

SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is dedicated to the analysis of oral and written language beyond the level of the sentence, utilizing perspectives from linguistics, sociology, psychology, anthropology, literature, and philosophy. Some of the issues to be examined are: the role of context in understanding discourse, the rules of turn-taking in conversations, the differences between oral and written discourse, the nature of ordinary speech acts (e.g. complimenting, inviting, cursing, promising, teasing, etc.), the ways in which power, identity, and social relations are embodied in discourse, and the norms of interaction and interpretation that govern discourse. Among the different types of discourse we will be analyzing are: patient/doctor consultations, courtroom exchanges, air traffic controller/pilot communiqués, telephone conversations with police and emergency personnel, husband/wife arguments, classroom language, e-mail, Internet chat, personal journals, and parent/child interactions.

COURSE MATERIALS: The texts for the course will be:

Cameron, Deborah. 2001. *Working with spoken discourse*. London: Sage Publications. \$33.20. (available from the professor or on-line from bn.com)

Wood, Linda A. and Kroger, Rolf O. 2000. *Doing discourse analysis: Methods for studying action in talk and text*. \$34. Sage Publications. \$34. (available from UPR bookstore)

Excerpts from Johnstone, Barbara. 2002. *Discourse analysis*. Blackwell Publishers. (provided by professor)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION: Students will be required to complete the following tasks during the semester. The value assigned to each task is indicated.

1. Weekly readings from the assigned books and active participation in class discussions of these readings. (20%)
2. Midterm exam (20%)
3. Brief written analyses of two sets of data provided by professor (20%)
4. Final paper (40%)

GRADING SYSTEM: A, B, C, D, F

OFFICE HOURS: The professor will be available for consultation Mondays and Wednesdays, 11:30 am-1:00 pm and 2:30-3:30 pm. Appointments are recommended to avoid conflicts with other students. Her office extension is x2035. Messages may be left in the English Department office, x2553. She may be contacted by e-mail at: apousada@earthlink.net.

TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE: (subject to change)

| <u>Week</u> | <u>Topic and assignments</u> |
|----------------|---|
| 1 (8/13) | General introduction to course Reading: Handout on discourse analysis |
| 2 (8/18, 8/20) | Nature of language, discourse, and discourse analysis Cameron: Ch. 1: What is discourse and why analyse it? (1-18) Wood & Kroger: Ch. 1: Language, discourse, and discourse analysis (3-17) |
| 3 (8/25, 8/27) | Data collection Cameron: Ch. 2: Collecting data: Practical and ethical considerations (19-30) Wood & Kroger: Ch. 5: Data collection (69-81) |
| 4 (9/1, 9/3) | Transcription Labor Day 9/1—no class Cameron: Ch. 3: Transcribing spoken discourse (31-44) Wood & Kroger: Ch. 6: Preparation for analysis (82-88); Appendix A: Transcript notation (193-194) |
| 5 (9/8, 9/10) | Theoretical approaches Cameron: Ch. 4: Approaches to discourse analysis: An initial orientation (47-52) Wood & Kroger: Ch. 7: Analysis 1: Strategies of interpretation (91-116) |
| 6 (9/15, 9/17) | Ethnography of speaking Cameron: Ch. 5: Situations and events: The ethnography of speaking (53-67) Assignment #1 due 9/15 |

- 7 (9/22, 9/24) **Discourse as action**
 Cameron: Ch. 6: Doing things with words: Pragmatics (68-86)
 Wood & Kroger: Appendix B (208-211)
 Topic for term paper due 9/24
- 8 (9/29, 10/1) **Review for midterm**
 Midterm exam 10/1
- 9 (10/6, 10/8) **Conversational analysis**
 Cameron: Ch. 7: Sequence and structure: Conversation analysis (87-105)
 Wood & Kroger: Appendix B (199-205).
 Assignment #2 due 10/8
- 10 (10/13, 10/15) **Interactional analysis**
 Discovery of America Day 10/13—no class
 Cameron: Ch. 8: Small differences, big difference: Interactional sociolinguistics (106-122)
- 11 (10/20, 10/22) **Critical discourse analysis**
 Cameron: Ch. 9: Hidden agendas? Critical discourse analysis (123-141)
 Wood & Kroger: Appendix B (205-208)
 Preliminary bibliography and abstract of final paper due 10/22
- 12 (10/27/10/29) **Using discourse analysis**
 Cameron: Ch. 10: Working with spoken discourse in social research (145-160)
 Wood & Kroger: Ch. 8: Analysis 2: Context (127-136)
- 13 (11/3, 11/5) **Identity and power**
 Cameron: Ch. 11: Identity, difference, and power: Locating social relations in spoken discourse (161-179)
 Wood & Kroger: Ch. 9: Identities in talk: Research examples (143-159)
 No class 11/5 (Wed.)—professor on trip
 Library research to work on final paper
- 14 (11/10, 11/12) **Doing independent research**
 Cameron: Ch. 12: Designing your own projects (180-192)
 Wood & Kroger: Ch. 10: Warranting in discourse analysis (163-178)

- 15 (11/17, 11/19) **Oral vs. written vs. non-verbal discourse**
Johnstone, Ch. 6: Discourse and medium (168-182)
(excerpt provided by professor)
Wood & Kroger: Ch. 4: Discourse and data (55-68)
PR Discovery Day 11/19—no class
- 16 (11/24, 11/26) **Written discourse in greater detail**
Johnstone, Ch. 5: Prior texts, prior discourses (137-167)
(provided by professor)
- 17 (12/1, 12/3) **Wrapping up course**
Video:
Final papers due 12/3