Overview

The main goal of this course is to provide you with a basic understanding of various anthropological approaches to the study of language. You will learn about how language both reflects and shapes thought, culture, and power. You will also learn how to apply the concepts we study to your everyday experiences with language. While this is an introductory course requiring no background, my expectations of you will be high. The format of most class sessions will be a mixture of lecture and discussion. The additional discussion sections will enable you to interact in smaller groups with our TA. Come to all classes ready to engage actively with the readings, and be prepared to apply what you are learning to your own experiences with language in everyday settings.
Exams, Written Assignments, and Grading

There will be six pop quizzes, a midterm exam, a language autobiography essay, and a final exam. The course assignments will require you to read, think, and write a lot. While I will not be taking attendance before each lecture, the pop quizzes may occur at any time, and there will be no make-ups for them. Your worst three pop quiz grades will, however, be dropped. Recitation attendance is mandatory. Frank will be taking attendance in recitations, and that will be part of your final grade. You can expect to lose one point off of your final grade for each recitation you miss. Any student who misses more than two recitations can fail the course for this reason.

Make-ups for the midterm and final exams will require a note from your Dean and will only be allowed in extreme emergencies. Travel arrangements that conflict with these exams will not be considered an acceptable excuse.

Language autobiographies that are handed in late will be penalized one half-grade per day.

Students found cheating on exams, handing in assignments containing plagiarized passages, or otherwise violating academic integrity policies will be turned in to the appropriate Dean for punishment.

Please familiarize yourself, therefore, with the Rutgers academic integrity policy, posted online at http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/integrity.shtml.

Your final grade will be calculated as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pop quizzes (best three grades out of six)</td>
<td>15% (5% each)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm exam (Th. March 4)</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language autobiography (due Mon. April 19)</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final exam (Tue. May 11, 8pm)</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section attendance and participation</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>100%</td>
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You will also have many opportunities during the semester to earn extra credit through optional assignments, online participation in discussion boards on Sakai (http://sakai.rutgers.edu), and other projects. Students who provide at least three meaningful comments can earn bonus points on their final grade.

Readings

There is no textbook for this class. Readings for this course are available online through the Sakai course website (http://sakai.rutgers.edu). If you have any problems gaining access to the readings, please let me know. You will be expected to have read the assignment listed for each class period BEFORE class begins. Be prepared to discuss the reading assignment, ask questions about it, or debate the issues raised in it. There will also be six pop quizzes, so do not fall behind on the readings.

...And remember: the only dumb question is the one you don’t ask…

From time to time, we will be viewing videos during lectures or in section. If you miss class on the day a video is shown, you are responsible for viewing it yourself. The Media Center is currently shifting from the basement of Kilmer Library on Livingston Campus and should be completely moved to Douglass Library by the end of the semester. Exams will include questions about the content of the videos and about the remarks of any guest speakers who visit. Dates and assignments may change during the semester. All changes will be announced in class and/or noted on Sakai.
Classroom Atmosphere

My goal is to create a classroom environment that is relaxed and conducive to free intellectual exchange. In order to foster an atmosphere in which all students feel comfortable asking questions and sharing comments, it is essential that you demonstrate respect for one another as well as for Frank and me. You are expected to refrain from activities such as reading the newspaper, doing the crossword puzzle, talking on the phone, or working on assignments for other classes while in this classroom. Because pop quizzes are held at the very beginning of class, **IT IS MANDATORY** that you come to class on time. If you must have your cell phone on in case of an emergency, please put it in vibrate mode before class begins.

**Unit 1: The “Socially Charged” Life of Language**

**NO SECTIONS THIS WEEK**

Th, 1/21  
Introduction

M, 1/25  

**SECTIONS WILL MEET FOR FIRST TIME THIS WEEK (1/25-28)**

**Unit 2: Language, Thought, and Culture**

Th, 1/28  

VIDEO in lecture: “A World of Gestures: Culture & Nonverbal Communication”

M, 2/1  


Th, 2/4  
Ahearn, Laura M. “Language, Thought, and Culture,” draft of Chapter Four from *Living Language: An Introduction to Linguistic Anthropology*, forthcoming from Blackwell.

Guest Lecturer: Frank Batiste

M, 2/8  
Unit 3: Language Acquisition, Schooling, & Literacy


VIDEO in lecture: “Acquiring the Human Language, Part 2: Playing the Language Game”


Unit 4: Language Death and Revitalization


VIDEO in lecture: “The Linguists” (also available via babelgum.com)


VIDEO in lecture: “The Linguists” (continued from previous lecture)

M, 3/1  REVIEW FOR MIDTERM EXAM

NO SECTIONS THIS WEEK

Th, 3/4  MIDTERM EXAM
Unit 5: Speech Communities

Unit 6: Technologies, Community, and Linguistic Mediation

Unit 7: Language Ideologies

VIDEO in lecture: “American Tongues”

Unit 8: Language & Gender


**Unit 9: Conversation Analysis**


**Unit 10: Language, Race, & Ethnicity**


VIDEO in lecture: “The Story of English: Black on White”

M, 4/19 LANGUAGE AUTOBIOGRAPHIES DUE BY 9:15 A.M.!
(IN ELECTRONIC AS WELL AS HARD-COPY FORMAT)


**Unit 11: Multilingualism around the Globe**


VIDEO in lecture: “Diverted to Delhi”


VIDEO in lecture: “Speaking in Tongues”

M, 4/3 REVIEW FOR FINAL EXAM

**FINAL EXAM:**
Tuesday May 11, 8pm–11pm, Ruth Adams Rm. 001