

Language and Power Linguistics 50, Spring 2016

Instructor: Anna Bax	Office:	South Hall 5431F
Email: bax@umail.ucsb.edu	Office Hours:	T 12-1pm; F 9:30-10:30am (& by appointment)
Class meets MW 2:00-3:15 in Buchanan 1940		
TA: Jessi Love-Nichols	TA:	Karen Tsai
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Sections: M 4pm & T 8am	Sections:	M 5pm & M 6pm
Office: South Hall 4431A	Office:	South Hall 5431E
Office Hours: W 4-6pm	Office Hours:	T/Th 10-11am

Course Description

This course examines the interconnections between language and power, from the micro-level of linguistic structure to the macro-level of popular debates and rhetorics. Course topics include linguistic prescriptivism and its role in language-related oppression, grammar and morality, standard language ideology, the grammatical and interactional encoding of social distance and hierarchy (pronouns, address forms, directives, turn-taking, interruption), and discourse and the construction of social meaning (metaphor theory, rhetorical framing in news and social media).

Prerequisites

None. Fulfills Area E (Culture and Thought) requirement.

Readings

PDFs of all readings will be available on Gauchospace. Most weeks you will have only one assigned reading. That means that I expect you to read and engage with each one thoroughly - mark it up and take notes, whether it's with a pen or a PDF annotator.

Requirements and Grading

1. Weekly online quizzes	(8 @ 2.5%)	20%
2. Section assignments and attendance		15%
3. Small assignments	(2 @ 10%)	20%
4. Final essay	due week 9	25%
5. Final exam	Monday, June 6, 4-7pm	20%

1. Weekly online quizzes: 20%

Every week, you will complete a short, automatically-graded reading quiz on Gauchospace to make sure that you have understood key concepts from the reading for the upcoming week. Quizzes must be completed by **12pm every Monday** through week 9. Quizzes will become available to you after lecture on the Wednesday of the week before they are due. For example, Quiz 2 will cover the reading that will be discussed in class during week 2, as well as lecture concepts from the previous week.

EXCEPTION: The first week of class, your reading quiz will be due Friday 4/1 at 11:59pm. It will become available immediately after the last section meets, at 9:00am on Tuesday 3/29.

You will take 9 quizzes total (1/week for weeks 1-9). There are no makeup quizzes. However, your lowest quiz grade will be dropped.

To ensure accountability and academic honesty, quizzes are timed. You will have 10 minutes to complete each quiz. At the end of those 10 minutes, your responses will be automatically submitted. You only get one attempt at each quiz, so it is very important that you ensure that your internet connectivity is stable. If you have spotty wifi at home, I recommend that you either use an ethernet cable or that you take your quiz somewhere else, like the library.

By nature, these at-home quizzes are open-book and open-note. I encourage you to do the readings beforehand, since quiz questions are likely to be too complex to look up while the timer is ticking.

2. Section assignments and attendance: 15%

This category consists of two elements:

Section attendance: There will be 9 section meetings this quarter. Because the Monday of week 10 is Memorial Day, and to give you a proper Dead Week to study for exams, all week 10 sections will be cancelled. Attendance will be taken in some form at the remaining 9 sections. You are permitted 1 free absence for whatever reason; after that, absences from section will negatively impact your grade.

In-section writing responses: For the first several minutes of every section, you will complete an in-class writing response to a question posed by your TA. Your response to this question will need to engage with topics from the reading and the lectures. You will need to bring a sheet of loose-leaf paper to each section to write on. Responses are open-book and open-note.

Responses will be graded on a 0-1-2 scale. A mark of 0 will be given to responses that make it clear you did not read, to off-topic rambling, and for absences. A grade of 1 indicates that the response meets the bare minimum but does not engage with the question in a deep or meaningful way. The full 2 points will be given to responses that clearly indicate critical thought about the topic.

There are no make-up writing assignments. However, your lowest grade will be dropped.

3. Small assignments: 20%

Over the course of the session, you will complete two small assignments in which you will analyze a segment of language using concepts from readings and lectures. Assignments will be submitted via GauchoSpace. More detailed assignment guidelines will be handed out during the week before they are due.

Assignment 1: due at 11:55pm on Wednesday, April 20

Assignment 2: due at 11:55pm on Wednesday, May 4

4. Final essay: 25%

The final essay will require you to synthesize and apply concepts learned throughout the course to the analysis of a real-world media discourse. Guidelines will be distributed on the Monday of week 7. The final essay will be due by **11:55pm on Friday, May 27** (the end of week 9) via Gauchospace.

