Language in Culture

Anthropology M140/Linguistics M146

Tuesday-Thursday 11:00-12:15 Fowler A-139

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Office Hours: Tues 12:30-2:30 in Haines Hall 318F
Phone 7-4335 (during office hours) or 5-2055 (Anthro office) any time

Book
Bonvillain, Nancy  *Language, Culture, & Communication, fourth edition*

Reader on Website
Click on Links and then Class Links

Reading Assignments

Week 0
Th.  Sept. 28  Introduction: Language in Culture

Week 1
Tu  Oct. 3  Introduction: Language as a Semiotic System
Web: Finnegan, pp. 2-55
Bonvillain: ch. 1, Introduction

Th  Oct. 5  Language in Developmental Perspective: Acquiring Language and Culture
Bonvillain: ch. 9
Web: Ochs: Cultural Dimensions of Language Acquisition
Web: Pinker: The Language Instinct
*Video: Parts of The Human Language and Genie*

Week 2
Tu  Oct. 10  Language in Developmental Perspective: Gender and Cultural Differences
Bonvillain, ch. 10
Web: Clancy: The Acquisition of Communicative Style in Japanese
Web: Gleason: Sex Differences in Parent-Child Interaction
Multi-modality and Language Socialization across the Lifespan and in Professions

**Guest Presenter:** Steve Black

*Web:* C. Goodwin: Professional Vision

*Web:* Finnegan: Shaping the Sights

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**Week 3**

**Tu Oct 17**

**The Form of the Message and American Sign Language**

Bonvillain ch. 2

*Web:* Lane, Hoffmeister, & Bahan. The Language of the Deaf World, in *A Journey into the Deaf-World.*

**Guest Speaker:** Dan Levitt, Office for Students with Disabilities

**Th Oct. 19**

**Foundational Research in Early Linguistic Anthropology: Linguistic Diversity**

Bonvillain, ch. 3

*Web:* Whorf: The Relation of Habitual Thought and Behavior to Language

**Turn in a card listing project and group members during section**

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**Week 4**

**Tu Oct. 24**

**Alternative Models of the Relation of Language and Culture**

Bonvillain: ch. 4

*Web:* Basso: To Give Up on Words,

*Web:* Basso: Stalking with Stories

*Web:* Basso: Ice and Travel among the Fort Norman Slave

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**Th Oct. 26**

**Conversation Analysis**

Bonvillain: ch. 5

*Web:* Schegloff and Sacks: Opening Up Closings

**Outline of Language Socialization Project due!**
| Week 5          | Tu     | Oct. 31 | Talk as Social Action |
|               |        |         | Review for Midterm    |
|               | Th     | Nov. 2  | Midterm Exam: No Make-Ups |

**Week 6**

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<tr>
<th>Tu</th>
<th>Nov. 7</th>
<th>Participation</th>
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<td><em>Web:</em> C. and M. Goodwin Participation</td>
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<td><em>Web:</em> C. Goodwin: A Competent Speaker Who Can’t Speak</td>
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<th>Th</th>
<th>Nov. 9</th>
<th>Gender and Language: Alternative Models</th>
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<td>Bonvillain, ch. 7</td>
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<td><em>Web:</em> M. Goodwin: Games of Stance</td>
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<td><em>Web:</em> Tannen: Talk in the Intimate Relationship: His and Hers</td>
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<td><em>Video:</em> He Said She Said narrated by Tannen</td>
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**Week 7**

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<tr>
<th>Tu</th>
<th>Nov. 14</th>
<th>Marginality, Language, and Communities of Practice</th>
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<tr>
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<td><em>Web:</em> Bucholtz: Why Be Normal?: Language and Identity Practices in a Community of Nerd Girls</td>
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<td><em>Web:</em> Goodwin: Exclusion in Girls’ Peer Groups</td>
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<th>Nov. 16</th>
<th>Alternative Models of Masculinity</th>
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<td><em>Web:</em> Kiesling: Now I Gotta Watch What I Say</td>
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<td><em>Web:</em> Barrett: Indexing Polyphonous Identity in the Speech of African American Drag Queens</td>
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*Video: Paris Is Burning, Women as Men in Balkans and Eunuchs: India’s Third Gender*
| Week 8 | Tu  | Nov 21 | **Languages and Dialects**  
Bonvillain, ch. 11-12  
*Web:* Lippi-Green: *English with an Accent* chapters  
*Video:* *American Tongues*  
  
