Language in Society
LING 1305 - Online

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　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　TR　　2:00 - 4:00 pm

Description

In this course, we will consider language from a social perspective, one in which language only becomes meaningful in its social context. A social approach emphasizes the ways we use language to create and manage our social identities, such as gender, ethnicity, and many others. Some of the topics to be explored touch on dialects, regional variation, slang, minority languages, power and status, language and gender, bilingualism, code-switching, pidgins and creoles, and some applied fields of sociolinguistics (e.g., language and law, language and healthcare, etc.).

Class Format

This course will be conducted completely within Canvas, where you will find a series of learning modules containing lecture videos, quizzes, etc. The course is entirely asynchronous: There are no meetings or activities that require you to be online at a certain time. The course will take the entire semester to complete. Assignments will generally open two weeks before their due dates.

Texts

(1)　Van Herk, Gerard (2018) *What is Sociolinguistics?* (2nd ed) Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons

(2)　Articles
　　　These are available through the library's online reserve system for no charge

Grading

20%　**Text Quizzes** - students will demonstrate a basic understanding of the topics covered in the textbook
20%　**Articles Quizzes** - students will demonstrate a basic understanding of the topics covered in the articles
14%　**Lecture Quizzes** - students will demonstrate attentive listening during the lecture videos
10%　**Project** - students will read an article on one of the assigned topics, create a PowerPoint summarizing the article, and do a voice-over presentation in PowerPoint
36%　**Exam 1, 2, & 3**- students will complete a timed quiz in Canvas, then write a couple of short essays related to topics covered since the last exam (12% each). Exam 3 is the final exam.

Grading Standards:

		88-89	B+	78-79	C+	68-69	D+	0-59	F
92-100	A	82-87	B	72-77	C	62-67	D		
90-91	A-	80-81	B-	70-71	C-	60-61	D-		

Assignments:

Quizzes: There are two sets of reading quizzes on Canvas: one covering chapters from the textbook (e.g., T01, which covers chapter 1) and another covering articles (e.g., A01, covering the first article). They are designed to encourage your careful reading of the assignment. The questions are all multiple choice or true/false; there are no essay or short-answer questions. Also, the questions are generally sorted in the same order as the material in the chapter or article.

I recommend reading the chapter and article all the way through first, then starting the quiz. You will definitely want the chapter or article in front of you while you are taking the quiz.

There are 27 quizzes: 14 textbook quizzes and 13 article quizzes. The first quiz (T00) is counted with the Textbook quizzes, but it's different from the others. T01-T13 cover chapters from the Textbook, while T00 only covers the *Syllabus*, *Schedule*, and *PowerPoints* from the first module (ch00a-Salutations & ch00b-Syllabus).

I understand that there are exceptional circumstances, such as losing your Wi-Fi connection, that make it hard to complete assignments on time, every time. To accommodate for difficult circumstances, I will drop the 2 lowest scores for the textbook quizzes and the 2 lowest scores for article quizzes. If you cannot complete a quiz within the window, lose your internet connection at the worse moment, become too sick to think straight, or just forget there is a quiz due, count it as one of your dropped scores. It is your responsibility to have a plan for reliable internet and a plan B if your first plan fails. Please do not ask me to allow a repeat of a quiz.

All quizzes are due at 11:59 pm on the day listed on the *Schedule*. The quizzes are NOT timed, but once you start you must work until finished; you cannot start, save your work and restart later. At 11:59 pm they will submit even if you are in the middle of a question. The answers will be viewable for 24 hours after the due date.

Lecture Quizzes: Each video lecture has a quiz embedded in the video to encourage attentive listening during the lecture. There are multiple choice, true-false, and open-ended questions. The open-ended questions generally ask for your reflection on a topic and do not have a "correct" answer. The number of questions varies from 2 to 6 per lecture. Questions ask about things mentioned since the last quiz question, and the answer will rarely be something that appeared on a slide.

To accommodate exceptional situations (as mentioned above), I will drop the 8 lowest scores from the Lecture Quizzes.

