

Language and Culture

Instructor: Dr. Lori Cormier

ANTH 120-4A

Room: UW 126

Thurs: 12:30 - 3:00 p.m.

Fall 2003

Office: 338E Ullman

Office Hours: Mon/Wed 9-10:30 or by appointment

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Course Description:

This course provides an introduction to the relationship between language and culture. The primary emphasis is on language as an expression of social structure and cultural values. Topics include ethnolinguistics, the ethnography of communication, cultural differences in nonverbal communication, language change, and linguistic variation among speech communities including gender, class, regional, and occupational differences. In addition, language as a human phenomenon is explored through comparison of human and animal communication, language origins, universal patterns of language structure, language acquisition, and classification of the world's languages.

Required Reading:

Stewart, Thomas W. and Nathan Vaillette (eds). 2001. Language Files: Materials for an Introduction to Language and Linguistics. Columbus: Ohio State University Press.
Rymer, Russ. 1994. Genie: A Scientific Tragedy. New York: HarperPerennial.
Basso, Keith. 1996. Wisdom Sits in Places: Language and Landscape Among the Western Apache. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press.

Grading

Homework	25 %
Short Project	25 %
Quizzes	25 %
Final Exam	25 %

Course Requirements

1. Homework (25 %)

Eleven short homework assignments will be assigned during the course. The purpose of the homework assignments is to assist you in applying the material from class readings and to help prepare you for examinations. Your lowest homework grade will be dropped. Homework assignments are due in class and *no homework will be*

accepted late. Each homework assignment is worth 2.5% of your total grade and together, they count for 25% of your grade.

2. Short Project (25 %)

The short project will involve a 4-5 page paper describing linguistic variation in a speech community in American society. Students will select music by an English-speaking singer/group and analyze linguistic variation between standard English and the speech community represented by the music. Students will be exploring differences in phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, subcultural context, and other areas of linguistic variation. Complete instructions will be provided in a separate handout. The short project is due on Dec 4th.

3. Quizzes (25 %)

Two short quizzes will be given which will derive from class lectures, readings, handouts, and homework assignments. Each quiz is worth 12.5 % of your grade and together, the two quizzes account for 25% of the total grade.

4. Final Exam (25 %)

The final exam will derive from lectures, readings, handouts, and homework assignments. The final exam is cumulative, but *will not* include Genie or Wisdom Sits in Places.

Make-up Exam Policy: Make-up exams are not routinely given. In the event of an extraordinary emergency, students must contact me immediately to determine if they are eligible to take a make-up exam. Students should contact me *before* the examination. No student will be eligible to take a make-up exam who has not contacted me within 24 hours of the exam (in person, phone call or message, or e-mail) unless specific documentation is provided as to why he or she was unable to contact me.

Students with Disabilities:

Reasonable accommodations will be made for students with special needs. Students should contact me during my office hours early in the semester so that such arrangements can be made. Disability Support Services is located in Room 504 of the University Center. Telephone: (205) 934-4205; (Voice) 934-4248 (TDD).

Withdrawing from this Course:

You may withdraw from a course and receive a grade of "W" up to and including October 21, 2003. After that date you may not withdraw. See the 1999 - 2001 Undergraduate Catalogue (<http://main.uab.edu/show.asp?durki=1934>) for the full text of this policy.

Policy on Academic Misconduct

The consequence of academic dishonesty is an F on the assignment and an F for the course. For complete information, please consult the UAB undergraduate catalogue

(online address: <http://main.uab.edu/show.asp?durki=38715>). According to UAB policy, academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the following categories of behavior:

ABETTING: helping another student commit an act of academic dishonesty. Allowing someone to copy your quiz answers or use your work as their own are examples of abetting.

CHEATING: use or attempted use of unauthorized materials, information, study aids, the answers of others, or computer-related information.

PLAGIARISM: claiming as your own the ideas, words, data, computer programs, creative compositions, artwork, etc., done by someone else. Examples include improper citation of referenced works, use of commercially available scholarly papers, failure to cite sources, or copying other's ideas.

FABRICATION: presenting as genuine falsified data, citations, or quotations.

MISREPRESENTATION: falsification, alteration, or misstatement of the contents of documents, academic work, or other materials related to academic matters, including work substantially done for one class as work done for another without receiving prior approval from the instructor.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Class 1 (Aug 21): Course Overview and Introduction to Language and Culture

Class 2 (Aug 28): Animal Communication

Readings: Language Files Chapters 1 and 2
Genie Chapter 1

Class 3 (Sept 4): Phonetics

Readings: Language Files Chapter 3
Genie Chapter 2

Homework # 1 Due

Class 4 (Sept 11): Phonology

Readings: Language Files Chapter 4
Genie Chapter 3

Homework # 2 Due

Class 5 (Sept 18): Morphology

Readings: Language Files Chapter 5
Genie Chapter 4

Homework # 3 Due

Class 6 (Sept 25): Syntax and Review of Genie

Readings: Language Files Chapter 6
Genie Chapter 5

Homework # 4 Due

Class 7 (Oct 2): Semantics and Quiz 1

Readings: Language Files Chapter 7

Homework # 5 Due

Class 8 (Oct 9): Pragmatics

Readings: Language Files Chapter 8

Wisdom Sits in Places Chapter 1

Homework # 6 Due

Class 9 (Oct 16): Psycholinguistics

Readings: Language Files Chapter 9

Wisdom Sits in Places Chapter 2

Homework # 7 Due

Class 10 (Oct 23): Language Variation

Readings: Language Files Chapter 10

Wisdom Sits in Places Chapter 3

Homework # 8 Due

Class 11 (Oct 30): Language Contact

Readings: Language Files Chapter 11

Wisdom Sits in Places Chapter 4

Homework # 9 Due

Class 12 (Nov 6): Language Change and Review of Wisdom Sits in Places

Readings: Language Files Chapter 12

Wisdom Sits in Places Epilogue

Homework # 10 Due

Class 13 (Nov 13): Visual Languages and Quiz 2

Readings: Language Files Chapter 13

Homework # 11 Due

Class 14 (Nov 20): Language and Computers

Readings: Language Files Chapter 14

No Homework: work on completing short project

Class 15 (Dec 4): Language in a Wider Context and Final Review

Readings: Language Files Chapter 15

Short Project Due

FINAL EXAM: December 11 (Thursday), 12:30 - 3:00