

Department of Linguistics  
University of Calgary  
Term/Year: Spring 2013

## LING 309: LANGUAGE AND POWER

Days and Time: MW 12:00-14:45

Room: SS109

Instructor: Dr. Ashley Burnett

Office: SS804

Telephone: 403-220-5469

E-mail: a.burnett@ucalgary.ca

Office Hours: W 10:30-11:30 or by appointment

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines the effects of social contexts on language. The nature of the linguistic resources used to create, enhance and justify positions of dominance or subordination, or to influence and persuade populations. Examples are drawn from the discourse of gender, social and ethnic relations, government and business.

*Note:* A background in linguistics is not required, but it is recommended.

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Class participation*	10%	
2 Assignments** (15% each)	30%	(June 10, June 24)
2 Midterms*** (20% each)	40%	(June 3, June 17)
Final exam***	20%	(Scheduled by registrar)

\*Students are required to participate in class discussions. This means that regular attendance and preparation for class is needed.

\*\* Students are encouraged to discuss concepts and work together throughout the course, but **assignments must be completed independently** and in the student's own words.

\*\*\*Students may bring one, single-sided 8.5x11" page of notes with them to the midterm and final exams. Other aids (textbook, electronic devices, etc.) are not permitted in exams.

### GRADING SCHEDULE

A+ = 97-100 %	B+ = 83-87%	C+ = 68-72%	D+ = 53-57%
A = 93-96 %	B = 78-82%	C = 63-67%	D = 50-52%
A- = 88-92 %	B- = 73-77%	C- = 58-62%	F = 0-49%

(See the University Calendar for broader interpretation of the letter grades.)

**ABSENCE AND LATE WORK**

1. Unless otherwise indicated, **all assignments are to be handed in at the beginning of the class** on the designated due date. At the instructor's discretion, late assignments will be accepted up to the beginning of the following class if a valid excuse is provided.
2. There will be **no make-up midterm exams**. At the instructor's discretion, students who miss the midterm for a valid, documented reason may have the weighting normally assigned to a midterm exam transferred to the final exam. Valid excuses for test absence are birth, death, marriage, and serious illness or injury on the day of the test. Appropriate supporting documentation is required. Unexcused absence from an exam will result in a grade of zero. Students who miss the final exam will only be able to make up the exam in exceptional circumstances (see calendar).

**REQUIRED TEXT**

Mooney, Annabelle (ed). 2011. *Language, Society and Power: An Introduction* (3<sup>rd</sup> edition). New York: Routledge.

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

Week	Class/Date	Topic	Readings
1	W – May 15	Introduction; language systems; language diversity; power; ideology	Ch 1
2	M – May 20	No class (university closed for Victoria Day)	
	W – May 22	Language representations; linguistic diversity; political correctness	Ch. 2
3	M – May 27	Language and politics; language of persuasion	Ch. 3
	W – May 29	Language and the media; online media	Ch. 4
4	M – June 3	<b>Midterm I</b> (Ch. 1 – 4)	
	W – June 5	Language and gender; sexism; speech styles	Ch. 5
5	M – June 10	<b>Assignment 1 due</b> Language and ethnicity; ethnolects; code-switching	Ch. 6
	W – June 12	Language and age; reflections of status; child/elder directed language	Ch. 7
6	M – June 17	<b>Midterm II</b> (Ch. 5 – 7)	
	W – June 19	Language and social class; sociolinguistics	Ch. 8
7	M – June 24	<b>Assignment 2 due</b> Language and identity; dialects and groups	Ch. 9
	W – June 26	English standardization; attitudes and education	Ch. 10
<b>Final Exam</b> (Ch.8 – 10) – to be scheduled by registrar (June 27-29)			

## **GENERAL COURSE/UNIVERSITY INFORMATION FOR ALL STUDENTS**

### **LINGUISTICS STUDENT ADVISING**

For any questions regarding the undergraduate or graduate program in linguistics, the organization of your program, or the selection of courses, contact the appropriate advisor as follows:

Undergraduate Advisor	Dr Robert Murray	SS 824	<a href="mailto:lingadv@ucalgary.ca">lingadv@ucalgary.ca</a>
Graduate Program Director	Dr Susanne Carroll	SS 830	<a href="mailto:linggrad@ucalgary.ca">linggrad@ucalgary.ca</a>

### **FACULTY of ARTS PROGRAM ADVISING and STUDENT INFORMATION**

The Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (PIC) is the overall headquarters for undergraduate programs in the Faculty of Arts. The key objective of this office is to connect students with whatever academic assistance that they require. The PIC is located in the Social Sciences Building (SS 102), please contact them by phone 220-3580, or email [artsads@ucalgary.ca](mailto:artsads@ucalgary.ca), or visit the website <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate>.

