

**Description of the Course:**
‘Discourse Analysis’ is characterized by many linguists as the analysis of language above the level of the sentence. The term, however, is used by researchers in many other fields which have influenced discourse analytic research in applied linguistics. This course offers an overview of several of the major theoretical and methodological frameworks for doing discourse analysis in applied linguistics.

With the presentation and discussion of each approach, students will have the opportunity to try out different methods for the analysis of discourse using the different theoretical perspectives and methodologies. In doing such analyses of written and spoken language, you will try to make arguments for particular interpretations of the language you analyze using the appropriate terminology and methods to allow the data to support your argument.

Finally, in our discussions and in your analyses of discourse, you will be asked to think about applications of the theories and methods to the world outside the university, especially to teaching.

**Course Requirements:**

**Reading:**
ISBN: 978-0-8264-8557-1
-readings available on Blackboard (Bb)

All readings should be prepared for the class date on which they are listed. Readings marked with an * are recommended but not required.

**Class participation:**
Class meetings will consist of some lecture and discussions of readings assigned for class. Along with the discussions, we will be doing in-class analysis of data which are relevant to the issues in the readings. Although graduate students will be assigned to be discussion leaders, all students are expected to participate in class discussions and analysis.

It is important to note that ‘participating’ in discussion means both speaking and facilitating the participation of others by active listening. I will try to ensure that a range of voices are heard. Please help me in that endeavor.

In-class work and homework will be graded periodically. If you cannot attend class for some reason, please let me know beforehand and you will be excused from graded in-class work. If you miss class for a religious observance, you will be given the opportunity to make up the work.

Students who do not attend the first week of class will be dropped from class.

**Assignments:**

**Homework**
When assigned homework, print out answers and bring them to class. Often, we will work with these assignments in class and sometimes I will ask you to hand them in.

**Analysis papers**: Graduate students (2); Undergraduates (3)
These papers are write ups of shorter analyses in which you try out a different analytic method discussed and practiced in class. You will be given data to analyze. The papers should be approximately 3-4 pages in length, double-spaced, 12-point font, and conform to the standards of academic writing. They should make an argument, be coherent, and include a short introduction and conclusion.

**Final project paper (graduate students)**
Graduate students will develop a final analysis paper connecting theoretical and methodological concepts from the readings, discussions, and first papers to an new or expanded analysis of data you collect. Start thinking about this early on so you can begin to collect some data. You should include references to several publications (at least 6). The paper should be about 8-10 pages in length. You may collaborate on this paper (the requirements on page length, number of examples and citations will increase accordingly). A detailed handout will explain details for doing the paper.

**Final Exam (undergraduates)**
For undergraduates, there will be a final examination in which you will be expected to display an understanding of the major issues relevant to discourse analysis as discussed in class.

**Graduate student discussion leading**
Graduate student groups will be assigned to lead class discussions on readings and key concepts. In your planning for this, be sure to read and understand the main ideas of the reading. Work to include everyone in the small group discussion by offering your assessment of the ideas in reading. Contact me beforehand if you have questions about the readings or would like ideas for leading a discussion. You should prepare a 1-2 page summary of the readings you are assigned to submit to me.

**Data Sessions**
Weekly conversation analysis data sessions will be held (TBA). All students are invited to attend. These are practice sessions from doing one particular method of discourse analysis used by myself and Jeffrey Robinson from Communication Studies. More information on provided later in class.
Organizing assignments
Keep all of your submitted work (all drafts) together in a folder and submit that entire folder with each assignment.

A note on plagiarism
As information accumulates and bombards us from all quarters these days, it is extremely important that we are careful about citing words and ideas that we get from others. This is how Portland State deals with plagiarism (from PSU’s student conduct code): “Acts of academic dishonesty may result in one or more of the following sanctions: a failing grade on the exam or assignment for which the dishonesty occurred, disciplinary reprimand, disciplinary probation, loss of privileges, required community service, suspension from the University for a period of up to two years, and/or dismissal from the University. Questions regarding academic honesty should be directed to the Office of Student Affairs, 433 Smith Memorial Student Union”.

If you have any questions about what constitutes academic dishonesty (plagiarism) please ask me.

Academic accommodations:
If you are a student with a documented disability and registered with the Disability Resource Center, please contact me immediately to facilitate arranging academic accommodations.

Weighting of work for you grade

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Plan for classes This may change. You are responsible for changes to the scheduled that are announced in class.

Week 1
1-9/29
Introduction to the course

2-10/1
Defining discourse analysis: Texts and Genres
HW: discussion questions 1.7, 1.8

Week 2
3-10/6
Genre analysis
Readings: Swales, 1990, pp. 127-166
HW: analyze the introduction to the Wortham article; bring to class with the article

4-10/8
Units of discourse
Reading: ch. 3, pp. 76-91
HW: transcribe a short excerpt of talk using a system that makes sense for you. Bring it to class for analysis. Be prepared to discuss what choices you made in doing the transcription and why you made them

Week 3
5-10/13
Narrative
Readings: Labov & Waletzky, 1967; ch. 3, pp. 92-101
HW: make a rough analysis of the transcript

6-10/15
Conversation Analysis (CA)

Week 4
7-10/20
Practice CA analyses
Readings: Goodwin & Heritage, 1990
HW: 3.16, 3.18

8-10/22
Cohesion, Theme, Given/New

Week 5
9-10/27
Spoken versus written language
Coherence
Readings: ch. 6; Thompson & Mulac, 1991
Paper 1 due (CA, Genre/Rhetorical, Narrative)

10-10/29
Register and genre

Week 6
11-11/3
Discourse and World, Linguistic relativity
Readings: ch. 2, pp. 32-53; *Slobin, 1996

Grad Students: Proposals for final project

Week 7
13- 11/10
CDA
Readings: Flowerdew, 2008; *Billig, 1999; *Schegloff, 1999

14- 11/8
Social roles, discourse roles
Readings: ch. 4; *Goffman, 1979

Week 8
11/17
Social Roles-Discourse Roles
HW: 4.11
Paper 2 due (SFL/Cohesion/Coherence, register/linguistic features)

11/19
Classroom Discourse
Readings: Wortham, 1996
HW: 4.12

Week 9
11/24
Classroom Discourse
Different research methods for different questions
Readings: Hellermann, 2006, Kumaravadivelu, 1999

11/26
Holiday

Week 10
12/1

Discourse analysis and language teaching

Undergraduates: Paper 3 due (method not used in previous papers)

12/3
Wrap up

Final exam: Monday, December 7th, 10:15-12:15
Graduate Student final projects due Monday, 12/7 by 5:00

Readings (required)

Optional readings(on Bb also):

On reserve at library

Some other resources