Project: Each student will choose 1 article from the list of topics to summarize in a PowerPoint presentation. This assignment is described in detail in the *Project* section of the *Syllabus*. To select your article, go into **Canvas > Project & Exams > Project**, browse the different topics. Please choose your article by the **Select** date listed in the *Schedule*.

Exams: There are 3 exams of equal weight. The exams are not comprehensive; they only cover material since the previous exam (or since the beginning of class for Exam 1). All exams open at 6:00 am on the day listed in the *Schedule* and are due at 11:59 pm that same day. The exams are described in detail in the *Exam* section of the *Syllabus*, with a brief summary provided here.

Exams have two parts: (1) a timed quiz, and (2) two short essays. You must do the quiz first because the last item in the quiz contains your essay prompts.

Part 1 Quiz: You will have <u>40 minutes</u> to complete Part 1. There will be matching questions and short-answer (i.e., one sentence) questions covering topics from the Lecture Videos.

Part 2 Essays: The final item on Part 1 will give you the prompts for your essays. Type your essays into a Word document, then return to Canvas and upload your document to the Part 2 "Essays." Part 2 is not timed.

Articles

The Articles are available for free through the library's online course reserve system
> **https://www.baylor.edu/lib/**

- click "Course Reserve" tab
- search for "LING.1305"
- refine results by clicking "Course Name" and selecting our course
- open and save/print each item
- there will probably be multiple search result pages. Use the *Schedule* to verify you're getting all articles

The articles are all free. If you get a message saying you need to pay for an article, you are not logged in correctly. Go back to the Baylor Library page and look for a "sign in" button. The library Help Desk can help you with problems.

Other stuff

Incompletes: An incomplete grade is reserved for students who have attended class regularly and who are missing only the final exam for a sound and documented (usually medical) reason.

Contacting Me: Email is a good way to communicate with me. I prefer you email me directly rather than sending a message through Canvas. I may not see a Canvas message for days. I'm also happy to meet with you over Zoom. Please suggest a date/time for a meeting when you email me.

Academic Success: Every student who has been admitted to Baylor can be successful in my class. Familiarize yourself with the culture of success we have at Baylor by stopping by the *Paul L. Foster Success Center* in Sid Richardson or by going to: www.baylor.edu/successcenter/.

Academic Integrity: You are not allowed to copy any part of the quizzes or exams for this course in any form or to share information about the contents. All quizzes and exams for this course are subject to the academic policies and procedures of Baylor University and regulated by the *Baylor University Honor Code*.

Any work submitted under your name is expected to be your own, not composed by anyone else in whole or in part, nor handed over to another person for complete or partial revision. Be sure to document all ideas that are not your own. Instances of plagiarism or any other act of academic dishonesty will be reported to the *Honor Council* and may result in failure of the course. Not understanding plagiarism is not an excuse; it is your responsibility to be very familiar with the Honor Code at: www.baylor.edu/honorcode/.

Students Needing Accommodations: Any student who needs academic accommodations related to a documented disability should inform me immediately at the beginning of the semester. You are required to obtain appropriate documentation and information regarding accommodations from the *Office of*

Access and Learning Accommodation (OALA). Contact Information: (254) 710-3605 - Paul L. Foster Success Center, 1st floor on the East Wing of Sid Richardson.

<u>Military Student Advisory:</u> Veterans and active duty military personnel are welcomed and encouraged to communicate, in advance if possible, any special circumstances they have (e.g., upcoming deployment, drill requirements, disability accommodations). You are also encouraged to visit the *VETS Program Office* with any questions at (254) 710-7264.

<u>Title IX:</u> Baylor University does not discriminate on the basis of sex or gender in any of its education or employment programs and activities, and it does not tolerate discrimination or harassment on the basis of sex or gender. This policy prohibits sexual and gender-based harassment, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, stalking, intimate partner violence, and retaliation (collectively referred to as prohibited conduct). For more information on how to report or to learn more about our policy and process, please visit www.baylor.edu/titleix or call the Title IX Office at (254) 710-8454.

