

LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

ANTH 202
Nancy Bonvillain
Spring 2013
MWF 12:15-1:10

This course explores the interconnections between language and other aspects of culture, emphasizing the ways that language molds and transmits people's "world-views" or concepts about the world and the relations between themselves and others. We will study the process of encoding values, thoughts, emotions, and ideologies in language. We will also study the ways that cultural models are covertly expressed in daily communicative interactions in informal settings, institutional contexts, and the media. And we will examine the debates concerning the role of language in molding and channeling people's concepts about the world by examining vocabulary, metaphor, grammatical constructions, and other features of language. Finally, we will study how children acquire language and the social messages that are conveyed.

Prerequisite: One course in social science or linguistics at the 100-level.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

In addition to completing the required readings and participating in class discussions, students will take 4 unit exams consisting of identifications and essay questions. Response papers, writing assignments and brief quizzes may also be given. And a short term paper will be required toward the end of the semester. Make-up exams will be permitted only in cases of medical problems or other emergencies.

GRADING POLICY

All papers, responses, and writing assignments are due on the date announced. The term paper and unit exams will be given letter grades (A,B, C,D,F). Grades will be deducted for papers handed in late.

Response papers and other writing assignments will be given numerical grades as follows: 4 (excellent), 3 (satisfactory), 2 (poor but acceptable), 1 (inadequate), 0 (never handed in).

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Students are permitted a maximum of 3 absences. Students absent from more than 3 class meetings may risk being dropped from the course.

REQUIRED READINGS:

Basso, Keith. 1979. Portraits of the "Whiteman." NY: Cambridge University Press.

Basso, Keith. 1990. WALC: Western Apache Language & Culture. Univ. of Arizona.

Bonvillain, Nancy. 2011. LCC: Language, Culture, & Communication. (6th ed.) Prentice-Hall.

Duranti, Alessandro. (ed.). 2009. LA: Linguistic Anthropology: a reader. 2nd edition. Blackwell.

Lakoff, George & Mark Johnson. 1980. Metaphors we live by. University of Chicago Press.

Whorf, Benjamin. 1956. Language, Thought, & Reality. MIT Press.

additional articles on reserve

TOPICS AND READINGS

1. An Introduction to the Structure of Language

LCC : Ch. 2 The Form of the Message
WALC: 5: To give up on words
video: A World of Gesture

2. World-View: language and cultural modes of thinking, perceiving, assumptions about the world

Sapir : Language (reserve)
Frake: Ethnographic study of cognitive systems (reserve)
Whorf: An American Indian model of the universe (p. 57)
Linguistic consideration of thinking (p. 65)
Relation of habitual thought and behavior to language (p. 134)
WALC: 4 "Wise Words"
Lakoff and Johnson : Metaphors we live by

3. Linguistic and Cultural Categories
 - LCC: Ch. 3 Language and Cultural Meaning
 - Silverstein: Shifters, linguistic categories... (reserve)
 - Kay, Berlin, Merrifield: Biocultural implications of color naming (reserve)
 - WALC: 1 Classificatory verb system
 - 2 Semantic aspects of linguistic acculturation

FIRST EXAM

4. Ethnography of Speaking
 - LCC: Ch 4. Contextual Components
 - LCC: Ch 5. Communicative Interactions
 - in LA: Hymes: Ways of Speaking
 - Irvine: Formality and informality
 - Duranti: Greetings
 - LCC: Ch 6 Digital Communication and Signed Languages

video: American Tongues

5. Genres

Mitchell-Kernan: Signifying and marking (reserve)

In LA:

Alim Hip Hop Nation Language

Briggs & Bauman: Genre, intertextuality and social power

Duranti Narrating the political self

Basso: Portraits of the "Whiteman"

WALC: 6 "Stalking with stories"

7 "Speaking with names"

6. Language and Social Stratification

LCC: Ch 10 Language & Gender

LCC Ch 9 Class and Race

In LA

Morgan: African-American Speech Community

SECOND EXAM

7. Linguistic Use and Attitudes in Multilingual, Multicultural Settings

LCC: Ch. 11 Multilingual Nations

LCC: Ch. 12 Language Use in Bilingual Communities

in LA: Bailey: Communication of respect in interethnic service encounters

Hill: Language, race, and white public space

Leung et al Idealized native speakers, reified ethnicities

Gumperz; interethnic communication, ethnic style in political rhetoric

Hill: Grammar of consciousness

(video: We Still Live Here)

8. Language Ideology

LCC: Ch. 13 Language in Institutional Contexts

in LA: Kroskrity: Arizona Tewa kiva speech

Spitulnik: Social circulation of media speech

Language and the Media (reserve)

Institutional Character of Institutional Talk (reserve)

excerpts from Doublespeak (Wm. Lutz)

9. Language Acquisition

LCC: Ch. 7 Language Learning

(video: Baby Talk)

LCC: Ch. 8 Acquisition of Communicative Competence

in LA: Ochs & Schieffelin: Language acquisition & socialization

Philips: Participant structures and communicative competence

Heath: What no bedtime story means

Baquedano-Lopez: Doctrina narratives

Ochs & Taylor: "Father knows best" in dinnertime narratives

THIRD EXAM

