

Department of Linguistics, Languages and Cultures
University of Calgary
Term/Year: Winter 2014

LING 309: LANGUAGE AND POWER

Days and Time: Tuesday/Thursday 14:00-13:15
Room: ST-141

Instructor: Dr. Carlos de Cuba

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Office Hours: Tuesdays 3:30-4:30 and by appointment

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Office: SS-1048
Telephone: (403) 220-6135 (e-mail better)
E-mail: jwwindso@ucalgary.ca
Office Hours: TBA

COURSE DESCRIPTION: In this course we will examine the role of language in power relationships. Language functions to maintain and change power relations in society - we will explore the nature of the linguistic resources used to create, enhance and justify positions of dominance and subordination and to influence and persuade populations. Examples will be drawn from the discourse of gender, social and ethnic relations, government and business. Topics will include language and politics, language and the law, language and ethnicity, language and gender, and how language relates to social control, authority, social identity, change, and individual rights.

Note: In this class we will discuss examples of racist, sexist and other uses of language which may be offensive to some. If you find it uncomfortable to have such language discussed in your presence, you should not take this course.

REQUIRED TEXTS (Additional readings will be made available on Blackboard)

- 1) Mooney, Peccei, LaBelle, et al. 2011. *Language, Society and Power: An Introduction*. 3rd Edition Routledge.
- 2) Lippi-Green, Rosina. 2012. *English with an Accent*. 2nd Edition. Routledge.
(***Note that the 2012 edition of *English with an Accent* is required – the 1997 edition, which I've used in past classes, has been significantly updated, so the 1997 edition is out of date***)

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 TAs to recreate lessons you have missed during office hours.**

Class Participation: This portion of the grade is based on class attendance, preparation and participation. Toward the end of the semester, I'll ask you to assign yourself a participation grade. We'll talk more about this when the time comes, but the general criteria I'd like for you to have in mind throughout the semester are: (1) Did you show up for class (both mentally & physically)? Did you show up late/leave early? Did you refrain from using electronic devices for non-class uses? (2) How prepared were you for each class? Did you do the readings in preparation for class? (3) Did you contribute to class discussions and group discussions? I don't want to penalize people who are too hard on themselves or reward people who are too easy in that regard, so I reserve the right to adjust these grades (e.g., if you don't ever show up but give yourself full credit), but will only do so sparingly. Basically, you're giving yourself 10% of your grade on the honor system.

Assignments: There will be 5 homework assignments due throughout the semester (see course schedule below for due dates). **Late assignments will not be accepted for credit.**

Exams: There will be a midterm (Feb 27) and a final. The format will be short answer and essay questions. **No make-up exams will be allowed without an excellent, well documented excuse (i.e. a doctor's note).**

EVALUATION

| | |
|---------------------|-----|
| Class Participation | 10% |
| Assignments | 25% |
| Midterm Exam | 30% |
| Final Exam | 35% |

GRADING SCHEDULE

| | | | |
|---------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| A+ = 97-100 % | B+ = 85-88% | C+ = 74-77% | D+ = 62-66% |
| A = 92-96 % | B = 81-84% | C = 70-73% | D = 58-61% |
| A- = 89-91 % | B- = 78-80% | C- = 67-69% | F = 0-57% |

BLACKBOARD

We will be using the Blackboard facility 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 on-line at < <https://blackboard.ucalgary.ca> >. Some announcements may be distributed via email. Make sure that the correct address is listed in Blackboard, and be sure to check your email regularly.

PRELIMINARY COURSE SCHEDULE (subject to probable revision)

| Date | Topic | Readings for before class |
|--|---|--|
| Jan 9 | Introduction, Course Overview | |
| Jan 14 | Linguistics and Language | Lippi-Green Ch. 1 LS&P Ch. 1 |
| Jan 16 | Language in Motion | Lippi-Green Ch. 2 |
| Jan 21 | Canadian English | Boberg 2010 |
| Jan 23 | Language Thought & Representation (Homework 1 assigned, due Jan 28) | LS&P Ch. 2 |
| Jan 28 | Linguistics, Language and Ideology | Lippi-Green Ch. 3 & 4 |
| Jan 30 | Language and Politics | LS&P Ch. 3 |
| Feb 4 | Language and Politics | Lippi-Green Ch. 5 |
| Feb 6 | Language and Education (Homework 2 assigned, due Feb 11) | Lippi-Green Ch. 6 |
| Feb 11 | Language Standardization | LS&P Ch. 10 |
| Feb 13 | Language and Education | LS&P Ch. 4 |
| Feb 18 | Reading Week – no class | |
| Feb 20 | Reading Week – no class | |
| Feb 25 | Language and the Media | Lippi-Green Ch. 12 & 16 |
| Feb 27 | MIDTERM EXAM | |
| Mar 4 | Language and the Media, Language and the Law | Lippi-Green Ch. 8 |
| Mar 6 | Language and the Law (Homework 3 assigned, due Mar 11) | Lippi-Green Ch. 9 |
| Mar 11 | Language and Ethnicity | LS&P Ch. 6 |
| Mar 13 | African American English | Lippi-Green Ch. 10 |
| Mar 18 | Language and Social Class/Southern American English | LS&P Ch. 8 |
| Mar 20 | Southern American English/Language Policy (Homework 4 assigned, due Mar 25) | Lippi-Green Ch. 11 |
| Mar 25 | Language Policy | TBA |
| Mar 27 | Language and Advertising | TBA |
| Apr 1 | Language and Gender | LS&P Ch. 5 |
| Apr 3 | Language and Gender (Homework 5 assigned, due Apr 8) | LS&P Ch. 9 |
| Apr 8 | Language and Popular Culture | Lippi-Green Ch. 7 |
| Apr 10 | Foreign Accent/Wrap Up | Lippi-Green Ch. 13 Lippi-Green Conclusions (Ch. 18) |
| FINAL EXAM: Time & date as scheduled by the registrar | | |

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 | lingadv@ucalgary.ca |
| Graduate Program Director | Dr Steve Winters | SS 814 | 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 located in the Social Sciences Building (SS 102), please contact them by phone 220-3580, or email 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 3rd Floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library, you can contact them at 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 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 **Student Accessibility Services** (formerly the Disability Resource Centre), please contact their office at 403-220-8237. Students who have not registered with **Student Accessibility Services** are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. **You are 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 munnngafu@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 pages found in the current 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 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 an undergraduate program, contact the Student's Union in the MacEwan Student Centre, MSC 251, by phone at 403-220-6551, by email arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, or visit their website <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/>.

Students in a graduate program, contact the GSA in the MacKimmie Library Tower, MLT 214, by phone at 403-220-5997, by email ask@gsa.ucalgary.ca, or visit their website: <http://gsa.ucalgary.ca/>.

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 at 220-6420, by email ombuds@ucalgary.ca, or visit the website <http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>.