

Anthropology 2243G
Applied Linguistics
University of Western Ontario
Winter 2012

Tuesday 1:30-4:30, CHB 9

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Office Hours: Monday 1-3

NOTE: *This syllabus may be adjusted as required throughout the term. All students are responsible for attending class for information in this regard.*

Text:

Anthropology 2234G CoursePack available through Inprint. Coursepack number P-0138

Introduction

In this course, students will explore several areas where linguistic research contributes to real-world problem-solving. This survey of practical applications of linguistics includes the relevance of psycholinguistic and sociolinguistic research to language teaching and learning; evaluation of language policies, issues of translation and communicative competence, developments in computer based linguistic research, and the analysis of language use in business, law and medicine. Through readings, discussions and activities, students will appreciate the complexity of 'knowing' a second language, learn how to think critically about linguistic theory, evaluate applied linguistics research, and recognize that the applications of linguistics extend far beyond pedagogical concerns.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION:

The requirements of the course include problems, two in-class tests and a final exam.

Mark Distribution:

Online discussions	15%
Presentation	10%
Homework Assignments (3x10%)	30%
Annotated Bibliography	10%
<u>Analytical Paper</u>	<u>35%</u>
Total	100%

1. Online discussions 15% - Weekly

Each week, a question will be posted on WebCT Discussions relating to the weekly readings. You are required to post your answer/thoughts/comment (between 150-250 words) as well as respond to one other comment posted by a classmate (50-100 words). Posts must be complete by Mondays at 12:00am (midnight) before class. Make sure you

are referencing the readings and/or other sources. There will be 10 questions throughout the term but only 9 will count which means that you can miss 1 without penalty.

2. Presentation 10% - Feb 7 and 14

Working with a partner, you will give a 15 minute presentation using one of the language teaching methods outlined in the article by Bingham Wesche and Skehan (2002) (to be provided). In the first ten minutes of your presentation, you will teach the class some aspect of any language (including English) using one of the language teaching methods. The last five minutes of your presentation will be explaining how you incorporated the teaching method into your lesson as well as a couple of minutes for any questions from the class about your presentation. A presentation sign-up sheet will be made available.

3. Homework Assignments 30% (3 at 10% each)

Homework #1 - January 31

This assignment will consist of questions and exercises based on the readings for weeks 2 and 3. It will be posted on the course website after class, week 3. Answers should be typed and submitted in class. No e-mail submissions will be accepted. Late work loses 25% per day.

Homework #2 – February 28

Mini-essay on language revitalization or language planning.

Write a 2-page report on a particular case of language revitalization or language planning from anywhere in the world. You may rely on credible news sources rather than on academic articles for this assignment. Your discussion should include the following elements:

1. References according to whichever recognized style you are comfortable with (but you must be consistent).
2. A brief description of the context, what is going on and what problems people are facing. This should be the first paragraph.
3. An interpretation of how this issue relates to topics discussed in class (cite class readings).

AND

4a. A critical evaluation of how the ideas about language presented in the news stories fit (or don't fit) with the theories that linguists or anthropologists have about language.

OR

4b. A discussion of other relevant aspects of the issue not mentioned in the sources you consulted.

Homework #3 - March 20

Mini-essay on a journal article from Applied Linguistics OR International Journal of Applied Linguistics and one of the class readings.

Copy and paste the abstract of your selected journal article at the beginning of your mini-essay.

If the article does not have an abstract, you will have to write a one paragraph summary of its main arguments, methods and conclusions. Following the abstract, write a 1.5 - 2

page discussion of how this article relates to another reading from class. Including the abstract and references, the assignment should not be longer than 3 double-spaced pages. Your mini-essay must have a thesis statement or argument which you will support in your comparison of the two articles. Here are some questions you may address in your 1.5 - 2 page mini-essay:

- Do the claims in the class reading and the article support each other?
- Do the claims in the class reading and the article contradict or challenge each other?
- Are the methodologies similar or different? How does that affect the conclusions?
- Which article do you think makes a better argument? Explain.
- Are they analyzing a similar problem from different perspectives OR are they using similar approaches to analyze different problems?
- What research questions can you think of that neither article addressed? Suggest ways that question could have been answered.

You do not need to address all of these questions. They are suggestions to get you thinking critically.

Since I am familiar with the class readings and you will provide an abstract of the one you find, you do not need to summarize the readings in the essay. Instead make sure to compare, contrast, or critique the two readings in order to demonstrate your own ideas and analysis of the issues. Note that some of the class readings are review articles which present the research of many other people rather than making a specific argument. In that case, you may want to discuss some particular ideas mentioned in the article rather than comment on the entire article.

Reference using any recognized style you are comfortable with, but be consistent.

4. Annotated Bibliography 10% - March 27

You will submit an annotated bibliography with 8-10 references which pertain to your final analytical paper topic. Annotations should be 150-250 words and not only give a brief description of the article/book but also how it will be useful for your analysis. The bibliography is due in class on March 27. It must be typed, stapled and have your name, my name and the course number at the top of all pages. You do not need a title page.

5. Analytical Paper 35% - April 10

You will write an 8-10 page paper following the guidelines below.

Format: double-spaced, 12 point font, 2.5 cm margins, separate title page, references cited according to a recognized style (be consistent). Cite sources in text body and in reference list. Note the university policy on plagiarism. Evaluation criteria will be posted on the course website so be sure to read them and prepare your essay accordingly.

Choose **one** of the following topics from the second half of the course:

- language in legal settings
- language in business (including advertising)
- language in medical interactions (including psychology)
- communication between experts and non-experts
- computational linguistics

Write a research paper on **one** of the topics listed above from an applied linguistics perspective. You must use at least 6 scholarly sources (i.e. journals and books, not web pages, blogs, etc.) in addition to relevant course readings. You must have a research question in mind that you are trying to answer so that you can evaluate the potential answers found in what you read. Your essay must demonstrate a critical evaluation of the ideas presented in these works, not merely describe or summarize the content. You are encouraged to discuss your topic and sources with the professor before submitting the essay. Students who submit an outline of the essay's thesis statement and main ideas by **20 March** will receive critical feedback from the professor. You must submit your essay to Turnitin.com by 12:00 noon on **10 April** using the link on the course web page. On April 10 when you submit your paper in class, you will be expected to discuss your research findings with your classmates. No extra preparation is required; however, if you do not come to class and participate in this exchange, up to 5 points will be deducted from your paper grade.

Tentative calendar:

Week	Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment
1	10 Jan	Introduction to Applied Linguistics		
2	17 Jan	1 st language acquisition	Fromkin et al 2007	
3	24 Jan	2 nd language acquisition	Mackey 2006	
4	31 Jan	Language Preservation	Hinton 2003	Homework assignment 1
5	7 Feb	Presentations		Pairs presentation
6	14 Feb	Presentations cont. Translation	Hofstadter 1997	Pairs presentation cont.
-----	21 Feb	Reading week	-----	
7	28 Feb	Conversation and Discourse Analysis	Heritage and Clayman 2010, van Dijk 1985	Homework assignment 2
8	6 Mar	Forensic Linguistics	Gibbons 1994, Couthard 1994	
9	13 Mar	Language and Business	Lentine and Shuy 1990, Piller 2003	
10	20 Mar	Language Processing and Deception Detection	Liddy 2003	Homework assignment 3 (Thesis statement/ideas)
11	27 Mar	Linguistic Analysis in Psychology and Medicine	Frank 2000, Ochs and Solomon 2004	Annotated bibliography
12	3 Apr	Careers for Linguists	TBA	
13	10 Apr	Final discussion		Final Essay Due