

LING 233

ANTH 233/COMM 233

INTRODUCTION TO LANGUAGE IN SOCIETY

Summer 2020

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Office Hours: 12-1 Tuesday and Thursday or by appointment.

Course Description

This course introduces the study of language in culture and society and raises awareness of the role of language in the development and formation of society and the individual within it. There are no prerequisites for this course. LING/COMM/ANTH 233 will engage in a systematic observation and critical discussion of linguistic phenomena. Students are encouraged to critically consider current issues and debates and to apply theoretical arguments to real language data drawn from a variety of sources. This course will acquaint students with the many levels of meaning communicated in our everyday use of language, with special attention to issues such as Standard language, language maintenance, dialects of American English, the social ramifications of language diversity, multilingualism, and language planning.

Learning Objectives

The learning objectives are the skills and knowledge that the course aims to teach each student by the end of the quarter. The learning objectives for LING/COM/ANTH 233 are:

1. Students will be able to identify and describe systematic observations of linguistic variation (social, historical, geographical, stylistic)
2. Students will be able to relate linguistic variation to the functions of language in marking identity, status, group solidarity and cultural values
3. Students will be able to identify and describe the role of language in the creation and maintenance of social and political power

Textbook

Wolfram, Walt and Natalie Schilling. 2015. American English (3rd edition). Malden, MA: Blackwell.

- Note that the 2015 edition is different from the earlier 1st and 2nd editions.
- Students are expected to read the assigned chapters from this text before the class meeting.

Canvas

Being an online course, we will make heavy use of Canvas, an online learning management system at the University of Washington. You can find your assignments and tests quickly using the "Modules", "Syllabus" or "Calendar" buttons on the toolbar on the left-hand side of the main page. If you have problems using Canvas, you can get help at help@uw.edu.

Grades

Your final grade will be comprised of the following activities:

Assignments 20%

Linguistics in the Wild 10%

Test 1 20%

Test 2 20%

Final Exam 30%

Grading Scale

The following UW grading scale will be used (www.washington.edu/students/gencat/front/Grading_Sys.html). Please examine this grading scale carefully and use it to monitor your progress in the course. We do not 'curve' the final grade.

≥95%= 4.0 94=3.9 93=3.8 92=3.7 91=3.6 90=3.5 89=3.4 88=3.3 87=3.2 86=3.1

85=3.0 84=2.9 83=2.8 82=2.7 81=2.6 80=2.5 79=2.4 78=2.3 77=2.2 76=2.1

75=2.0 74=1.9 73=1.8 72=1.7 71=1.6 70=1.5 69=1.4 68=1.3 67=1.2

66=1.1 65=1.0 64=.9 63=.8 62=.7 < .7 is a failing grade

Assignments

A series of weekly online untimed assignments will test your ability to apply the knowledge and skills gained within each course topic. The format of the assignments may include both objective-style questions (e.g., multiple choice, matching, etc.) as well as short-answer and longer, multi-part, analysis questions involving data sets or language problems. You will be able to work on the assignment at your leisure, save your progress, and return to it later. However, to get full credit for the assignment, you must click "submit" at some point before the assignment's closing date/time. You will not have the opportunity to make up missed assignments no matter the reason. However, your lowest assignment grade will be dropped.

Linguistics in the Wild

The goal of Linguistics in the Wild is for you to apply concepts learned in class outside of the classroom. There are a total of two Linguistics in the Wild assignments. The maximum word count for each assignment is 500 words. For this assignment, you will find linguistic features discussed in the textbook

and/or lecture from the news and/or pop culture. You must use a different source and linguistic feature for each assignment. They cannot be news/pop culture examples discussed in class. Please submit a PDF document to Canvas. The following is the rubric by which your assignment will be graded.

A very good example of a linguistic feature might be of interest to the rest of the class. If you would not like your example to be shared, please state that on example when submitting the assignment. This statement does not count towards your word count.

Tests

Tests will be conducted online through canvas and will be timed. They will also take place on specific dates. However, due to current circumstances, I will try to be as flexible as possible and make sure to accommodate students that live in other time zones. Tests are designed to test your knowledge of the material and whether you can apply your knowledge to novel situations. They will be mostly short answer questions.

The Final Exam

The final exam will be cumulative, although it will focus heavily on the final chapters of the textbook. The exam will be conducted online through canvas, and will be timed like the other tests.

