

Linguistics 375

Language across cultures

Autumn 2005

Tuesday/Thursday 1:30-3:18, 200 Enarson

Instructor:

e-mail:

office:

phone:

Office hours:

Course description:

This course looks at language and culture in two complementary ways. First, we will discuss the theoretical underpinnings of models for the study of language, culture and linguistic anthropology. Secondly, we will consider practical ways to establish and maintain positive cross-cultural relationships. Our goal is to understand ways in which languages and cultures around the world are similar, as well as how they differ, and to develop some general skills for understanding and engaging cross-cultural situations.

Required text:

Bonvillian, Nancy. 2003 (Fourth edition). *Language, culture and communication*.
Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Prentice Hall.

Recommended text (copy on reserve in main library):

Scollon, Ron, and Suzanne Wong Scollon. 1995. *Intercultural Communication*. Oxford:
Blackwell.

Course Requirements:

1. Reading assignments: Follow the readings in the syllabus. In-class lecture and discussion will constitute the main (but not the only) teaching strategy. Please come to class prepared to summarize, comment on, and ask insightful questions regarding the readings for each class.

2. Homework: There will be five assignments related to a (Platonic) relationship that you are to establish with someone who is a non-native speaker of English. All assignments must be word-processed. More details to follow.

3. Quizzes: On occasional Tuesdays (announced ahead of time), at the beginning of class, there will be a short, closed-book, in-class quiz based on the week's reading, class discussion and panel presentations. There will also be several take-home quizzes. Your single lowest quiz score will not count toward your final grade.

4. Midterm: The midterm will be given on Thursday, October 27. It will be comprehensive in scope, in-class and closed-book. It may take you most of the two hours allotted to it.

5. Panel discussion: Each student will participate in a panel to discuss one paper out of a choice of six from the following topic list: 1. Language, 2. Linguistic relativity, 3. Politeness theory, 4. Social identity theory, 5. Gender, 6. Multilingualism.

These panel presentations will coincide with class discussion on the same topic. You need to choose a panel no later than 9/27 (that's next Tuesday). No more than 5 students per panel—first come first served. The papers to be discussed are in the class mailbox in 222 Oxley. I will plan to meet with each panel one class session prior to their presentation to go over salient points. Each panelist must participate; you need to prepare a handout and you should take between 30-60 minutes to present the article plus handle questions and comments from the class.

6. Final: The final will be take-home, open-book and comprehensive. It will be distributed on 12/1 and it is due in the class box, 222 Oxley by 3:18 on 12/7/05. No penalty for early submission. If your final is late, you will most likely get an Incomplete for the course to be made up later.

7. Active and articulate participation in discussion is a job and life skill. It can also make the difference in an A or a B (for example) in this course. I don't specifically count off for attendance, but I do grade on participation. You can't participate meaningfully if you miss class.

Make-up policy:

My policy is to make it worth your while to take a test or quiz when it is offered, rather than later. Make-up tests or quizzes will be either oral in my office or by essay (my decision). I take 10% off the top for stuff handed in late, and a greater percentage the later it gets, but better late than never. If you know something will be late, talk to me ahead of time. It is also common courtesy to inform me if you intend to miss class.

Course Evaluation:

Class participation:	5%
Homework assignments and final presentation:	30%
Quizzes:	10%
Midterm:	20%
Panel discussion	10%
Final:	25%

Extra credit:

I'm always looking for good stories, articles, pictures, comics, posters, etc. that relate to language and culture. You can earn a few extra points if you: 1. Keep your eyes open, 2. Bring in something you find that relates to class issues, and 3. Write me a paragraph or two about how you think your find might fit into class discussions.

OSU grading scale (in percentages):

A	93-100	C+	77-79
A-	90-92	C	73-76
B+	87-89	C-	70-72
B	83-86	D+	67-69
B-	80-82	D	60-66
		E	<59

Classroom civility:

Much of what happens in this class emerges from discussion. I'm ok with passionately held views, but I will not allow students to be verbally attacked or personally belittled. Part of becoming an educated person is being able to disagree graciously, articulately and with aplomb. You don't have to agree with the "class position" or the views of your classmates, but you must be civil in your opposition.

Academic misconduct:

I will assume that work on tests, homework, quizzes and papers is your own. You are encouraged to discuss homework and papers (but not the take home final) with classmates or others, but the final write-up must be your own. Plagiarism of any kind is a violation of the Code of Student Conduct and, as per faculty rule 3335-31-02, must be reported to the Committee on Academic Misconduct. This is an autonomous committee that thoroughly investigates alleged misdeeds; University disciplinary measures are draconian. Let's not go there. If you don't get what's going on in class, talk to me and we can figure something out. However, I will not tolerate cheating.

Students with special needs:

If you have a special need based on the impact of a disability, please contact me to arrange an appointment as soon as possible. We can discuss course format, anticipate your needs and explore potential accommodations. I rely on the Office for Disability Services (ODS) for assistance in verifying your special needs and for developing accommodation strategies. If you have a special need and have not yet contacted ODS, 150 Pomerene Hall/292-3307, I encourage you to do so right away.

Day by day:

Week	Panel/ Special	Reading	Assignment
Wk. 1	Getting started 9/22		Show up
Wk. 2	Ways of looking at language 9/27 9/29	 <u>Sound & Fury</u>	 NB Ch. 1 NB Ch. 2
Wk. 3	Ways of looking at culture 10/4 10/6 10/7	 Language Panel Last day to drop a class without permission (and without receiving a 'W').	 Rx Paper due 1 st HW due
Wk. 4	Possible relationships between language and culture 10/11 10/13	 <u>Between Two Worlds</u> Culture Panel	 NB Ch. 3 NB Ch. 10 2 nd HW due
Wk. 5	Politeness, distance and friendship 10/18 10/20	 Politeness theory Panel	 3 rd HW due
Wk. 6	Midterm week 10/25 10/27	Review in-class Midterm	
Wk. 7	Social and cultural values 11/1 11/3 11/4	 Social Identity Theory Panel Last day to withdraw without petitioning (you get a 'W')	 NB Ch. 6
Week	Panel/ Special	Reading	Assignment

Wk. 8	Gender and culture			
	11/8	Am. Indian guest	NB Ch. 7	4 th HW due
	11/10	Gender Panel	NB Ch. 8	
Wk. 9	Generational discourse			
	11/15			5 th HW topic due
	11/17	Age issues	Scollon and Scollon Chapter 10 (in class box or on reserve)	
Wk. 10	Multilingualism in the US and elsewhere			
	11/22	Multilingualism Panel	NB Ch. 11	
	11/24	Thanksgiving		
Wk. 11	Bilingualism and being bilingual			
	11/29	Presentations	NB Ch. 12	5 th HW due
	12/1	Presentations	Take home finals handed out.	

FINAL is due Wednesday, December 7 by 3:18 in class box, 222 Oxley.