: Jacqueline Michelle Gianico
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Office hours: Tuesday, 1:00pm-3:00pm

Required Textbooks

1. Bergmann, Anouschka, Hall, Kathleen C., and Ross, Sharon M. (eds.) (2007). *Language Files: Materials for an Introduction to Language and Linguistics*, 10th edition. Columbus, OH: The Ohio State University Press. [Referred to as LF in the tentative schedule below]
2. Salzmann, Zdenek (2007). *Language, Culture, and Society: An Introduction to Linguistic Anthropology*, 4th edition. Boulder, CO: Westview Press. [Referred to as LCS in the tentative schedule below]
3. Additional readings and lecture notes will be posted in ANGEL

Course Description

The course is an introduction to contemporary thought on the interrelationships among the concepts of language, culture and social interaction and their fundamental links to social identities, social role relationships, and discourse communities. Readings draw from a variety of disciplines, including anthropology, applied linguistics, communication, philosophy, psychology and sociology. Topics include the interdependence of language and culture; the nature of social interaction and its constitutive role in shaping language and culture; the social contexts of language use; the role of language in interaction to mark, perform, and interpret social identities and role relationships; and acquiring language(s) and culture(s) across the lifespan. Illustrative examples come from a range of linguistically and culturally diverse discourse communities from around the world.

Course Objectives

Students will exit the course with

1. Critical awareness of the interdependence of language, culture and social interaction;
2. Increased sensitivity to how language is used to negotiate a range of regional, ethnic, and other social identities, role relationships and cultural discourses;
3. Critical awareness and appreciation for the vitality and richness of the culturally and linguistically diverse discourse worlds in which they live;
4. Enhanced interpersonal and intercultural skills for understanding and using language to create new ways of becoming involved in their world that reflect consideration for values, lifestyles, and traditions that may differ from their own with specific attention to discourses of gender, ethnicity, nationality, class and sexual orientation; and
5. Understanding of the basic methods used to study the interrelations among language, culture and social interaction, including ethnography of communication, conversation and discourse analysis, and dialectology.

Course Requirements

1. Participation in in-class activities and discussion of readings: 10%
2. Two written assignments: 30% (15% each). Written assignments will be distributed in class and posted in ANGEL.
3. Midterm exam: 30%
4. Final exam: 30%

Grading and Make-up Policy

1. Grading scale: A = 94-100; A- = 90-93; B+ = 87-89; B = 84-86; B- = 80-83; C+ = 75-79; C = 70-74; D = 60-69; and F = 59 or lower.
2. All written assignments must be typed and submitted in hard copy. Electronic submissions will NOT be graded unless approved by the instructor or TA for an acceptable reason and submitted through ANGEL.
3. Your work will be graded based on quality, effort, and how it compares with other students' work. If at any time you feel that your work has been graded unfairly, please notify the instructor and/or TA immediately and we will try our best to address your concerns.
4. Unless approved by the instructor or TA for an acceptable reason, late submissions of written assignments may be subject to a 10% penalty for each 24-hour period late (including weekends and holidays).

Academic Misconduct

Penn State defines academic integrity as the pursuit of scholarly activity in an open, honest and responsible manner. All students should act with personal integrity, respect other students' dignity, rights and property, and help create and maintain an environment in which all can succeed through the fruits of their efforts (Faculty Senate Policy 49-20). Dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated in this course. Dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarizing, fabricating information or citations, facilitating acts of academic dishonesty by others, having unauthorized possession of examinations, submitting work of another person or work previously used without informing the instructor, or tampering with the academic work of other students. Students who are found to be dishonest will receive academic sanctions and will be reported to the University's Judicial Affairs office for possible further disciplinary sanction.

Special H1N1 Flu Policies and Procedures

In compliance with Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and PA Department of Health recommendations, Penn State instructs students with influenza signs and symptoms to follow CDC self-isolation guidelines. Students should NOT attend classes or any public gatherings while ill and Penn State asks symptomatic students to leave campus if possible and to return home to recover. In balancing class attendance and public health, Penn State recommends that public health be given the greatest weight.

Should you need to miss classes, assignments, and scheduled exams due to influenza signs and symptoms, please inform the instructor and/or TA by phone (leave a voice message) or by sending us a secure message through ANGEL promptly and BEFORE the due dates of the written assignments or scheduled exams to receive reasonable opportunities to make up for missed work.

Accessibility

If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact the campus disability liaison as soon as possible.

The Office for Disability Services
The Pennsylvania State University
116 Boucke Building
University Park, PA 16802-5902
Phone: 814-863-1807 (V/TTY)
Fax: 814-863-3217
Office hours: Monday-Friday 8:00am-5:00pm

Please note the accommodations require documentation. For additional information, check the university web site: <http://www.equity.psu.edu/ods/>

Tentative Schedule (Subject to change)

WK	Date	Topic	Required	Recommended	Due	
1	8/24	Introduction	LCS Ch1: 1-15			
	8/26	Animal communication	LCS Ch2: 24-33	LF 14.2-14.3		
2	8/31	Language features and myths	LCS Ch1: 15-21; LCS Ch2: 33-37	LF 1.1-1.4; LF 14.1		
	9/2	Phonetics	LF 2.1-2.3	LCS Ch4: 79-87		
3	9/7	Happy Labor Day! No class				
	9/9	Phonetics	LF 2.4-2.6	LCS Ch4: 87-89		
4	9/14	Phonology	LF 3.1-3.3	LCS Ch4: 89-97		
	9/16	Morphology	LF 4.1-4.5	LCS Ch5: 100-108		
5	9/21	Syntax	LF 5.1-5.3	LCS Ch5: 108-112		
	9/23	Syntax	LF 5.4-5.6	LCS Ch5: 115-117		
6	9/28	Semantics	LF 6.1-6.5	LCS Ch5: 112-115	Assignment 1	
	9/30	Pragmatics	LF 7.1-7.3			
7	10/5	Pragmatics	LF 7.4-7.5			
	10/7	Language acquisition	LF 8.1 & 8.5	LCS Ch2: 37-44 LF 8.2-8.4		
8	10/12	Language and the brain	LF 9.1-9.3	LCS Ch2: 44-46		
	10/14	Midterm exam				
9	10/19	Language variation	LF 10.1-10.3	LCS Ch8: 175-184		
	10/21	Language contact	LF 11.1-11.5	LCS Ch8: 184-191		
10	10/26	Language change	LF 12.0-12.6	LCS Ch7: 141-150		
	10/28	Language change	LCS Ch7: 150-170	LF 12.7		
11	11/2	Language in social context	LCS Ch9			
	11/4	Language and culture	LCS Ch3	LF 13.0 & 13.3		
12	11/9	Language and gender	LCS Ch10: 217-229	LF 10.4.4		
	11/11	Language and identity	LF 13.1			
13	11/16	Language and ethnicity	LCS Ch10: 229-239	LF 10.4.5	Assignment 2	
	11/18	Language, class and power	LCS Ch10: 239-242	LF 13.2		
14	Happy Thanksgiving! No class					
15	11/30	Ethnography of communication	LCS Ch11			
	12/2	Nonverbal communication	LCS Ch12			
16	12/7	Applications	LCS Ch13			
	12/9	Applications	LF 16.0-16.6			
17	TBA	Final Exam				

* LCS = Required Textbook 2; LF = Required Textbook 1.

* All changes in schedule will be communicated in class and by email.