

LING/CGSC-102: Language, Mind, and Society

Syllabus for 2016 Spring

1 General Information

LECTURE: MWF 11:15am – 12:05pm Colburn Lab 104

INSTRUCTOR: Mai Ha Vu

OFFICE: Department of Linguistics and Cognitive Science
125 E Main Street

E-MAIL: maiha@udel.edu

OFFICE HOURS: Thursdays 1-2pm
Other times by appointment

2 Course Description

This is an introductory course about the way language relates to social experiences and cognition. We discuss human language from a scientific perspective, but we do not focus on formal linguistic problems or theories. Instead, we compare several types of languages and communicative systems (e.g., dialects, creoles, and signed languages) and characterize what makes a system ‘linguistic.’ We then explore how social identity and misconceptions affect speakers of different dialects and languages, with a focus on experiences in the United States. Finally, we discuss how the properties of a language may (or may not) affect the way speakers think. This course does not require any background knowledge of linguistics and will be beneficial for any student interested in cognitive science, sociology, psychology, education, and/or (of course) linguistics.

3 Course Materials

Readings will be posted on Sakai (<https://sakai.udel.edu/portal>).

4 Policies

4.1 Readings and Attendance

- You are responsible to do all assigned readings on time. I might quiz you on the reading if needed.
- Good participation in class includes regular attendance, asking questions and participating in discussions in class, and coming to office hours if needed. Attendance and participation will be graded.

4.2 Homework

- Homework assignments are due at 5pm on the day they are due.
- Late homework assignments will be accepted with **half credit** up to 24 hours late.
- Turn in homework assignments on sakai as a pdf document.
- If you miss time due to an excused absence, contact me early to make arrangements, and expect to have to document that the absence is excused (at Undergraduate Academic Services, 109 Mitchell Hall, <http://www.cas.udel.edu/uas/>).

4.3 Academic Integrity

- If you present any ideas or text that are not your own, you must use in-text parenthetical citations in APA format and add a full list of references to the end of your assignment.
- Plagiarism of other students' work, published materials, course materials, or any other unpublished materials not newly created by the student will not be tolerated.
- Students must comply with UD's Academic Code of Conduct: <http://www.udel.edu/stuguide/15-16/code.html>

4.4 Academic Accommodations

- Students with documented disabilities receiving services this semester should talk to me in person so we can discuss your needs.

5 Grading

Homework: 5 short essays, each worth 12%	60%
Final Project Proposal	5%
Final Project Presentation	10%
Final Project Paper	15%
Participation	10%

93–100%	A	74–76%	C
90–92%	A–	70–73%	C–
87–89%	B+	67–79%	D+
84–86%	B	64–66%	D
80–83%	B–	60–63%	D–
77–79%	C+	0–59%	F

- Grades can only be discussed in person due to privacy laws (they cannot be discussed on the phone or via e-mail).
- Grades will be posted to Sakai. At any given time grades might not be completely accurate, as extra credit is added in the end.
- Extra credit opportunities may be available throughout the semester.

6 Schedule

Dates	Topic	Reading	Homework
02/08	Introduction		
02/10	Linguistic Foundations		
02/12	Linguistic Foundations	Chivers (2014)	
02/15	Sociolinguistic Foundations	Lippi-Green(1997)	
02/17	Sociolinguistic Foundations		
02/19	Regional Dialects		
02/22	Language and Gender		
02/24	African American English	Rickford (2004)	
02/26	African American English		HW1 due
02/29	Pidgins and Creoles	Holm(2000)	
03/02	Pidgins and Creoles		
03/04	Hawaiian Pidgin English		
03/07	Constructed Languages	Okrent (2010)	
03/09	Constructed Languages		
03/11	Non-linguistic Communication		HW2 due
03/14	Signed Languages	Goldin-Meadow (2005)	
03/16	Signed Languages		
03/18	Signed Languages		
03/21	American Sign Language	Napoli (2003)	
03/23	American Sign Language		
03/25	Manually Coded English		HW3 due
04/04	Language and Thought	Pullum (1991)	
04/06	Language and Thought		
04/08	Neurolinguistics	Pinker (1995)	Final Project Proposals due
04/11	Neurolinguistics		
04/13	Psycholinguistics		
04/15	Psycholinguistics		
04/18	Language Acquisition	Napoli (2003)	
04/20	Language Acquisition		
04/22	Theory of Mind, Executive Functions		HW4 due
04/25	Universal Grammar	Pinker (1995)	
04/27	Universal Grammar		
04/29	Linguistic Typology		
05/02	Evolution of Language	Fitch (2010)	
05/04	Evolution of Language		
05/06	Wrap-up		HW5 due
05/09	Presentations		
05/11	Presentations		
05/13	Presentations		
05/16	Presentations		
05/23	Final papers due		