

COM 4930/LIN 4930: Language & Social Interaction

Syllabus: Spring 2020

Section: 2A87/25EC

Instructor: Dr. Emily Rine Butler
Meeting Time: MWF 5 (11:45am-12:35pm), Rolfs 207
Office Hours: Rolfs 412, Wed & Fri 1-1:45pm and *by appt.*
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E-mail: erbutler@ufl.edu (email preferred)

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND GOALS:

The purpose of this course is to increase your understanding of the role of language in social interaction and the construction of identity, and to heighten your awareness of language choices and their consequences. Topics include different approaches to the study of language in social interaction (theories and research methodologies), ways in which language is used to construct social identity (e.g. race, gender, status), and issues concerning language and culture (e.g. code-switching and stance). In addition to providing a conceptual framework with which to think about language and interaction, this course will provide experience in observing and analyzing how verbal and nonverbal conduct are enacted and understood in social situations.

COURSE PREREQUISITES:

None (Note: However, it is helpful if you've taken *Language & Power* in the fall or *Sociolinguistics*. Also, this is not a good course for you if you are a Freshman or Sophomore. It is geared more towards advanced undergraduates).

TEXTBOOK & COURSE MATERIALS:

Tracy, K. and Robles, J. S. (2013). *Everyday Talk: Building and Reflecting Identities* (2nd Ed.) NY: The Guilford Press.

A copy of this textbook will be put on reserve in Library West. All other supplementary materials will be available on the class *Canvas* site under "Pages". You will select from among these readings to complete your reactions papers.

ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION:

Your attendance and participation in class is significant to your success in the class. Attendance will be taken daily. It is your responsibility to look for and be sure you have signed the roll sheet by the end of class. If you have not signed the roll sheet, you will be counted as absent. If you come to class unprepared, you may be asked to leave and counted as absent for that class period. NOTE: In the rare case of class being canceled, you will likely be given an assignment to do instead. In order to receive credit for your attendance/participation grade for that day, you must submit that assign by Midnight on Canvas on the day it is due. Always check your email before class for updates from me.

How absences affect your grade:

You are allowed 3 unexcused absences (or 3 hours in the case of T/TH classes) for whatever reason, so it is not necessary to explain why you missed class. However, you may only have 6 total absences (excused + unexcused) and still be able to pass this course. In general, reasons for an excused absence from or failure to participate in class include serious illness or hospitalization, serious family emergencies, special curricular requirements (e.g., judging trips, field trips, professional conferences), military obligation, severe weather conditions, religious holidays, and participation in official university activities such as music performances, athletic competition, or debate. Absences from class for court-imposed legal obligations (e.g., jury duty or subpoena) are also excused. Here is the point deduction for absences over 3 hours:

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- 4th absence = automatic minus 20 points from attendance/participation (A/P) grade, 5th absence another 20 points deducted from the A/P grade; and so on for all absences after 3. Once all participation points are used up, points will be deducted from your final grade.

How tardiness affects your grade:

Excessive tardiness or leaving early will affect your grade. You must be in class at least 40 minutes for each 50-minute segment to get credit for that 50-minute block. Three (3) tardies (entering over 10 min late or leaving 10 min early) will count as one absence as described above.

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

LATE ASSIGNMENTS:

Late assignments or make-up exams will not be permitted without a University-approved absence. No late work is accepted for unexcused absences.

STUDENT CONDUCT:

The Dial Center for Written and Oral Communication strives for a classroom climate that is comfortable for all. Students are expected to behave according to the UF student code of conduct in their classes. This means treating their instructors and fellow classmates with respect. To ensure a positive learning environment, students should not: make complaints publicly (in front of other students); attack the instructor verbally, physically, or in written form; or express reactions in the classroom that would bring harm to other students. Failure to meet the UF code of conduct can impact a student's class participation grade or result in referral to the UF judicial office. Class atmosphere can be made or broken by the approach that students take to the challenges of the course. Students that support others, show good humor in the face of obstacles, show dedication in the face of setbacks, and show grace when others are not doing as well will help to create a positive communication climate. In a communication class, it is especially important for each of us to:

- Display respect for all members of the classroom – including the instructor and students;
- Pay attention to and participate in all class sessions and activities;
- Avoid racist, sexist, homophobic, or other negative language that may unnecessarily exclude members of our campus and classroom;
- Avoid unnecessary disruption during class time (e.g., private conversations, reading the newspaper, surfing the internet, doing work for other classes, making/receiving cell phone calls, text messaging, etc.).