Project

Summary
The purpose of this project is to give you a chance to explore one of the many areas in which sociolinguistic research has produced interesting and useful observations. Briefly, you will select an article, create a PowerPoint summarizing the interesting parts of the article, then do a "voice over" recording presenting your summary.

Select
Although the project is not due until late in the semester, I want you to pick your topic right away. Please go into **Canvas > Project & Exams > Project Select** and browse the PDFs I have created with articles on various topics. Choose the article that is most interesting to you, then search Baylor's online library until you find the article and download it.

Finally, take the **P00 Quiz**, which asks for you to identify which project and article you've chosen. The quiz also asks you to affirm that you have found and downloaded your article.
- **Due by 11:59 pm on the *Select* date**
- meeting this deadline is part of your grade for this assignment
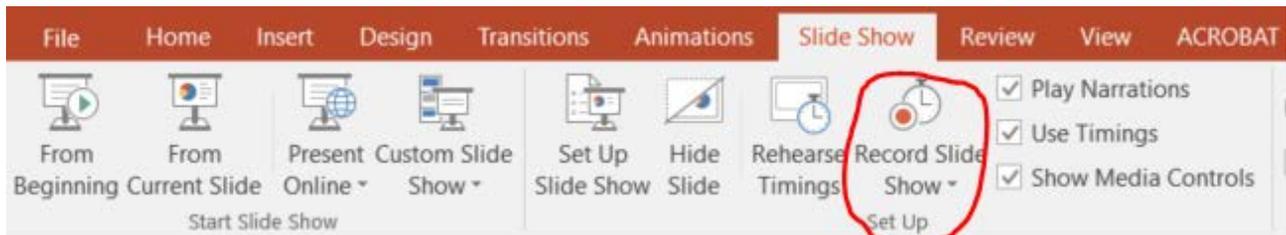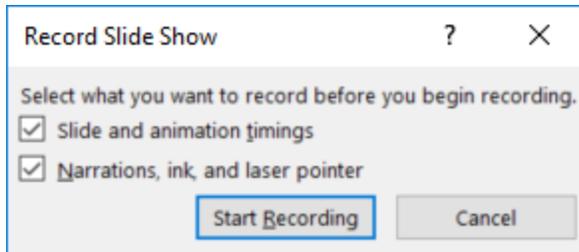
Presentation
Your presentation is meant to summarize the important, interesting points in the article. Do not try to explain the whole article. Read it with a critical eye to find the key ideas. Be sure to cover how your article describes the intersection of language and society and give at least one example.

PowerPoint
PowerPoint is provided free to all Baylor students through ITS. If you haven't installed Office 360, now is a good time to do it.

In PowerPoint, create your slides and plan what you want to say for each slide. Once you are ready to narrate your presentation, click **Slide Show tab > Record Slide Show >** check the box for **"Slide and animation timings"** and **"Narrations, ink, and laser pointing,"** then start talking and advancing slides until the end.

In PowerPoint, the recording attaches separately to each slide. If you make a mistake, you do not have to restart from the beginning of the presentation. You can simply stop recording, delete the audio from the current slide (click **Animations tab > Animation Pane**, then delete Audio file), and restart the "recording from the current slide."

Do NOT save the file as a "show" or "movie." Just upload your PowerPoint file to the Canvas assignment, and I will be able to watch the show.

Length
Your presentation should have **4-5 content slides** (not counting a title page at the beginning), and your voice recording should take between **6-8 minutes**. Do not exceed 5 content slides nor 8 minutes of talking. Remember, you are not trying to describe the whole article; you are summarizing the important points of the article relating to how language and society interact.