5. Final exam: 20%

There will be a final exam made up of short-answer questions, identifications, compare and contrast questions, and a short data analysis. The in-class final will be held on **Monday, June 6, from 4:00-7:00 PM in Buchanan 1940**. You will need to bring a blue book; one will not be provided for you.

Extra credit

You may earn up to 2 units of extra credit by writing up a summary and response to one of the extra credit readings posted on Gauchospace. An extra credit report should be approximately 500-700 words and include (1) a summary of the main points of the article's argument and analysis, and (2) a solid paragraph in which you respond to the paper, analyzing how it relates to course topics about language and power. **All extra credit posts are due by 11:59pm on the Friday of week 10** (June 3).

In addition, if you turn your cell phone in to your TA at the beginning of section, you can earn half a point of extra credit per section toward your final exam grade.

Reading and Assignment Schedule: Language and Power

Week 1

Reading: *Authority in Language* chapter 1: "Prescription and Standardization"
Lippi-Green (2012): "The Linguistic Facts of Life"
Due: Quiz 1 due Friday 4/1 at 11:59pm

Week 2

Reading: *Authority in Language* chapter 2: "Standard English and the Complaint Tradition"
Due: Quiz 2 due Monday 4/4 at noon

Week 3

Reading: *Authority in Language* chapter 5: "Linguistic Prescription and the Speech Community"
Due: Quiz 3 due Monday 4/11 at noon

Week 4

Reading: Lippi-Green (1994): "Accent, Standard Language Ideology, and Discriminatory Pretext in the Courts"
Due: Quiz 4 due Monday 4/18 at noon
Assignment 1 due Friday 4/22 at 11:55pm
Midterm course evaluation (optional, but highly recommended)

Week 5

Reading: Language and Social Behavior: "Language and Interpersonal Relations", pages 28-31
 Language and Social Behavior: "Interactional Style", pages 52-54
 Brown and Gilman 1960: "The Pronouns of Power and Solidarity", introduction and section 1 ONLY, pages 252-262

Due: Quiz 5 due Monday 4/25 at noon

Week 6

Reading: *Metaphors We Live By*: Chapters 1-5, 21-23, 25

Due: Quiz 6 due Monday 5/2 at noon
Assignment 2 due Sunday 5/8 at 11:55pm

Week 7

Reading: *Brown Tide Rising: Metaphors of Latinos in Contemporary American Public Discourse*, Preface (pages xv-xvii), Chapter 3 (Introduction and Section 1): "Proposition 187: Misrepresenting Immigrants and Education" (pages 65-81)

Due: Quiz 7 due Monday 5/9 at noon

Week 8

Reading: *Language and Power in the Modern World*, pages 1-19
 Glossary terms for *Language and Power in the Modern World* (optional)

Due: Quiz 8 due Monday 5/16 at noon
Metaphor analysis essay topic due Monday 5/16 at midnight

Week 9

Reading: Cameron (1995): "Civility and its discontents: Language and 'political correctness'", pages 116-148 and 160-165

Due: Quiz 9 due Monday 5/23 at noon
Metaphor analysis essay due Sunday 5/29 at 11:55pm

Week 10

****All sections cancelled this week****
No class on 5/30 due to Memorial Day

Reading: Final exam study guide

Due: Extra credit assignments due Friday 6/3 at 11:59pm

Final exam:
Monday 6/6, 4-7pm (Buchanan 1940)
Bring a blue book!

Reading List

- Brown, R and A Gilman (1960). "The Pronouns of Power and Solidarity". In Thomas A. Sebeok (ed.), *Style in Language*. Boston: MIT Press. 253-276.
- Cameron, Deborah (1995). "Civility and its discontents: Language and 'political correctness.'" *Verbal Hygiene: The Politics of Language*. New York: Routledge.
- Krauss, Robert M. and Chi-Yue Chiu (1998). "Language and Social Behavior." In Daniel T. Gilbert, Susan T. Fiske, & Gardner Lindzey (eds.), *The Handbook of Social Psychology*. New York, NY:

- McGraw-Hill. 41-88.
- Lakoff, George, and Mark Johnson (1980). *Metaphors We Live By*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.
- Lippi-Green, Rosina (2012). *English With an Accent: Language, Ideology, and Discrimination in the United States* (2nd ed.). New York, NY: Routledge.
- Lippi-Green, Rosina (1994). "Accent, Standard Language Ideology, and Discriminatory Pretext in the Courts." *Language in Society* 23(2): 163-198.
- Milroy, James, and Lesley Milroy (2012). *Authority in Language* (4th ed.). New York, NY: Routledge.
- Santa Ana, Otto (2002). *Brown Tide Rising: Metaphors of Latinos in Contemporary American Public Discourse*. Austin, TX: University of Texas Press.
- Talbot, Mary, Karen Atkinson, and David Atkinson (2003). *Language and Power in the Modern World*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press.

