

Department of Linguistics
University of Calgary
Term/Year: Summer 2012

LING 309: Language and Power

Days and Time: Tuesday and Thursday 15:00 – 17:45
Room: EDC 388

Instructor: LeAnn Brown
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Office Hours: TBA (also by appointment)

Course Description

The nature of the linguistic resources used to create, enhance and justify positions of dominance or subordination, or to influence and persuade populations. Examples drawn from the discourse of gender and ethnic relations, government and business.

We will examine and analyze the relationships between linguistic elements and social constructs around power. Our focus will be on language as a tool in the creation and maintenance, as well as the challenging and subversion, of power relationships. We investigate a variety of linguistic levels (e.g., phonology/phonetics, discourse, syntax) and primarily focus on Gender, Sexuality, Ethnicity/Race, Education, Politics, Media and Popular Culture power differentials.

NOTE: There are no pre-requisites for this course, but a background in linguistics is very useful.

****These topics require us to talk about “offensive” language use. This involves the metalinguistic use of such language. If this makes you uncomfortable, please do not register or continue in this course.****

Required Textbook:

- Mooney, Peccei, LaBelle, et al. 2011. *Language, Society and Power: An Introduction (3rd Edition)*. Routledge.
- Additional readings will be announced through Blackboard.

Course Requirements

Attendance: I will not take formal attendance, but I expect everyone to attend class and show up on time unless you have a good excuse. Attendance affects your Class Participation grade (see below). You are responsible for any material you miss if you miss class, so please do not ask me or the TA to recreate lessons you have missed during office hours.

Class Participation: This portion of the grade is based on class attendance, preparation and

participation. The general criteria I use are: (1) Did you show up for class? (Both mentally & physically) (2) How prepared were you for each class? Did you do the readings in preparation for class? (3) Did you contribute to class/group discussions? Related to this, texting, emailing, googling, tweeting, etc. are not part of class participation. If you are found to be doing any of these or similar activities your participation mark will be negatively affected.

Assignments: There will be 4 homework assignments due throughout the semester (see course schedule below for due dates). Late assignments will not be accepted for credit. Note that the assignments differ in value with later assignments longer and worth more.

***Also note that three of these assignments are essays and your skill at doing research and writing will greatly affect your mark. The fourth assignment is a class presentation on one of your essay topics.

Exams: There will be a midterm and a final. The format will be short answer and essay questions. No make-up exams will be allowed without a documented excuse (i.e., a doctor's note).

Evaluation

| <i>Requirement</i> | <i>Weight</i> | <i>Date</i> |
|--------------------------------|---------------|---------------------------|
| Class Participation | 10% | Throughout term |
| Homework assignments (4) | 40% | See Course Schedule below |
| Midterm test | 20% | TBA |
| Final examination (cumulative) | 30% | Registrar Scheduled |

GRADING SCHEDULE

Each course requirement will be assigned a numerical grade, based on the total number of possible points.

The final letter grade will be assigned based on the sum of the total points awarded. The following grading system will be used:

| | | | |
|---------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 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

Homework assignments must be submitted at the beginning of the lecture on the date they are due unless you have a valid reason and appropriate documentation (see below). A mark of zero will be given when assignments are not handed in, or not handed in on time. You must turn in a hard copy. Please do not send homework by fax or email; it will not be accepted. If you know you will be unable to attend the lecture, you may turn in your homework before the lecture. You should leave work in the main office SS820 in Linguistics Department.

There will be no make-up tests or homework assignments. At the instructor’s discretion, students who miss them for a valid reason and provide appropriate official documentation (e.g., a doctor’s note) (as indicated above) have the weighting normally assigned to them transferred to the final examination.

Blackboard

We will be using Blackboard in this class. Announcements, homework, and other important information will be posted on the class site. Be sure to check it regularly. You can access class information online at <https://blackboard.ucalgary.ca>. Some documents may be distributed via email. Make sure that the correct address is listed in Blackboard, and be sure to check your email regularly.

COURSE SCHEDULE (subject to change)

| Week | Lecture Topic | Reading | Evaluation Component Due Date |
|--|--|--|--------------------------------------|
| 1 (July 3 & 5) | Introduction; Social Constructionism; AAVE vs. AAE | CH1 LSP | |
| 2 (July 10 & 12) | Standardization/Politics | CH 3 LSP Milroy & Milroy Rding | Assignment 1 (7%) |
| 3 (July 17 & 19) | Gender/Sexuality | CH 5 & 9 LSP Cameron & Kulick Reading “Butch is a Noun” by Bergman Rding | Assignment 2 (7%) |
| 4 (July 24 & 26) | Education | TBA | MID TERM (20%) |
| 5 (July 31 & Aug 2) | Race/Ethnicity | Wong Reading Fought Reading Baugh Reading | |
| 6 (Aug 7 & 9) | Media/Popular Culture | CH 4 LSP | Assignment 3 (13%) |
| 7 (Aug 14 & 16) | In-Class Presentations/Review | | Assignment 4 (13%) |
| 8 (Aug 17 & 18) as scheduled by registrar | | | FINAL EXAM (30%) |

Email policy: Email should not replace office hours; we will answer questions about administrative matters but we will not answer emails asking about content of the lecture materials or the text. For content questions, you should ask during class, or office hours. Please ensure that you have read the relevant announcements from the lecture notes and online announcements before asking a question via email.

You must use your university email account when sending us email. When you send us email, please include “LING 309” in the subject line and include your full name and student number in the body. We will not accept assignments submitted as email attachment or by fax.

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 824 403-220-8109 lingadv@ucalgary.ca
Graduate Program Director Dr Susanne Carroll SS 846 403-220-5492 linggrad@ucalgary.ca

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 in the Social Sciences Building, Room 110, or you can contact them on 403-220-3580, by email artsads@ucalgary.ca or visit their website <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate/student-support>.

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 now on the 3rd Floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library, or you can contact them on 403-220-5881, by email 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 Lobby of the MacKimmie Library Block or you can contact them on 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, please visit the website <http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy>, or contact Jo-Anne Munn Gafuik at 403-220-3602 or by email munn gafu@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 UofC regulations please consult the Student Misconduct web pages in the on-line University Calendar. These can be found 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 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.

For students in undergraduate programs, please contact the Student's Union in the MacEwan Student Centre on 403-220-6551, by email arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, arts4@su.ucalgary.ca, or visit their website <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/>

For students in graduate programs, please contact the GSA in the MacEwan Student Centre on 403-220-5997, by email ask@gsa.ucalgary.ca or visit their website <http://www.ucalgary.ca/gsa/>

The Student Ombuds Office is in the Administration Building, Room A166, or you can contact them on 403-220-6420, by email ombuds@ucalgary.ca or visit their website <http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>

Updated: 31 August 2011