Requirements
- on the **first slide** (your title page), include your name, the project group name (e.g. Slang), and a complete reference for your article
- include **at least one example** that illustrates how language and society interact
- do not type all of your text onto slides and simply read them; use an outline and bullet points
- name the file you upload: **year_topic_StudentName** (e.g., 2020_Slang_BobbyBaylor)
- upload your presentation using the link in **Canvas > Project & Exams > Project Upload**
- you must turn this assignment in through Canvas. I will not accept the assignment any other way
- review the *Grading Rubric* (on *Project Select* page in Canvas) for this assignment to be sure you are getting all possible points

Example
I recorded a sample presentation, which is available on the *Project Select* page in Canvas, so you would have an idea of what I am imagining. You can watch it by clicking on the **Slide Show** tab, and then clicking on **From Beginning**. Feel free to delete the content from this file and use it as a template, or you can create a new file with your own preferred look.

Exams

There are <u>3 exams</u> of equal weight. The exams are NOT comprehensive; they only cover material since the previous exam (or since the beginning of class for Exam 1). Exam 3 counts as the Final Exam and follows the same pattern as the other exams. All exams **open at 6:00 am** on the day listed in the *Schedule* and are **due at 11:59 pm** that same day.

You may use your notes, textbook, and articles for the exams. However, you must work alone. All work on exams should be your work and your work alone. You are not allowed to share the content of the exams in any form. The exams for this course are subject to the academic policies and procedures of Baylor University and regulated by the *Baylor University Honor Code*.

Each exam has two parts: (1) a timed quiz, and (2) two short essays. You must do the quiz first because the last item in the quiz contains your essay prompts. **NOTE**: *Plan to complete Part 1 Quiz early enough in the day to leave plenty of time to work on the Part 2 Essays.*

> <u>Part 1 Quiz</u>: You will have <u>40 minutes</u> to complete Part 1. Once you start, you must work steadily until completion. You will not be allowed to stop, save your work, and restart later. There will be matching questions and short-answer questions covering topics from the Lecture Videos. While you are watching the Lecture Videos, you should take careful notes and not rely only on the PowerPoint slides. *Pay special attention to terms that I define and people that I talk about as these will be the majority of items on Part 1 Quiz.*

> <u>Part 2 Essays</u>: The final item on Part 1 will give you the prompts for your essays. Copy them down before you submit your quiz. Type your answers into a document, then return to Canvas and upload your document to the Part 2 assignment. Part 2 is not timed, but you must upload your completed essays by 11:59 pm on the due date.

Part 1 Quiz - sample
Instructions: Match the following term or person with its corresponding definition or summary statement.

Sociolinguists	*verb morphology requires marking for validity*
Noam Chomsky	*harmless drudges who talk incessantly about languages*
Hopi Language	*combination of Darth Vader and Sauron*

Part 2 Essay - sample
Instructions:
(1) Type your essays in one document, and save the file using the following format:
  Year_Exam01_StudentName (e.g., 2020_Exam01_BobbySmith).
(2) Upload your document to the **Canvas > Project & Exams > Ex01 Essays** assignment in Canvas by **11:59 pm** on the due date. You must upload to Canvas; I will not accept hardcopy or emailed answers.
(3) Include the question you're answering before your essay. Do not include these "Instructions" in the document.

(4)   Each answer should be between **200-250 words**. So, your combined answers for both questions should not exceed 500 words.

(5)   Write in careful, academic prose. You will **not** receive an "A" grade if your paper is poorly written, regardless of the quality of your answers.

(6)   Good answers will do three things:

      a.   identify and describe the related theories, terms, and people (about 75% of the answer)

      b.   include examples (from lectures, readings, or personal experience) that illustrate the issue (about 25% of the answer)

      c.   only use sources that are part of our class. No credit will be given for citing *Wikipedia*, for example.

      d.   incorporate ideas from **at least 2** of the following 3 sources in each answer. You must cite your sources, but you do not need to give a formal citation or works-cited list at the end. Please use the in-text system described here:

<u>Sources</u>   **<u>Citation</u>**

Lecture   (Lecture) - that's all I need; I'll know which lecture

Textbook   (Text, p xx)

Article   (Author name, p xx)   e.g. (Heath, p 12)

Sample Essay Question:

Describe *Cultural Dimensions Theory* and explain how the *Power-Distance* dimension relates to male-female communication.