ACCOMMODATIONS:

Please inform me if I can do anything to make sure physical circumstances don't get in the way of your work. UF's official statement on ADA issues includes: " Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter, which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester." I'd appreciate your paperwork the first week of class.

Other resources are available at <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/getting-help> for:

- Counseling and Wellness resources
- Disability resources
- Resources for handling student concerns and complaints
- Library Help Desk support

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U MATTER, WE CARE:

Your well-being is important to the University of Florida. The U Matter, We Care initiative is committed to creating a culture of care on our campus by encouraging members of our community to look out for one another and to reach out for help if a member of our community is in need. If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu so that the U Matter, We Care Team can reach out to the student in distress. A nighttime and weekend crisis counselor is available by phone at 352-392-1575. The U Matter, We Care Team can help connect students to the many other helping resources available including, but not limited to, Victim Advocates, Housing staff, and the Counseling and Wellness Center. Please remember that asking for help is a sign of strength. In case of emergency, call 9-1-1.

HONOR CODE:

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge, which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: ‘On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.’ Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult the instructor for this class.” For more information, refer to UF’s Student Conduct & Honor Code, <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/students/student-conduct-code/>

COURSE EVALUATIONS:

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>.

GRADING SCALE: (TOTAL: 500 PTS)

Scale for Final

Grades:

A=465-500
A-=450-464
B+=435-449
B=415-434
B-=400-414
C+=385-399
C=365-384
C-=350-364
D+=335-349
D=315-334
D-=300-314
F=0-299

Scale for Final

Grades:

A=93-100%
A-=90-92%
B+=87-89%
B=83-86%
B-=80-82%
C+=77-79%
C=73-76%
C-=70-72%
D+=67-69%
D=63-66%
D-=60-62%
F=0-59%

COURSE HOMEPAGE:

The course homepage on *Canvas* (<http://lss.at.ufl.edu>) will be central to the class. You will be able to access readings, worksheets, and the class discussion boards through the homepage. I will update it

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regularly with news and syllabus changes. Although I will make announcements in class and/or send e-mails regarding the assignments and schedule, it is your responsibility to check the homepage for updates.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

All submitted work, written or oral (including exams and power point slides), will be the student's personal, original work, with credit being given to sources used. Plagiarism, signing another student in, the use of prepared speech texts, and other forms of dishonesty are grounds for failure of this course and referral to the University Judicial process.

ACCOMMODATIONS:

Please inform me if I can do anything to make sure physical circumstances don't get in the way of your work. UF's official statement on ADA issues includes: "Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation." I'd appreciate your paperwork the first week of class.

DESCRIPTION OF ASSIGNMENTS:

Class attendance/participation (100 pts)

Homework (Choose 3 x 25 pts each) (75 pts)

- Speech Acts
- CA
- Style
- Stance
- Narrative

Breaching Experiment (50 pts)

Reaction Papers x3 (75 pts)

Exam 1 (100 pts)

Exam 2 (100 pts)

TOTAL: 500 Pts

Extra Credit: 20 pts. possible

Homework

Each assignment will involve data analysis focusing on the themes learned in the chapter. Students must complete any **3** of the 5 homework assignments throughout the semester.

Breaching Experiment

In Chapter 6, we will be talking about Harold Garfinkel and the field of Ethnomethodology. In order to better understand the role of verbal communication in maintaining social order, you and your classmates will devise breaching experiments to violate the social norms of conversation. Then you will do these experiments on campus in your small groups, before reporting back to our class on the results of your experiments. Afterwards, you will type up the results of your experiments, explaining what breaches you carried out for each category, what happened during each experiment, how the results confirmed or refuted your own expectations for social norms, and what you learned from this exercise. Each individual's final report will be due on Canvas.

