Language in Culture

Anthropology M140/Linguistics M146

Tuesday-Thursday 11:00-12:15 Fowler A-139

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Office Hours: Wed. 10-12 in Haines Hall 318F
Phone 7-4335 (during office hours) or 5-2055 (Anthro office) any time

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Books
Bonvillain, Nancy  Language, Culture, & Communication, fourth edition
Reader on Website
Click on Links and then Class Links

Reading Assignments

Week 0
Th. Sept 29  Introduction: Language as a Semiotic System

Week 1
Tu Oct 4  Theories of Language in Culture
Web Duranti: ch. 1 and 2: The Scope of Linguistic Anthropology and Theories of Culture

Th Oct. 6  Language in Developmental Perspective: Acquiring Communicative Competence
Bonvillain: ch. 10, ch. 9, pp. 241-244; 264-269
Web: Ochs: Cultural Dimensions of Language Acquisition
Web: Pinker: The Language Instinct

Week 2
Tu Oct 11  Language in Developmental Perspective: Gender and Cultural Differences
Web: Clancy: The Acquisition of Communicative Style in Japanese
Th Oct.13   Multi-modality and Socialization into Communicative Competence  

Web: C. Goodwin: Professional Vision  

Guest speaker: Steve Black on “Jazz Socialization”

Week 3

Tu Oct. 18   The Form of the Message and American Sign Language  
Bonvillain ch. 2  

Guest Speaker: Dan Levitt, Office for Students with Disabilities  

Turn in a card listing project group members with project title during section this week

Th Oct. 20   Foundational Research in Early Linguistic Anthropology: Linguistic Diversity  
Bonvillain, ch. 3  
Web: Whorf: The Relation of Habitual Thought and Behavior to Language  
Web: Basso: Ice & Travel among the Fort Norman Slave  
Web: Cohn: Sex and Death in the Rational Life of Defense Intellectuals

Week 4

Tu Oct 25   The Ethnography of Communication  
Bonvillain: ch. 4  
Web: Basso: To Give Up on Words,  
Web: Basso: “Stalking with Stories”: Names, Places, and Moral Narratives among the Western Apache  

Outline of Language Socialization Project due!

Th Oct 27   Talk as Social Action  
Web: Schegloff and Sacks: Opening Up Closings  
Web: Silverman: Conversation Analysis
**Week 5**

**Tu Nov. 1**  
**Participation**  
*We*: C. Goodwin: A Competent Speaker Who Can’t Speak  
*Web*: M. Goodwin: Processes of Dispute Management among Urban Black Children  

Review for Midterm

**Th Nov. 3**  
**Midterm**

**Week 6**

**Tu Nov. 8**  
**Gender and Language: Alternative Models**  
Bonvillain, ch. 7  
*Web*: M. Goodwin: Games of Stance  
*Web*: Tannen: Talk in the Intimate Relationship: His and Hers

*Video*: He Said She Said (narrated by Tannen)

**Th Nov. 10**  
**Marginality, Language, and Communities of Practice**  
Goodwin: Exclusion in Girls’ Peer Groups

**Week 7**

**Tu Nov. 15**  
**Models of Masculinity**  
*Web*: Kiesling: Now I Gotta Watch What I Say  
*Web*: Barrett: Indexing Polyphonic Identity in the Speech of African American Drag Queens

*Video*: Paris Is Burning  
*Eunuchs*: India’s Third Gender

**Th Nov. 17**  
**Languages and Dialects**  
Bonvillain ch. 12, ch. 11 pp. 325-332

**Language Socialization Project due by 4:30 PM**

**Week 8**
Tu Nov. 22  **AAVE**
Bonvillain: pp. 159-176 (“Race”)
*Web:* Smitherman: Introduction to Ebonics
*Web:* Rickford: Suite for Ebony and Phonics

*Web:* Sidnell: African American Vernacular English

**Happy Thanksgiving!**
No class Thursday Nov. 24

**Week 9**
Tu Nov. 29  **Multilingual Nations and Language Ideology**
Bonvillain, ch. 11, pp. 298-324
ch. 13, pp. 370-381
*Video:* American Tongues

