Language in Culture

Anthropology M140/Linguistics M146

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

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Teaching Instructors
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Book
Bonvillain, Nancy Language, Culture, & Communication, fourth edition
Goodwin, Marjorie H. The Hidden Life of Girls: Games of Stance, Status, and Exclusion

Reader on Website
Click on Links and then Class Links

Reading Assignments

Week 0
Th. Sept. 28 Introduction: Language in Culture

Week 1
Tu Oct. 3 Introduction: Language as a Semiotic System
Web: Finnegan, chs. 1-2 of Communicating: The Multiple Modes of Human Interconnection
Bonvillain: ch. 1, Introduction

Th Oct. 5 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
Week 2

Tu Oct. 10  Language in Developmental Perspective: Gender and Cultural Differences
Bonvillain, ch. 10
Web: Clancy: The Acquisition of Communicative Style in Japanese
Web: Gleason: Sex Differences in Parent-Child Interaction

Th Oct 12  Multi-modality and Language Socialization across the Lifespan and in Professions
Guest Presenter: Steve Black
Web: C. Goodwin: Professional Vision
Web: Finnegan: ch. 4 of Communicating: “Shaping the Sights: Vision and the Communicating Body”

Week 3

Tu Oct 17  The Form of the Message and American Sign Language
Bonvillain ch. 2
Web: Lane, et al. The Language of the Deaf World, in A Journey into the Deaf-World
Guest Speaker: Dan Levitt, Office for Students with Disabilities

Th Oct. 19  Foundational Research in Early Linguistic Anthropology: Linguistic Diversity
Bonvillain, ch. 3
Web: Whorf: The Relation of Habitual Thought and Behavior to Language
Web: Cohn: Sex and Death in the Rational World of Defense Intellectuals
**Turn in a card listing project and group members during section

Week 4

Tu Oct. 24  Alternative Models of the Relation of Language and Culture
Bonvillain: ch. 4
Web: Basso: To Give Up on Words,
Web: Basso: Stalking with Stories
Web: Basso: Ice and Travel among the Fort Norman Slave
Th  Oct. 26  Conversation Analysis
Bonvillain: ch. 5
Web: Schegloff and Sacks: Opening Up Closings
Web: Silverman: Conversation Analysis

Outline of Language Socialization Project due!

Week 5
Tu  Oct. 31  Talk as Social Action
Goodwin: The Hidden Life of Girls, chapter 1
Review for Midterm

Th  Nov. 2  Midterm Exam: No Make-Ups!
No blue books needed

Week 6
Tu  Nov. 7  Participation
Web: M. Goodwin: Processes of Dispute Management among Black Children
Web: C. Goodwin: A Competent Speaker Who Can’t Speak
Guest Speaker: Cre Engelke

Th  Nov. 9  Gender and Language: Alternative Models
Bonvillain, ch. 7
M. Goodwin: The Hidden Life of Girls, chapters 2, 3, 5
Web: Tannen: Talk in the Intimate Relationship: His and Hers
Video: He Said She Said narrated by Tannen

Week 7
Tu  Nov. 14  Marginality, Language, and Communities of Practice
Web: Bucholtz: Why Be Normal?: Language and Identity Practices in a Community of Nerd Girls
Goodwin: The Hidden Life of Girls, chapters 6-7

Th  Nov. 16  Where is Gender?
Goodwin: Chapter 4
*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

### Week 8

**Tu** Nov 21  **Languages and Dialects**
Bonvillain, ch. 11-12
*Web:* Lippi-Green: *English with an Accent* chapters 4-5
*Web:* Zentella: Multiple Codes, Multiple Identities
*Video:* American Tongues

**Language Socialization Project due**

**Th** Nov. 23  **Thanksgiving**

### Week 9

**Tu** Nov. 28  **AAVE**
Bonvillain: pp. 159-176 (“Race”)
*Web:* Alim: Hearing What’s Not Said and Missing What Is
*Web:* Smitherman: Introduction to Ebonics
*Web:* Rickford: Suite for Ebony and Phonics
*Web:* Sidnell: African American Vernacular English

*Guest Speaker:* Dr. H. Samy Alim

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

**Th** Nov. 30  **Power, Language and Institutions**
Bonvillain, ch. 13
*Web:* Ehrlich: chapters 1-2 from *Representing Rape*
Thetela: Discourse, Culture and the Law

### Week 10

**Tu** Dec. 5  **Wrap-up**
Goodwin: *The Hidden Life of Girls:* Chapter 8
Duranti: Language as Culture in U.S. Anthropology
*Review* for Final

**Th** Dec. 7  **Final Exam: No Make Ups!**
No blue books needed.
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. With a group of 3-4 students elect 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, rock climbing, work site, including a school newspaper, store, hospital, legal office, or any business (car repair), 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. You can present your findings either in a Powerpoint presentation during section or write a paper. In a short paper (8 - 10 pages) (1) Describe 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 article by Schegloff and Sacks on conversational structure (“Opening Up Closings”), the article by Silverman on conversation analysis or chapters from Hidden Life of Girls as points of departure for describing some specific conversational practices. Make a one page transcript of an exchange in your setting to illustrate how language is used for particular interactive purposes. A Transcription Guide is posted on the Website for the class. Provide translation if you are working in a language other than English. You may want to show how relations of gender, power, or ethnicity are negotiated in this setting; if appropriate discuss who has access to what spaces, objects, and interactional moves. Due: Nov. 21 by 4:30 in
main office, Haines 341. Boxes to receive papers will be at the front desk labeled by TA.

Previous student papers are available; your TA will have them.

All students will be asked to fill in an evaluation of how group members participated in the project. This evaluation form and a more elaborated project description with instructions are posted on the class website.

**Oral Work**

Students will be responsible for reading assignments each class period. Questions on the 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 and section participation is important! Students should 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, many of which are not available elsewhere, will only be shown in class 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 are 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 December 7. It will cover readings from the second part of the course and is not cumulative.