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Reaction Papers

On Canvas, I provide an array of articles relevant to each chapter that you may find interesting for further reading. Students are required to write 3 reaction papers (25 pts. each) throughout the semester from the array of articles that I have posted. The second reaction paper will be for a specific article of my choosing (SP20: Ochs, 1979). Reaction papers should be approximately 2-4 pages in length (double-spaced, 12-pt, Times New Roman font, 1" margins).

In each paper, you need to accomplish 3 things for full credit: (1) summarize the main points of the article; (2) explain what you liked and/or didn't like about the paper and why; (3) how does the paper tie into the themes we are talking about in this chapter. You will be expected to utilize the terminology we have learned on a given topic to talk about the article in your paper.

Reaction papers are always due by midnight and will be submitted to CANVAS by the due date listed on the weekly schedule.

Exams

Exams 1 & 2 will be given in class and will cover material from Chapters 1-5 and 6-10, respectively. They will be composed of definitions, multiple-choice questions, matching, and essay.

Extra Credit

Students may earn up to 20 points of extra credit in 3 different ways in this course:

First, you may create 20 multiple choice (with 4 options) questions & answers for either exam. Indicate the answers below each question. (Note: Separate and label questions by chapter.) You may choose to submit questions for Exam 1 OR Exam 2, but NOT both. Extra credit is always due 1 week prior to the exam on CANVAS (no exceptions & **no** late submissions). This assignment is worth up to 10 points added to your total point score for the course.

Second, I am always looking for real-world examples of language use in articles, video clips, etc. to use in class to demonstrate a particular theme. You may email me examples at any time that you find that you think will be interesting to the rest of the class, and if I use it, you will receive 5 extra credit points.

Lastly, if **85%** of the class does the teaching evaluations towards the end of the semester, I will add 5 extra credit points to everyone's grades. Note: teaching evaluations are still anonymous. I can only see how many students have completed it, not who has completed it. <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>

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WEEKLY SCHEDULE

*All assignments due by midnight on Canvas unless otherwise noted

Date		Topic	Assignments due today
Week 1 1/6-1/10	M W F	Syllabus; Chapter 1: Talk & Identity ----- -----	
Week 2 1/13- 1/17	M W F	Chapter 2: Two Perspectives ----- -----	
Week 3 1/20- 1/24	M W F	NO CLASSES – MLK DAY!! Chapter 3: Person-Address Referencing -----	Reaction Paper 1 due Sun*
Week 4 1/27- 1/31	M W F	----- ----- Chapter 4: Speech Acts	
Week 5 2/3-2/7	M W F	----- ----- -----	Speech Act HW due Sun*
Week 6 2/10- 2/14	M W F	----- Chapter 5: Sounds & Sights of Talk -----	Exam 1 Extra Cred. due* (opt.)
Week 7 2/17- 2/21	M W F	----- ----- EXAM 1 (Ch. 1-5)	
Week 8 2/24- 2/28	M W F	Chapter 6: Interaction Structures ----- -----	React Paper 2 (Ochs, 1979) due *
Week 9 3/2-3/6	M W F	NO CLASSES – SPRING BREAK!! NO CLASSES – SPRING BREAK!! NO CLASSES – SPRING BREAK!!	
Week 10 3/9-3/13	M W F	----- Breaching Experiment (in class - do not miss!) -----; Breaching exp. discussion	Breaching exp. HW due Sunday*

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Week 11 3/16- 3/20	M W F	Chapter 7: Language Selection ----- -----	CA HW due Sun*
Week 12 3/23- 3/27	M W F	----- Chapter 8: Style -----	Reaction Paper 3 due Sun*
Week 13 3/30-4/3	M W F	----- ----- -----	Style HW due Sun*
Week 14 4/6- 4/10	M W F	Chapter 9: Stance ----- -----	Stance HW due Sun*
Week 15 4/13- 4/17	M W F	----- Chapter 10: Narratives -----	Exam 2 EC due* (opt.) Narrative HW due Sun*
Week 16 4/20- 4/24	M W	----- EXAM 2 (Ch. 6-10)	