*Guest Speaker:* Steve Black

Th Dec. 1  Review for Final with Steve Black
(AAA Meetings)

**Week 10**
Tu Dec. 6  **Power, Language and the Law**
Bonvillain, ch. 13, pp. 381-402
*Web:* Ehrlich: chapter from *Representing Rape: Language and Sexual Consent*

Th Dec. 8  **Final Exam** in Class

**November 2**  **Center for Language, Interaction and Culture Talk**
“Styling, Quoting, and California Youth Identities in Interaction. Mary Bucholtz, Dept. of Linguistics, UCSB, Haines 332, 5PM
Course Responsibilities

Exams and Project

There will be 2 exams given covering the materials read and lectures and a final project, which could be done in groups of 3-4. There are no make-up exams except in medical emergencies. Call the main office: 825-2055. Exams are clearly marked on the syllabus. Unfortunately many professors may schedule tests on the same date. For this reason it is to your advantage to keep up with the readings every day. The test questions will be based on the lectures, films and videos, readings and questions on readings which are on the web. If you keep up with your reading, attend class, and can answer the questions that accompany the readings each class period, you will be well prepared for the tests. Late work will receive reduced credit.

Language Socialization Paper

Language Socialization Assignment: People are socialized into various types of communities through language. With a group of 3-4 students select a field site you wish to investigate how language is used to socialize people into a local community of practice. This could be any type of class, including Sunday school, preschool, weight training, yoga, ballet, flamenco, choir, kayaking, horseback riding, work site, including a school newspaper, store, hospital, legal office, or any business, or voluntary association, such as the Venice Family Clinic, or social group such as a sorority, fraternity, cooperative, family, church, Scouts, little league, soccer team. In a short paper (8-10 pages) or Powerpoint presentation describe (1) some of the important linguistic vocabulary, routines or types of sequences, and competencies one must acquire to become a member in good standing of the local community (building on articles and lectures on language socialization). If metaphor is used in the process of instruction, describe the metaphors that are used by the instructor or expert guiding the novice to become a competent member. (2) Use the article by Schegloff and Sacks on conversational structure (Opening Up Closings) and the review article by Silverman on conversation analysis to describe some specific conversational practices. Make a one page transcript of an exchange in your setting to illustrate how language is used for particular purposes. A Transcription Guide is posted on the Website for the class. Provide translation if you are working in a language other than English. Show how relations of gender, power, or ethnicity are negotiated in this setting, discussing who has access to what spaces, objects, and interactional moves. Due: Nov. 17 by 4:30 PM in main office of Anthropology, 314 Haines.

Previous student papers are available; the TA will have them.
See the Class website for more specifics on the Project.

All students will be required to evaluate the performance of their group members on a form to be turned into your TA. We want everyone to contribute equally to each group’s project.

**Oral Work**

Students will be responsible for reading assignments each class period. Questions on readings are on the class website. The questions are designed to have you focus on important points and will form the basis of discussions (and exams). Class participation is important! Therefore it is important for everyone to attend class and discussion sections and be prepared to discuss the readings each class session.

Your class work is enhanced by conscientious attendance and active participation in class discussion and hurt by visible lack of preparation for class discussion (for example inability to answer questions about the readings) and failure to hand in assignments on the dates specified in the syllabus.

There will be handouts and study guides which will be distributed at the beginning of class periods. If you are absent from class get the handouts and class notes from another student, as they will only be handed out one time; getting handouts is your responsibility.

Exams are based on what is covered in class as well as the reading. Videos will not be shown more than once, so if you miss the class, get notes.

Policy: Do not arrive late or leave early. The TA’s will be keeping track of attendance.

Make appointments for times other than the class time.

Extra Readings of Interest posted on the Web

**Final Grade**

Here is a rough breakdown on how your grade will be determined:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Language Socialization Paper</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class and section participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Grading scale:** 100-98 (A +), 97-92 (A), 91-90 (A-), 89-88 (B+), 87-82 (B), 81-80 (B-), 79-78 (C+), 77-72 (C), 71-70 (C-), 69-68 (D+), 67-62 (D), 61-60 (D-), below 60 (F)

The **Final Exam** is for Thursday, December 8. It will cover readings from the second part of the course and is not cumulative.