



**Department of Anthropology**  
**ANTH 2249G - Discourse Analysis**  
**Winter 2021**  
**Course Outline**

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**Class time: Tuesday 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. EST**  
**Class Meetings via Zoom Videoconferencing**

Professor: Dr. Karen Pennesi  
Office hours: TBA  
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**Teaching Assistant:**

TBA  
Office hours:  
Office:  
E-mail:

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Note: This syllabus may be adjusted as required throughout the term. All students are responsible for checking OWL > Syllabus for the most up-to-date version.

**Calendar Course Description:** Structures and patterns in spoken and written language are analyzed in interactional contexts using various models. Topics include: conversation analysis, speech acts, pragmatics, discourse markers, and transcription.

**Course Prerequisites: ANTH 1027A/B or LING 2288A/B**

*Unless you either have the prerequisites for this course or have written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from the course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.*

**Course Syllabus:**

Discourse is broadly defined as language in use (talk or text). In this course, we will be studying several types of discourse analysis, all of which involve the study of discourse within cultural and social contexts. We will consider both the interactional structure and the social principles (pragmatics) that influence the production and interpretation of discourse. In addition to analytic models, we will also address issues of data collection, transcription and representation of linguistic features. Because discourse analysis is best learned by practice, students will be required to conduct original research, collecting, transcribing and analyzing data.

**Learning Outcomes:**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- identify structures and patterns in oral and written discourse
- use various theoretical models to analyze how spoken and written discourse is connected to social and cultural processes
- design and conduct a research project investigating aspects of language in use
- communicate ideas about language using scholarly terms
- recognize and address ethical issues arising from researching human subjects

**Course Materials:**

Required textbook: Cameron, Deborah. 2001. *Working with Spoken Discourse*. London: Sage.

Additional readings will be made available on OWL in "Course Readings".

**Class Format**

This course has two synchronous hours of class time. That means that you are expected to join the Zoom meeting on Tuesdays from 9:30 – 11:30 EST each week. If you are unable to join in a particular week, you will be able to watch a recording of the session which will be posted on OWL afterwards. In these video conference meetings, you will watch live lecture segments, and interact with classmates and the professor through verbal discussion and written chats. You should come to the meetings prepared to discuss the readings and to work through example analyses of discourse. Lectures will not simply repeat the content of the readings, but instead will be designed to get you thinking about the ideas and apply what you have learned. When completing assignments, you are expected to incorporate any new material presented in class meetings in addition to the readings. Consistent class participation will help you process the material most effectively, which will in turn enable you to get the most (learning, marks) out of the assignments.

**Evaluation:**

<b>% of Grade</b>	<b>Assessments</b>
20	Quizzes and reading comprehension questions
5	Ethics Protocol (following template) and Data Description
15	Transcription
20	Analytical Essay 1
20	Analytical Essay 2
20	Analytical Essay 3

### Quizzes and Reading Comprehension Questions (20%)

To facilitate participation and learning, you will answer questions on the readings. These will be incorporated in the weekly lessons on OWL as quizzes or other forms of written response.

### Ethics Protocol and Data Description (5%)

This assignment has three parts:

1. You will first need to complete the tutorial on the ethical conduct of research involving human subjects. The TCPS 2 Course on Research Ethics (CORE) is available [here](#). It should take 2-3 hours. You must submit a printed copy of the certificate of completion. (1%)
2. Next, you will describe the data you intend to collect for your analysis throughout the semester. In about 300 words, you should describe the participants, the setting, the type of interaction and any anticipated difficulties. (2%)
3. Finally, you will write a letter of information and consent form for your study participants, adapting the template provided on OWL. (2%)

### Transcription (15%)

You will record at least 30 min. of natural (i.e. non-scripted and live) talk, in any language you understand well enough to analyze. There should be between 2 and 5 speaking participants. This talk can happen in face-to-face interactions or over telephone or video chat applications.

Select a 10 minute clip of your recording and produce a transcription of those 10 minutes using techniques that will be described in class and which would help you in carrying out the analysis for your homework assignments.

### Essays (3 x 20% = 60%)

The major portion of your mark in the course will come from three essays in which you analyze discourse according to the theoretical frameworks and models learned in the course. These assignments give you the opportunity to examine your own data and to try each approach, guided by the instructor's questions.

Each essay is worth 20% of the course grade and should be about 1500 words, not including quoted examples from your data or references.

### Schedule

Week	Date	Topics and Readings	Assignments Due
1		Introduction to Discourse Analysis	
2		Designing Projects; Ethics; Collecting Data	Completion of TCPS 2 CORE tutorial on Ethics
3		Transcription	Data Description + Letter of Information + Ethics Certificate
4		Ethnography of Speaking Multimodal Discourse Analysis	Transcription

		NO CLASS – READING WEEK	
5		Pragmatics	
6		Conversation Analysis; Stance	Essay 1
7		Interactional Sociolinguistics; Multilingual Discourse	
8		Identity, Difference and Power	
9		Critical Discourse Analysis	Essay 2
10		Social Research; Narrative	
11		Corpus-Based Discourse Analysis	
12		Analyzing Current Events	Essay 3