

**Language & Power**  
**COM 4930/LIN 4930: Fall 2016**  
**Section: 8849/08CD**  
**Syllabus**

---

**Instructor:** Dr. Emily Rine Butler  
**Meeting Time:** TR Periods 7 & 7-8 (1:55-2:45p Tues. & 1:55-3:50p Thurs.)  
**Classroom:** Matherly 012  
**Office:** Rolfs 412  
**Office Hours:** TW 12pm-1pm  
**Office Phone:** 352-273-2743  
**E-mail:** [erbutler@ufl.edu](mailto:erbutler@ufl.edu) (email preferred)  
**Website:** <http://lss.at.ufl.edu> (follow log-on for e-learning in CANVAS)

---

**COURSE DESCRIPTION AND GOALS:**

The objective of this course is to explore the role of language in articulating, maintaining, and subverting power relations in society. We will consider the interplay between linguistics and extra-linguistic factors such as race/ethnicity, gender, and sexual orientation, as well as what linguistic factors index power relationships in specific types of discourse, such as media discourse, political discourse, and institutional discourse. Additionally, this course aims to provide students with the meta-language and analytical tools to describe, analyze, and uncover the various (strategic) biases in language, as well as articulate how these biases reflect, maintain, and create power relationships among individual speakers and in society.

**COURSE PREREQUISITES:** None

**TEXTBOOK & COURSE MATERIALS:**

Mooney, A., and Evans, B. (2014). *Language, Society & Power: An Introduction* (4<sup>th</sup> Ed.). NY: Routledge.

A copy of this textbook will be put on reserve in Library West. All other materials will be available on the class *Canvas* site.

**ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION:**

Your attendance and participation in class is significant to your success in the class. Attendance will be taken daily. It is your responsibility to look for and be sure you have signed the roll sheet by the end of class. If you have not signed the roll sheet, you will be counted as absent. If you come to class unprepared, you may be asked to leave and counted as absent for that class period. NOTE: In the rare case of class being canceled, you will likely be given an assignment to do instead. In order to receive credit for your attendance/participation grade for that day, you must submit that assign by Midnight on Canvas on the day it is due. Always check your email before class for updates from me.

**How absences affect your grade:**

You are allowed 3 absences (3 hours) for whatever reason, so it is not necessary to explain why you missed class. However, you do not get extra sick days excused if you used the 3 hours for visiting people, vacation, studying for an exam, etc. Therefore, use your 3 hours wisely. If you have university business, or are hospitalized and expect that to exceed your 3 hours of class, you must provide documentation that shows you had to use up your 3 absences and then some. Here is the point deduction for absences over 3 hours:

- 4th absence = automatic minus 20 points from attendance/participation (A/P) grade, 5<sup>th</sup> absence another 20 points deducted from the A/P grade; and so on for all absences after 3. Once all participation points are used up, points will be deducted from your final grade.

\*\*\* Note, the first few weeks of class, **you** are responsible for looking for and asking about the roll if you don't see one. I cannot prove you were in class and you will be marked absent if your name is not on the roll even if you say you were there.

**IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO SIGN IN FOR EVERY CLASS YOU ATTEND!**

**How tardiness affects your grade:**

Again, your presence impacts your ability to integrate and contribute to the discussion. Excessive tardiness or leaving early will therefore affect your grade. **You must be in class at least 40 minutes for each 50-minute segment to get credit for that 50-minute block.** Three (3) tardies (entering late or leaving early) will count as one absence as described above. If you ask permission to leave early to study for an exam or other, I will always say yes, but you will still be considered 'leaving early' and receive a 1/3 absence. You are accountable for your choices, so I will always accept your right to choose what is best for you, but will also uphold a standard across the board for all students. It is not fair to those that come to class on time and forego preparation for other classes, to excuse some students.

**GRADING SCALE: (TOTAL: 500 PTS)**

---

<u>Scale for Final Grades:</u>
A=465-500
A-=450-464
B+=435-449
B=415-434
B-=400-414
C+=385-399
C=365-384
C-=350-364
D+=335-349
D=315-334
D-=300-314
F=0-299

<u>Scale for Final Grades:</u>
A=93-100%
A-=90-92%
B+=87-89%
B=83-86%
B-=80-82%
C+=77-79%
C=73-76%
C-=70-72%
D+=67-69%
D=63-66%
D-=60-62%
F=0-59%

**COURSE HOMEPAGE:**

The course homepage on *Canvas* (<http://lss.at.ufl.edu>) will be central to the class. You will be able to access readings, worksheets, and the class discussion boards through the homepage. I will update it regularly with news and syllabus changes. Although I will make announcements in class and/or send e-mails regarding the assignments and schedule, it is your responsibility to check the homepage for updates.

**ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:**

All submitted work, written or oral (including exams and power point slides), will be the student's personal, original work, with credit being given to sources used. Plagiarism, signing another student in, the use of prepared speech texts, and other forms of dishonesty are grounds for failure of this course and referral to the University Judicial process.

**STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:**

Please inform me if I can do anything to make sure physical circumstances don't get in the way of your work. UF's official statement on ADA issues includes: "Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation." **I'd appreciate your paperwork the first week of class.**

**WEEKLY SCHEDULE**

Date		Topic	Readings & HW <b>due</b> today
Week 1 8/22- 8/26	T TH	Syllabus Why study language	Mooney & Evans (Ch. 1)
Week 2 8/29- 9/2	T TH	Language thought & representation Language thought & rep cont.	M & E (Ch. 2); Discussion leader sign up
Week 3 9/5-9/9	T TH	Language & politics Language & politics cont.; <i>Discussion Leader</i>	M & E (Ch. 3)
Week 4 9/12- 9/16	T TH	Language & politics cont. Language & politics cont.; <i>Discussion Leader</i>	

Week 5 9/19- 9/23	T TH	Language & the media Language & the media cont.; <i>Discussion Leader</i>	M & E (Ch. 4)
Week 6 9/26- 9/30	T TH	Linguistic landscapes Linguistic landscapes cont.; <i>Discussion Leader</i>	M & E (Ch. 5) <b>*Reaction paper 1 due by Fri @midnight (Canvas)</b>
Week 7 10/3- 10/7	T TH	Language & gender Language & gender cont.; <i>Discussion Leader</i>	M & E (Ch. 6) <b>*Extra credit Qs due by midnight (Canvas) (opt.)</b>
Week 8 10/10- 10/14	T TH	Language & gender cont. <b>EXAM 1</b>	
Week 9 10/17- 10/21	T TH	TBD; Final Project Breakdown Language & ethnicity	M & E (Ch. 11) M & E (Ch. 7)
Week 10 10/24- 10/28	T TH	Language & ethnicity cont. Language & ethnicity cont.; <i>Discussion Leader</i>	
Week 11 10/31- 11/4	T TH	Language & age Language & age cont.; <i>Discussion Leader</i>	M & E (Ch. 8)
Week 12 11/7- 11/11	T TH	Language, class, & symbolic capital Language, class, & symbolic capital cont.; <i>Discussion Leader</i>	M & E (Ch.9)
Week 13 11/14- 11/18	T TH	Language, class, & symbolic capital cont. Global Englishes; <i>Discussion Leader</i>	M & E (Ch.10)
Week 14 11/21- 11/25	T TH	Global Englishes cont. <b>NO CLASS - THANKSGIVING BREAK</b>	

Week 15	T	FINAL PROJECT PRESENTATIONS	*Reaction paper 2 due by Fri @midnight
11/28-12/2	TH	FINAL PROJECT PRESENTATIONS	
Week 16	T	FINAL PROJECT PRESENTATIONS	
12/5-12/9			

## **DESCRIPTION OF ASSIGNMENTS:**

Class attendance/participation (100 pts)

Homework/In-Class Activities (100 pts)

Reaction papers (25 pts x 2)

Discussion Leader (50 pts)

Exam 1 (100 points)

Final Project (100 points)

**TOTAL: 500 Pts**

Extra Credit: 20 pts. possible

### **Discussion Leader**

During Week 2, each student will sign up to present an article or media clip (as a group) dealing with the theme we are discussing that week. Students signed up for a given week have a lot of freedom in choosing what they want to present, but whatever you choose should be interesting and serve a springboard for discussion with the rest of the class.

You and your partners will post the article/clip on Canvas **at least** 5 days before your discussion day, along with at least 3 discussion questions/directions you want the class to think about or do as they read/watch.

On discussion day, you will first present a very short overview of the article/clip to the class before leading a 20 min discussion on the article/clip. Your grade will be based on (1) choice of article/clip, (2) quality of discussion questions or activity to be done in class. (3) how well you facilitate interaction to keep the conversation moving, (4) general presentation skills, (5) preparedness

Students are strongly encouraged to talk to Prof. Butler in advance to go over article/clip choice and possible discussion questions/activity. Remember that this presentation is for a grade; you are expected to dress accordingly (business casual)! This means no jeans, cut-off, tanks, etc.

### **Reaction Papers**

We will be reading an array of articles over the course of the semester. Students are required to write **2** reaction papers (25 pts. each) for any of the supplementary articles we read in class (they will be posted on Canvas). Reaction papers should be approximately 2-4 pages in length (double-spaced, 12-pt, Times New Roman font, 1" margins).

In each paper, you will briefly summarize the paper before explaining what you liked and/or didn't like about the paper and why. You will be expected to utilize the terminology we have learned on a given topic to talk about the article in your paper.

Reaction papers are always due by midnight and will be submitted to CANVAS on the due date listed on the schedule.

### **Exam 1**

The Midterm Exam will be given in class and will cover material from the first 6 chapters of the book. It will be composed of definitions, T/F, multiple-choice questions, short answer, and an essay.

### **Final Project**

For your final project, you will choose one of the final projects in Chapter 11 and present it as a poster at the end of the semester to the class, as well as the public. You may work alone or with a partner. At the forum, you will have 7-8 minutes to present your poster to the class and audience. More details about the final project will be discussed in class in Week 9. Students will also schedule one-on-one meetings with Dr. Butler during Week 13 office hours to go over project progress.

Dress code on presentation day is business casual (e.g. no jeans, shorts, t-shirts, tank tops, PJs, etc.).

### **Extra Credit**

I will use some of the questions for the exam based on questions you have submitted. For extra credit, create 20 questions & answers based on the book chapters covered. Use multiple choice (4 choices), T/F, matching, and definition types of questions ONLY. Indicate the answers below each question. (Note: Separate and label questions by Chapter.)

You must submit the Extra Credit on CANVAS on the day it is due (no exceptions). Plan ahead. This set of extra credit questions is worth up to 10 points added to your total point score (out of 500) for the course.

Additionally, I am always looking for real-world examples of language use in articles, video clips, etc. to use in class to demonstrate a particular theme. You may email me examples that you find that you think will be interesting to the rest of the class, and if I use it, you will receive 5 credit points. You may earn a maximum of 10 extra credit points this way.