Rules of Engagement

Email etiquette. Email is an incredibly convenient and useful tool. Please don't abuse it. You should write emails like you would write a letter, not a text message. You will need to monitor your email account regularly, as I will send important updates to the class throughout the quarter. If you email me, please allow up to 48 hours for a response.

IMPORTANT: Please email your TAs and me only from your email account, as other addresses tend to go to spam.

Late work. All non-excused late work will be marked down. Late assignments receive a 10% penalty for each subsequent 24-hour period, including weekends. Late work is not accepted once the assignment has been handed back.

Extensions. Extensions will be considered only under exceptional conditions and only when requested at least 24 hours before the due date. Start your work early to avoid last-minute difficulties.

Names and pronouns. If UCSB's records do not reflect your preferred name, let us know – we will happily honor your preferred name and gender pronouns.

Requests for accommodation. If you need accommodations for exams or assignments or if you have other learning needs I should be aware of, it is your responsibility to let me know early in the session. You may request accommodations by contacting the Disabled Students Program, located in 1201 SAASB. (805) 893-2668, URL: <http://www.sa.ucsb.edu/dsp>

Grading scale. **A+** 98-100 **A** 93-97 **A-** 90-92 **B+** 88-89 **B** 83-87 **B-** 80-82 **C+** 78-79 **C** 73-77 **C-** 70-72 **D+** 68-69 **D** 63-67 **D-** 60-62 **F** 59 and below.

Grades. GauchoSpace is wonderful but their grading system can be glitchy. The instructors will be keeping grades using a different system. If you want to keep track of your grade throughout the

quarter, please come to your TA's office hours - emails whose only function is to inquire about grades will simply not be answered.

Regrade requests must be done in writing. Regrades due to clerical errors will simply be recalculated. Other regrading requests will subject your assignment or exam to undergo complete regrading. Bear in mind that it is possible that your original grade will go down upon regrading.

Notes. Some limited lecture slides may be posted on Gauchospace at my discretion, but you are responsible for taking adequate notes on the material covered in class, including lectures, activities, and discussions. If you miss class, ask a friend to lend you notes.

Academic honesty. All students are expected to understand and comply with university policies regarding plagiarism and originality of work. Plagiarized assignments (including copying of a friend's work) will receive a grade of 0 and may result in additional disciplinary action.

How to Succeed in this Class

Come to class. You are expected to be on time for every lecture and to remain for the entire class period. If you absolutely must arrive late or leave early, you should let the instructor know in advance. In return, we'll do all we can to make lecture and section time interesting and fun.

Do the work. The workload for this course is not extremely difficult, as long as you stay on top of it. Don't fall behind on readings, meet your deadlines, and do your best work.

Use the Gauchospace site. The course site not only has the most up-to-date information about the course, but it also includes all lecture notes, assignments, and other materials.

Meet with us. We are here to help you, but we can't unless you come see us. We are glad to give feedback on drafts of assignments in office hours (however, due to time constraints we can only read and comment on papers in face-to-face meetings, not via email). If you can't make our regularly scheduled office hours, make an appointment. You'll also have a better learning experience if we know who you are.

Getting Help

UCSB has numerous resources to assist students in **psychological or emotional distress**. If you or someone you know needs assistance, the following services are available to you:

Student Mental Health Coordination Services: 805-893-3030

Social Work Services: 805-893-3087

CAPS (Counseling and Psychological Services): 805-893-4411 (available 24/7); Building 599,

<http://caps.sa.ucsb.edu/>

Title IX makes it clear that **violence and harassment based on sex and gender** is a Civil Rights offense subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, and age. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you can seek assistance from UCSB CARE (Campus Advocacy Resources and Education):

Women's Center, SRB 1220, 805-893-4613, <http://wgse.sa.ucsb.edu/CARE/>