For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre (SSC). Degree advisors assist undergraduate students in planning their overall degree programs along with providing broad educational planning, learning support, assistance with academic difficulties, academic program guidance, writing support, success seminars and peer support. The SSC is on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library, you can contact them at 220-5881, by email [success@ucalgary.ca](mailto:success@ucalgary.ca), or visit their website <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/>.

For registration issues, contact Enrolment Services who will also be able to help you with questions about fee payments, awards, financial aid, admissions questions, visiting and exchange students, open studies, transcripts, deferred exams. Enrolment Services are in the MacKimmie Library Block, Room 117, or you can contact them at 403-210-ROCK [7625] or visit their website <http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/>.

### **ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION**

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodation. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 403-220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. **You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course.**

### **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PRIVACY ACT (FOIP)**

The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act was enacted by the Alberta Legislature on June 1, 1994. The Act is intended first of all to allow any person the right of access to the records in the custody and under the control of a public body although this right is subject to limited and specific exceptions. The Act also includes a strong right to privacy component, allowing individuals to control the manner in which a public body collects personal information, to control the use that a public body may make of the information, and to control the disclosure of that information by a public body. It also allows individuals the right of access to personal information about themselves held by a public body and the right to request corrections to that information. For more information on FOIP, visit the website <http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip/>, or contact Jo-Anne Munn Gafuik at 403-220-3602 or by email [munngafu@ucalgary.ca](mailto:munngafu@ucalgary.ca)

**PLAGIARISM AND ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT**

Plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course, when, in fact, it is not. Most commonly plagiarism exists when:

1. the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test);
2. parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author,;
3. the whole work (e.g. an essay) is copied from another source; and/or
4. a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted. Students are often encouraged to work together in preparing homework assignments, but check with your instructor beforehand. However, unless noted otherwise in writing, students must write up their own answers for submission of the assignment. Failure to do so constitutes plagiarism.

Plagiarism is an extremely serious academic offence. Possible penalties for plagiarism include: failing the assignment, failing the course, disciplinary probation, suspension, or expulsion. Any student who voluntarily and consciously aids another student in the commission of plagiarism is also guilty of academic misconduct.

For more information on academic misconduct and related U of C regulations, please consult the Student Misconduct section - page 48-51 of the current printed Calendar, or you can visit the on-line University Calendar at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>.

**EMERGENCY EVACUATION AND ASSEMBLY POINTS**

The University of Calgary is committed to creating a safe and healthy living and learning environment. The health and safety of our employees, students and the general public are the highest priority of the University of Calgary's Emergency Management Program. During times of emergency, Assembly Points have been identified across campus. These areas have been selected as they are large enough to hold a significant number of people and will provide an evacuated population access to washroom facilities and protection from the elements. Assembly points are also designed to establish a location for information updates:

- from the emergency responders to the evacuees; and
- from the evacuated population to the emergency responders.

Please familiarize yourself with the following:

Emergency Assembly Points: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>  
Emergency Instructions: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/node/28>

**SAFEWALK INFORMATION**

Twenty four hours a day and seven days a week, Safewalk volunteers walk people safely to their destination on campus. This service is free and available to students, staff and campus visitors. Requesting Safewalk volunteers to walk with you is easy:

- Call 403-220-5333 (24 hours a day/seven days a week, 365 days a year)
- Use the Help Phones (they are not just for emergencies)
- Approach an on-duty Safewalker and request a walk

For more information, contact the Safewalk main office at 403-220-4750, by email [safewalk@ucalgary.ca](mailto:safewalk@ucalgary.ca) or visit their website <http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk>.

### **STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE INFORMATION**

The Students' Union and the Graduate Students' Association (GSA) in partnership with the University of Calgary offers students a key advocacy resource to assist in addressing concerns and issues they encounter at the University with the Student Ombuds Office.

Students in undergraduate programs can contact the Student's Union whose offices are located in the MacEwan Student Centre, Room MSC 251, by phone at 403-220-6551, by email at [arts1@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@su.ucalgary.ca), or please visit their website at: <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/>.

Students in a graduate program can contact the GSA at 403-220-5997, by email [ask@gsa.ucalgary.ca](mailto:ask@gsa.ucalgary.ca), or please visit their website: <http://gsa.ucalgary.ca/>. The GSA has moved its offices and is now located in MLT 214.

The Student Ombuds Office offers a safe place for undergraduate and graduate students of the University of Calgary to discuss student related issues, interpersonal conflict, academic and non-academic concerns, and many other problems. The office is in the Admin. Building, Room A166, or you can contact them by phone at 220-6420, by email at [ombuds@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ombuds@ucalgary.ca), or please visit their website at: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>.

*Updated: December, 2012 (FP)*