

TESL 440: Seminar, Linguistics
Spring 2005
Thursdays, 5:00-7:45

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Goal: to provide students of language with the opportunity to critically explore the complexities of human language, from its development and its generation to its role in society.

Scope: This course, framed around four books, will look at language from the inside out, so to speak. It will begin with what happens psycholinguistically when language is produced. It will consider the role that language has in allowing us to think abstractly and perhaps to shape our view of the world. Furthermore, this course will consider the language development and its role in human socialization. This information will culminate in a focus on one group in particular, Chicanos.

Textbooks

- Peñalosa, F. (1980). *Chicano sociolinguistics*. Newbury House. ISBN: 0-88-377127-6
- Pinker, S. (2000). *The language instinct*. New York: Perennial. ISBN: 0060958332
- Romaine, S. (2001). *Language in society*. Oxford UP: 0198731922
- Scovel, T. (1998). *Psycholinguistics*. Oxford UP: 0194372138

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Assignments

15% Class Participation. You will be graded on the following criteria: proactive, subject-related discussion and involvement; attendance, and quizzes, and any activities we may have. Although I have much to contribute, I fully expect you to come to class having read and ready to generate ideas and discussion. I prefer the classes to be student-centered. Also, you are expected to attend class, considering the discussion-centered nature of the course and the fact that you will need to be familiar with the content for the exams.

25% Research Assignment. For this assignment you will be placed in a small group to conduct research. Groupings will be designed around similar interests. Specifically, you and your group will formulate a set of research questions, conduct a basic literature review related to your questions, and then conduct research with individuals who can contribute to answering your research questions. Ultimately, you will produce a 15-page document that synthesizes your research based on your initial research questions and any emergent themes from the research. No late work will be accepted. Group members who do not fulfill their obligations will fail the assignment.

5% Proposal: a document identifying and explaining your initial research questions, a rationale for these questions, and a strategy for conducting the research. Also, included should be a detailed description of each group member's responsibilities including roles for the group.

IRB Form. Submitted with the proposal, this document allows you to include human subjects in your research. You are responsible for retrieving the document, completing it, and submitting it to the IRB committee in a timely manner.

See course plan for due date.

5% Annotated Bibliography. Once you and your group have collected secondary sources related to your topic, you will be responsible for summarizing the sources and compiling them in an annotated bibliography using APA documentation. You will be graded on cohesion of summaries and their relevance to your research and APA documentation and formatting. See course plan for due date.

Updates. At least once during the semester, you and your group should make an appointment with me to discuss your research progress. In addition, you should feel free to contact me throughout the research process for guidance and feedback.

15% Document. You will synthesize your research into a cohesive, 15-page document that introduces the initial research questions, and how these initial questions changed during the course of the research due to emergent themes; your research methodology; your findings; your analysis of these findings; and implications. You will be graded on

- Research methods
- Accuracy of information
- Cohesive, clear, easy-to-read text
- APA documentation

See course plan for due date.

30% Midterm Exam. This exam will be based on the Scovel and Pinker texts, as well as on class discussions and lectures. See course plan for date.

30% Final Exam. This exam will be based on the Romaine and Peñalosa texts class discussions and lectures. See course plan for date.

Course Policies

Because this is a workshop course, your attendance is expected and vital to your performance on other assignments. Excessive unexcused absences will result in a significant negative impact on your class participation grade.

Academic misconduct of any type will result in failure of the course and will be reported to the Provost's office.

Failure to complete any of the major assignments will result in failure of the course.

Assignments are due on time. Late submissions will be penalized one letter grade for every twenty-four hours beyond the due date.

This syllabus and accompanying course plan may be subject to reasonable adjustment based on a number of factors.