Required Materials

Text Wolfram, Walt and Natalie, Schilling. 2015. American English (3rd edition). Malden, MA: Blackwell.

Canvas

All students must have internet access to complete Assignments and access information through Canvas. Canvas is an online learning management system at the University of Washington. In Canvas courses, students can access course materials, take part in online discussions, submit assignments and check their grades. To access Canvas, go to 'canvas.uw.edu' and login with your UW NetID.

Schedule

Class Meeting	Chapter	Homework	Linguistics in the Wild	Exam Date	Readings (Wolfram & Schilling)
Monday, June 22nd	Introductions and Ch 1				
Tuesday, June 23rd	Ch 1				Ch 1 pp. 1-24
Wednesday, June 24th	Ch 2				Ch 2 pp. 27-40
Thursday, June 25th	Ch 2	Assignment 1			Ch 2 pp. 40-58
Friday, June 26th	Ch 2				
Monday, June 29th	Ch 3				Ch 3 pp. 59-86

Tuesday, June 30th	Ch 3				Ch 3 pp. 86-94
Wednesday, July 1st	Ch 4				Ch 4 pp. 97-115
Thursday, July 2nd	Ch 4	Assignment 2			Ch 4 pp. 115-122
Friday, July 3rd	Ch 4			Exam 1	
Monday, July 6th	Ch 5		Linguistics in the Wild 1		Ch 5 pp. 125-143
Tuesday, July 7th	Ch 5				Ch 5 pp. 143-154
Wednesday, July 8th	Ch 6				Ch 6 pp. 159-170
Thursday, July 9th	Ch 6	Assignment 3			Ch 6 pp. 170-179
Friday, July 10th	Ch 7				Ch 7 pp. 183-199
Monday, July 13th	Ch 7				Ch 7 pp. 199-210
Tuesday, July 14th	Ch 8				Ch 8 pp. 217-231
Wednesday, July 15th	Ch 8				Ch 8 pp. 231-238
Thursday, July 16th	Ch 8	Assignment 4			
Friday, July 17th	Ch 9			Exam 2	Ch 9 pp. 245-258
Monday, July 20th	Ch 9		Linguistics in the Wild 2		Ch 9 pp. 258-275
Tuesday, July 21st	Ch 10				Ch 10 pp. 281-307
Wednesday, July 22nd				Final Exam	

This schedule is subject to change.

Course Policies

Respect:

Each of us enters this classroom community with unique sets of experiences that will inform our readings of and reactions to these texts. Because of this wide variety of perspectives, students must respect the validity of everyone's experiences in this community. Students must also listen to others' experiences and be willing to reconsider their own perspectives in light of such new information.

Accommodations:

Washington state law requires that UW develop a policy for accommodation of student absences or significant hardship due to reasons of faith or conscience, or for organized religious activities. The UW's policy, including more information about how to request an accommodation, is available at Religious Accommodations Policy (<https://registrar.washington.edu/staffandfaculty/religious-accommodations-policy/>). Accommodations must be requested within the first two weeks of this course using the Religious Accommodations Request form (<https://registrar.washington.edu/students/religiousaccommodations-request/>).

UW Athletes must inform the instructor in the FIRST week of class about any Assignments/Tests that must be missed due to participation on a UW team and present appropriate documentation of such team activity. It is the responsibility of the athlete to know what work they will miss and to schedule the completion of that work.

DRS:

Your experience in this class is important to me. If you have already established accommodations with Disability Resources for Students (DRS), please communicate your approved accommodations to me at your earliest convenience so we can discuss your needs in this course.

If you have not yet established services through DRS, but have a temporary health condition or permanent disability that requires accommodations (conditions include but not limited to; mental health, attention-related, learning, vision, hearing, physical or health impacts), you are welcome to contact DRS at 206-543-8924 or uwdrs@uw.edu or disability.uw.edu. DRS offers resources and coordinates reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities and/or temporary health conditions. Reasonable accommodations are established through an interactive process between you, your instructor(s) and DRS. It is the policy and practice of the University of Washington to create inclusive and accessible learning environments consistent with federal and state law.

Email:

Email inquiries to the instructor should be limited to individual issues that cannot be resolved by reading the syllabus, checking the website or the discussion board. I cannot discuss your grades over email. I will

attempt to answer any questions within 24 hours on weekdays. I try to check my email once or twice over the weekend, but if I receive an email after 5pm Friday, it may not be answered until Monday.