ANTH 1445 Language and Culture Fall 2021
Course Syllabus

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Course Information

Credit hours: 3	Instructor:	Professor Yumei Li
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	Office:	Zone 3, 317B
	Tel (Main Office):	28-6259-6919
	Office hours:	Tu 13:00-17:00 W 8:30-11:30 (all by appointment)
Room: Room 201, Zone 4	Prerequisites:	None

Required Text:

Course pack prepared by instructor.

Course description

Language is the primary means of communication among humans. It operates on multiple levels, verbal and non-verbal, social, and cultural. Much of the way language is used depends on the context of speaking. This course will focus on the connections between language and culture and the social contexts and forms (gender, class, etc.) in which language use occurs.

The course is also designed to help students understand how culture and communication intersect in the context of intercultural communication. Its overarching goals are to help students become more sensitive to the way language and culture are interplayed to reflect societal issues, and to provide students with the knowledge and skills to interact successfully with people from different cultures. Students will also have the chance to gain knowledge, skills, and attitudes that will increase their communication competence. While most of the reading materials are in English, the class will also incorporate Chinese materials to enrich discussions.

The course is offered as an opportunity to model transforming and empowering teaching and learning. It places priorities on personal critical reflection, academic engagement, and experiential learning. To foster personal and critical reflection, much of the class time will be spent in discussion. It is important that students read assigned material ahead of class meetings and come with thoughts and questions prepared for discussions and presentations.

Course Learning Outcomes

On completing this course students will:

Begin to notice how language is used and how it varies across the array of contexts in which we engage daily;

Understand different perspectives on context, including identities, social institutions, cultural values and their relationships with language;

Make the clear link between the use of language and the context of that use;

Articulate why and how some varieties of language are more highly valued than others;

Undertake small-scale research, with a focus on language variation in the community;

Improve communication skills through analysis and oral presentation;

Explore cultural self-awareness and the dynamics that arise in interactions between people from different cultures.

CLASS ASSESSMENT and GRADING

There are no exams or quizzes in this course. This course is project-based and will require a significant commitment of your time. Since this is a constructivist classroom, students are responsible for constructing their own learning with facilitation from the instructor. As such, the focus is not on 'right or wrong' answers, but rather, the focus is on developing an appreciation of student-centered learning and critical thinking skills. All projects are graded holistically through the use of a rubric.

This course includes a combination of readings, writings, in-class discussions, and hands-on experiences. The following FOUR components are vital to successful completion of this course, and they figure into assessments and grades. Details of the assignments will be uploaded to the Blackboard.

1. Online Discussion (30%) 10*3=30
   Students will participate in online discussions throughout the semester. Themes, questions, resources, and ideas will be shared online. Students should get in their posts no later than Saturday night of the week in order to discuss them in class. Students will be responsible for leading and actively participating in class discussions based on their initial online posts.

   A Note Concerning Late Work: As the online post is to get you prepared for the class discussion, late posts will **NOT** be accepted.

2. Group Project Presentation (20%) 20
   In small groups, you will be expected to prepare a creative and interactive group presentation on one of the week's topics. The presentation will begin on the seventh week and will be assigned on a weekly basis. There will be a brief Q&A after each presentation and students are expected to contribute and give feedback on other students' presentations. The time frame for the oral presentation is 45 minutes, including the Q & A session.

Everyone must participate in some capacity during the presentation. The week before your presentation, I will meet with the group after class to briefly talk through the lecture and readings. I invite you to be very creative with these presentations, from playing games and creating fun activities to presenting interesting examples/case studies and leading debates and discussions. The groups will be created during the fourth week of class.

3. <u>Post-presentation Project (40%)</u> 40
   Students will work individually to create their digital narrative on a chosen theme in language and culture. The rubric and further instructions will be posted on Backboard for this assignment.

4. <u>Participation (10%)</u> 10
   The final grade will be greatly affected by students' participation and attendance. The participation grade is based on attendance. On most days, attendance will be taken twice a class period. For each part of a class period missed, a student will receive a deduction of half the point value of a full absence for that day.

Attendance Policy

After two unexcused absences students will lose 3 points or half a letter grade from their final grade. Students with more than <u>five absences</u> will fail the course.

Tentative Schedule Week 1-Week 17
(subject to change according to the instructor's discretion)
PART I: INTRODUCTION

Week 1 (8/30)   Introduction to the course

>   Discuss syllabus, reading materials, course requirements and
>   grading policy.
>   Why study language?

Week 2 (9/6)   Language thought and representation

>   Does language influence thought and behavior in any way at all?

Week 3 (9/13)   Language and communication

>   What are the cultural norms in communication?

>   Group presentations sign-up

PART II: LANGUAGE AND SOCIETY

Week 4 (9/20)   Language and Society

>   The social functions of language

Online Forum 1 due

Week 5 (9/27)   **Analyzing Discourse**

Social Factors, dimensions and explanations
Online Forum 2 due

Week 6 (10/4)   **National Day, No class**

Week 7 (10/11)   **Language and the Media**

Group 1 Presentation

Online Forum 3 due

Week 8 (10/18)   **Linguistic Landscapes**

Group 2 Presentation

Online Forum 4 due

Week 9 (10/25)   **Language and gender**

Group 3 Presentation

Online Forum 5 due

Week 10 (11/1)   **Language and ethnicity / place**

Group 4 Presentation

Online Forum 6 due

Week 11(11/8)   **Language and Age**

Group 5 Presentation

Online Forum 7 due

Week 12 (11/15)   **Language and Social Status**

Group 6 Presentation

Online Forum 8 due

PART III: LANGUAGE ATTITUDES AND IDEOLOGIES

Week 13 (11/22)   **Global Englishes and Multilingualism**

                         Language, Attitudes and Ideologies

What does global English mean?
What do language varieties mean in the global context?
Group 7 Presentation

