Language in Culture

Anthropology M140/Linguistics M146

Monday-Wednesday 9:30-10:45 Fowler A-139

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Office Hours: Wed 2-4pm (& by appointment)

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

Reading Assignments

Week 1
Mon.  Apr 4  Introduction: Language as a Semiotic System
Wed. Apr 6  Theory, Data, and Transcription
  Web Duranti: ch. 1 and 2
  Bonvillain: ch. 1, Introduction

Week 2
Mon. Apr 11  Language in Developmental Perspective:
              Acquiring Language and Culture
  Bonvillain: ch. 9
  Web: Ochs: Cultural Dimensions of Language Acquisition
  Web: Pinker: The Language Instinct

  Video: Parts of The Human Language and Genie
Wed. Apr 13  
**Language in Developmental Perspective: Gender and Cultural Differences**  
Bonvillain, ch. 10  
*Web: Clancy: The Acquisition of Communicative Style in Japanese*  
*Gleason: Sex Differences in Parent-Child Interaction*

### Week 3

**Mon. Apr 18**  
**Multi-modality and Language Socialization across the Lifespan and in Professions**  
*Web: C. Goodwin: Professional Vision*

**Wed. Apr 20**  
**The Form of the Message and American Sign Language**  
Bonvillain ch. 2  
*Web: Lane, Hoffmeister, & Bahan. The Language of the Deaf World, in *A Journey into the Deaf-World*.  
**Guest Speaker:** Dan Levitt,  
Office for Students with Disabilities

Turn in a card listing group members. during section

### Week 4

**Mon. Apr 25**  
**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 and Travel among the Fort Norman Slave*

**Wed. Apr 27**  
**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!**
Week 5

Mon. May 2  Talk as Social Action  
Bonvillain: ch. 5  
*Web:* Schegloff and Sacks: Opening Up Closings  
Review for Midterm

Wed. May 4  Midterm Exam: No Make-Ups

Week 6

Mon. May 9  Participation  
*Web:* C. and M. Goodwin Participation  
*Web:* C. Goodwin: A Competent Speaker Who Can’t Speak

Wed. May 11  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

Week 7

Mon. May 16  Marginality, Language, and Communities of Practice  
*Web:* Bucholtz: Why Be Normal?: Language and Identity Practices in a Community of Nerd Girls  
*Web:* Goodwin: Exclusion in Girls’ Peer Groups

Wed. May 18  Alternative 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 and  
*Eunuchs: India’s Third Gender*
Week 8
Mon. May 23 Languages and Dialects
Bonvillain, ch. 12,
Video: American Tongues

Wed. May 25 AAVE
Bonvillain: pp. 159-176 (“Race”)
Web: Smitherman: Introduction to Ebonics
Web: Rickford: Suite for Ebony and Phonics

Web: Sidnell: African American Vernacular English
www.une.edu.au/langnet/aave.htm
Language Socialization Project Due by 4:30 PM

Week 9
Mon. May 30 Memorial Day: No class

Wed. June 1 Multilingual Communities
Bonvillain, ch. 11
Web: Gutierrez, Baquedano-Lopez, Tejada: Rethinking Diversity
Guest Speaker: Dr. Kris Gutierrez, UCLA Graduate School of Education

Week 10
Mon. June 6 Power, Language and Institutions
Bonvillain, ch. 13, pp. 364-388
Web: Ehrlich: chapter from Representing Rape: Language and Sexual Consent
Video: Cows of Dolo Ken Paye or Court TV trial
Review for Final

Wed. June 8 Final Exam: No Make Ups.
Course Responsibilities

Exams and Projects

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 case of medical reasons. 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 on this 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. Select a field site you for which 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) describe (1) some of the important linguistic routines, competencies and vocabulary 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 SPEAKING model of Hymes (see Bonvillain pp. 78-80) and the article by Schegloff and Sacks on conversational structure (Opening Up Closings) 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: May 25 by 4:30 in main office.

Previous student papers are available; the TA will have them.
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.
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:

Language Socialization Paper 30%
Class and section participation 10%
Midterm 30%
Final 30%

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 in class June 8. It will cover readings from the second part of the course and is not cumulative.