**Language Socialization Project due**  
| Th   | Nov. 23 | Thanksgiving  |
| Week 9 | Tu  | Nov. 28 | **AAVE**  
Bonvillain: pp. 159-176 (“Race”)  
*Web:* Smitherman: Introduction to Ebonics  
*Web:* Rickford: Suite for Ebony and Phonics  
*Web:* Alim: Hearng What’s Not Said and Missing What Is  
*Web:* Sidnell: African American Vernacular English  
**Language Socialization Project Due by 4:30 PM**  
| Th   | Nov. 30 | **Power, Language and Institutions**  
Bonvillain, ch. 13, pp. 364-388  
*Web:*  
  
[Representing Rape: Language and Sexual Consent](http://example.com)  
*Web:* Mehan: The Construction of an LD Student: A Case Study in the Politics of Representation  
*Video:* Cows of Dolo Ken Paye  |
| Week 10 | Tu  | Dec. 5 | Review for Final  |
| Th   | Dec. 7 | **Final Exam: No Make Ups.**  |
Course Responsibilities

Exams and Projects

There will be 2 exams given covering the materials read and lectures and a final project, which could be done in groups of 3-4. There are no make-up exams except in case of medical reasons. Call the main office: 825-2055. Exams are clearly marked on the syllabus. Unfortunately many professors may schedule tests on the same day. For this reason it is to your advantage to keep up with the readings every day. The test questions will be based on the lectures, films and videos, readings and questions on readings which are on the web. If you keep up on this you will be well prepared for the tests. Late work will receive reduced credit.

Language Socialization Paper

Language Socialization Assignment: People are socialized into various types of communities through language. Select a field site you wish to investigate how language is used to socialize people into a local community of practice. This could be any type of class, including Sunday school, preschool, weight training, yoga, ballet, flamenco, choir, kayaking, horseback riding, work site, including a school newspaper, store, hospital, legal office, or any business, or voluntary association, such as the Venice Family Clinic, or social group such as a sorority, fraternity, cooperative, family, church, Scouts, little league, soccer team. In a short paper (6-8 pages) describe (1) some of the important linguistic routines, competencies and vocabulary one must acquire to become a member in good standing of the local community (building on articles and lectures on language socialization). If metaphor is used in the process of instruction, describe the metaphors that are used by the instructor or expert guiding the novice to become a competent member. (2) Use the SPEAKING model of Hymes (see Bonvillain pp. 78-80) and the article by Schegloff and Sacks on conversational structure (Opening Up Closings) to describe some specific conversational practices. Make a one page transcript of an exchange in your setting to illustrate how language is used for particular purposes. A Transcription Guide is posted on the Website for the class. Provide translation if you are working in a language other than English. Show how relations of gender, power, or ethnicity are negotiated in this setting, discussing who has access to what spaces, objects, and interactional moves. Due: Nov. 21 by 4:30 in main office.

Previous student papers are available; the TA will have them.

Oral Work

Students will be responsible for reading assignments each class period. Questions on readings are on the class website. The questions are designed to have you focus on important points and will form the basis of discussions (and exams). Class participation is important! Therefore it is important for everyone
to attend class and discussion sections and be prepared to discuss the readings each class session.

Your class work is enhanced by conscientious attendance and active participation in class discussion and hurt by visible lack of preparation for class discussion (for example inability to answer questions about the readings) and failure to hand in assignments on the dates specified in the syllabus.

There will be handouts and study guides which will be distributed at the beginning of class periods. If you are absent from class get the handouts and class notes from another student, as they will only be handed out one time; getting handouts is your responsibility.

Exams are based on what is covered in class as well as the reading. Videos will not be shown more than once, so if you miss the class, get notes.

Policy: Do not arrive late or leave early.

Make appointments for times other than the class time.

Extra Readings of Interest posted on the Web

**Final Grade**

Here is a rough breakdown on how your grade will be determined:

- **Language Socialization Paper** 30%
- **Class and section participation** 10%
- **Midterm** 30%
- **Final** 30%

**Grading scale:** 100-98 (A +), 97-92 (A), 91-90 (A-), 89-88 (B+), 87-82 (B), 81-80 (B-), 79-78 (C+), 77-72 (C), 71-70 (C-), 69-68 (D+), 67-62 (D), 61-60 (D-), below 60 (F)

The **Final Exam** is in class June 8. It will cover readings from the second part of the course and is not cumulative.