Online Forum 9 due

PART IV: FINAL PROJECT (CREATING YOUR DIGITAL NARRATIVE)

Week 14 (11/29)   **Frame your narrative**

       Theme selection, ideas, and tools
       Online Forum 10 due

Week 15 (12/6)   **Peer Review and Development**

Week 16 (12/13)   **Final Project Presentation**

Week 17 (12/20)   **Final Project Presentation**
       Wrap up the course
       Final project due

Student Use of Electronic Technology Policy:

Students must use electronic technology (including cell phones, laptops, tablets, and iPads) in appropriate ways during classes. <u>Out of respect, cell phones should generally be turned off or on silent and stored out of sight. They should not be used during classroom activities unless the instructor has given permission.</u> Electronic devices are forbidden during quizzes, tests or other in-class graded assignments, unless the instructor has given permission.

Technology use in this class is meant to improve the learning environment for all students. Please be respectful of your instructor and classmates and use the technology appropriately.

If you have questions about what this means, please talk to your individual instructor.

Recording:

To ensure the free and open discussion of ideas, students may NOT record classroom lectures, discussions, and/or activities without the advance permission of the instructor, and any such recording properly recorded in advance can be used solely for the student's own private study.

Make-up Policy for Missed Assignments and Tests:

Students are responsible for the assignments in their classes. Assignments include in-class activities, quizzes, tests, homework, and any other work related to classes.

- If you are absent from class, you should try to contact one of the students in your class to find out what work was missed.
- If you cannot find out from another student about what work you have missed, when you return to class you must talk to your instructors about the missed work

and if/when you can make up the work. You are responsible for talking to your teacher; your teacher is not responsible for reminding you about missed work.

- If you are absent from class on the due date of an assignment, you must hand in the assignment and be prepared to make up tests the day that you return to class or on a date decided with your teacher.
- If you know you will be absent, talk to your teacher before you leave or email your teacher to find out about the work that you will miss while you are away.
- If you have not been absent from class and you want to hand in an assignment late, you must first discuss the reason with your teacher before or on the due date. Do not assume that your teacher will accept late assignments. Also, you may lose points for late work based on teacher discretion.
- If you and your teacher arrange to meet so that you can make up an assignment and you miss that meeting, you may receive a "0" for that assignment.

Use of Machine Translation and Other Online Writing and Language Tools

While students are encouraged to use dictionaries and other language resources, they should not rely on machine translators for large sections of text. Papers must be written in English. Any paper that is written in Chinese and then processed through an online translator will be considered unacceptable.

If an instructor believes that a paper was written using machine translation, the instructor reserves the right to ask the student to re-write (potentially with a different topic), or give an alternative assignment, which may include a timed-writing essay assignment. Until the re-write is submitted the student will have an F for the assignment.

Use of non-English sources

[Policy suggestions: the idea here, is to emphasize that non-English sources need to be cited and the translations of source materials have to be treated as quoted material]

All non-English sources must be cited. The translation of non-English sources is equivalent to quoting. When using Chinese sources, use quotation marks to directly quote the sources and include the original source in brackets. For example,

> Wang Chao in describing nanocarriers says, "Interaction between nanomaterials and organisms, especially Interaction between the Immunological Effect of Nanomaterials and the Immune System in vivo further clarification is needed to optimize the shape, physicochemical properties, size and surface of nanocarriers" [纳米材料与生物机体内的相互作用，特别是纳米材料本 身的免疫学效应与体内免疫系统的相互作用需要进一步阐明，优化纳米载体的形状、大小、表面、理化性质等。] (Wang, 2015).

Policy on Graduating Seniors Course Requirements During the Spring Semester of Their Senior Year

Seniors taking HSS courses during the spring semester will have to complete course assignments by week 14. The instructor will provide an alternative final project/exam for graduating seniors that will be due by week 14. If a senior does not submit all work, fails assignments, or does not attend class regularly, the student may not graduate, and will have to retake the course in its entirety in a later semester in order to graduate.

SCUPI Honor Code:

Students in this course must follow the SCUPI Honor Code. This includes:

- must not get help from anyone to do his/her work without the teacher's permission.
- must not get help from any outside sources to do his/her work without the teacher's permission.
- must not copy the words of another and present those words as his/her own work.

Participating in these activities can result in an F. Turning in work that is not your own can result in an F.

Writing Center Policy: first instance will result in failure in assignment with option of re-write; second instance will result in failure of assignment and meeting with Writing Center director; third instance will result in failure in the course and referral to university officials for Honor Code violation.

Participation:

Active participation is crucial for language learning. Participating in class makes you an engaged learner of English. In this class, participation means:

- arriving to class on time
- staying on task (including appropriate use of technology)
- actively listening to your classmates and teacher when they speak in class
- asking questions

- bringing all class materials

- attending class regularly
- completing all homework on time
- actively and constructively participating in class activities

- being prepared to answer questions
- using only English in class

Student Responsibility

This syllabus is a contract between you and the instructor. It is the first place you should look for answers to your questions about course requirements, expectations, and policies. By enrolling in this course, you are agreeing to adhere to the requirements, expectations and policies outlined in this syllabus, including sections on the SCUPI Honor Code. Students who fail to submit their work on time or miss more than 5 classes could receive a failing grade and may not graduate.