

M, W 2:00pm-4:50, <https://ucsd.zoom.us/j/99871214732>

Instructor: Michael Berman (mberman@ucsd.edu)

Description: This course examines the role of communicative practices and language differences in organizing social life. Topics include social action through language; language and social identity (ethnicity, gender, class); language ideologies; language and power in social institutions and everyday life. A special focus is diversity and (in)equality in social life as manifested by—and sometimes fostered by— language and communicative practices.

This is an upper division social science course, so some familiarity with fundamentals of social science analysis and conventions of reading and writing in the social sciences is expected. No prior study of linguistics is required, but all students are expected to acquire some basic linguistic concepts that will be introduced throughout the course. The main goal is to give students an appreciation of both the social complexity and the social significance of language. We will also learn about ways of approaching anthropological questions through data on language and communicative practices, which are pivotal in many social issues and public problems.

At various times we will discuss sensitive topics such as linguistic aspects of gender and ethnic/racial stereotypes, or linguistic aspects of (im)polite behavior or other sorts of social action writ large. Course readings provide material for discussion and analytic approaches to the communicative aspects involved rather than prescriptions or policies for solving controversial public problems. All class discussion should be grounded in course material. It should also be thoughtful, measured, and considerate, always conducted with awareness that members of the class may be sensitive to or directly affected by the issues we address.

Contacts: Please contact the TA for questions about assignments, accessing the reading material, missing a class, etc. Contact Michael to discuss any issues that cannot be resolved by the TA. Contact either of us to discuss questions about course concepts and material.

TA: Alicia Wright, amw069@ucsd.edu

Prof: Michael Berman mberman@ucsd.edu

Office hours: By appt. (email to arrange)

Readings: All of the readings are mandatory and will be posted online. Readings must be done before class. If you are interested in a topic and would like more readings on it, please let me know.

Course requirements:

Discussion posts: You are required to do two discussion posts per week. One should include a short summary of at least two of the readings from the week AND your personal response to those readings (i.e. how do those reading relate to something in real life?). The second should be a SUPPORTIVE and insightful response to someone else's post.

Final group presentation: This will be due on the final day of class, July 27. We will discuss the details at the beginning of the 3rd week of class.

Final writing assignment: This will be due to turnitin on July 30. Any evidence of copying will result in an immediate F for the course and you will be reported to the department for further disciplinary action.

Personal presentation, participation, and attendance: Participation and an effort to apply the concepts of the course to real-life materials are an important part of this class. Perspicacious, constructive contributions will be credited, and attendance is mandatory. Each student is allowed one absence. **The “personal presentation” is a wonderful chance for each of you to participate. You will be given 5 minutes to present on your personal experience with language thus far in your life.**

All work will be graded primarily on three criteria: 1) Earnest effort and honesty; 2) Quality of your contribution to the class and to our collective experience; and 3) The degree to which you supported your classmates, were kind and compassionate, and were open to learning. At the end of the quarter, you will GRADE YOURSELF according to a rubric that I will distribute and provide a justification for your grade. If you are dishonest or give yourself a far better grade than you deserve, you will receive an automatic F.

Please note: Details of the syllabus may be altered any time during the quarter as needed. Any changes in the reading or assignment schedule will be announced in class and posted on the course Ted site. Please be sure to check your UCSD email account and the Canvas website regularly for updates and other official communications about the class.

Students with disabilities: If you are registered with OSD and need special arrangements for tests or assignments, please see the instructor or T.A. to discuss arrangements in office hours within the first two weeks of the quarter. If you have a disability you wish to be considered but have not registered with OSD, please contact that office immediately.

Academic Integrity: All written coursework is to be original and individually authored by the student who turns it in. Any sources used in producing written work, including Internet sources, must be cited and credited. Students should be familiar with the UCSD Policy on Academic Integrity and follow it. If you have any questions about how it applies to this course, please see the instructor or T.A.

Course Outline

June 27 1: Introduction: What is language?

June 29: Doing Things with Language/What Language Does

1. Bakhtin, M.M. 1981. *The Dialogic Imagination*, Austin, TX: University of Texas Press, pp. 272, 288-294
2. Austin, *How to do Things with Words*, **ONLY lectures 1 and 2**
3. Jacquemet, 1994. *T-Offenses and Metapragmatic Attacks: Strategies of Interactional Dominance*.

July 6: Social Class

1. Heath, "What no bedtime story means"
2. Labov: *Sociolinguistic Patterns*, "The Social stratification of (r) ..." pp. 43-54
3. Roberts, S. "Unlearning to Talk like a New Yorker," including video
<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/11/21/nyregion/21accent.html>

July 13: Language Ideology

1. Woolard "Introduction: Language ideology as a field of inquiry," pp. 3-20
2. Irvine and Gal, 2000. "Language ideology and linguistic differentiation."
3. Bauman. R. & C. L. Briggs. "Genre, intertextuality, and social power"

July 18: Gender

1. Ochs, E. 1992. "Indexing Gender." In A. Duranti & C. Goodwin, eds., *Rethinking Context*. NY: Cambridge University Press, pp. 335-358.
2. Cameron, D. "Performing gender identity: Young men's talk and the construction of heterosexual masculinity"
3. Kulick "No" *Language and Communication* 23(2):139-51

July 20: Race and Ethnicity

1. Jane Hill, "Language, race, and white public space"
2. Excerpt from Alim & Smitherman, 2012, *Articulate While Black*, Chap. 1 (pp. 1-30)
3. Smalls, Krystal. "Languages of Liberation: Digital Discourses of Emphatic Blackness"

July 25: The Court System

1. July 31: Goodwin, C. 1994. "Professional vision." *AA* 96 (3): 606-633.
2. Haviland, J. 2003. "Ideologies of language: some reflections on language and U.S. law." *AA* 105(4):764-774.
3. Matoesian, Gregory. 2005. "Nailing Down an Answer: Participations of Power in Trial Talk." *Discourse Studies* 7.733-59.

July 27: Group presentation

FINAL PAPER AND SELF-EVALUATION DUE July 30