

SPCH 450: Language and Behavior

Syllabus—Fall 2010

Instructor Information:

Instructor: Dr. Aaron Dimock	Office Hours:
Office: MC 120	Monday and Friday: 11:00 – 12:00
Phone: 865-8486	Wednesday: 11:00 – 2:00
e-mail: dimockam@unk.edu (best means of contact)	

Course Description:

Language, as symbolic communication, is the fundamental form of communication and the basis of both thought and expression. Understanding how people use language to exchange meaning, influence one another, and accomplish goals is fundamental to understanding human action and communication. In this course students learn a variety of perspectives on language and the techniques of discourse analysis. In this course students will...

- study pragmatic and rhetorical approaches to language,
- learn and apply the methods of discourse analysis, and
- develop short, primary research projects.

Course Readings:

Cameron, D. (2001). Working with spoken discourse. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
Additional readings are posted on Blackboard.

Ground Rules:

Attendance: Students are expected to attend all scheduled classes. Missing class, showing up late, and leaving early are disrespectful to your instructor and peers and disruptive to the class. Please avoid such behaviors. Participation is graded.

Due Dates: All assignments are due on the dates given. Late work may be penalized 2% per day.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism on any assignment will result in a ZERO (0%) & may result in failing the course. Plagiarism includes copying, using materials without references, and excessively collaborating. See <http://www.unk.edu/academicaffairs/facultyhandbook/index.php?id=3157>

Accommodation: Students with disabilities should contact their instructor. It is the policy of the University of Nebraska at Kearney to provide flexible and individualized reasonable accommodation to students with documented disabilities. To receive accommodation services, students *must* be registered with UNK Disabilities Services Coordinator, David Brandt, in the Academic Success Office, 163 Memorial Student Affairs Building, 308-865-8214, e-mail brandtdl@unk.edu.

Personal Media: Your cell phone and/or other personal media devices should not be in use and should be silenced in class.

Coursework:

Participation: Participation is essential in a liberal arts class. You will be required to generate discussion questions based upon readings and participate actively in data sessions and other class discussions.

Data Sessions:

During the second half of the semester, you will be responsible for bringing in some of the material you are working on for class discussion and help with the analysis. You must provide a transcript and approximately 5:00 minutes of recorded data. You will lead a loose discussion and brainstorming session.

Article Presentations:

During the second half of the semester, you will be responsible for finding a scholarly research article appropriate to your semester project. You provide an oral summary of the article (approximately 5:00) and explain how you are using the article in your research.

Daily Participation:

Your participation grade is compiled as follows: active participation = 3 points; general attentiveness = 2 points; attendance = 1 points; disruptive behavior = -1+ point(s). Being disruptive in class or using personal media will result in a point deduction.

Group Interview Project: (A full assignment description is available on Bb)

You will each be part of three-person groups in which interviews are carried out on specific topics. Each person will serve in the role of (a) video-camera operator, (b) interviewer, and (c) interviewee. The 3 interviews, which will be taped and transcribed, will become the focus of the first analysis paper.

Semester Project: (A full assignment description is available on Bb)

For the second project, you will select a kind of talk in which you have an interest and to which you can gain access. Possible types of talk are: (1) radio or television talk shows; (2) publicly-available materials, including audios or videos of meetings, trials, hearings, narratives, or any of the many kinds of discourse that are now available on the web; or (3) videotaped interaction of friends, family, or a workplace, if all involved give permission for a tape to be made. For this second paper, students may either gather discourse materials in pairs of 2 or may work alone.

Points Available:

Participation: (150)		Projects: (300)	
Daily Participation	80	Group Interview*	150
Data Sessions	30	Semester Project*	150
Article Presentation	20	* these projects have multiple components	
Homework	20	Total Points Available	450

Grading Scale: 90 – 100%=A- to A+; 80 – 89%=B- to B+; 70 – 79% =C- to C+; 60 – 69% =D- to D+; < 60% =F

SPCH 450: Tentative Course Schedule

Date	Topics/Activities	Assignment Due	Reading
Week 1	Unit 1: Introduction to Discourse Analysis		
8/24	Introduction to Class		
8/26	Discourse Analysis		Hutchby and Wooffitt: What is Conversation Analysis? (Bb)
Week 2			
8/31	Discourse Analysis	IRB Approval Form	Cameron, Ch 1: What is Discourse?
9/2	Collecting Data		Cameron, Ch 2: Collecting Data
Week 3			
9/7	Transcription		Cameron, Ch. 3: Transcribing
9/9	Working with Digital Video	Transcript Module	TBA (Lab Occupied 2-3:15)
Week 4			
9/14	Types of Interviews		
9/16	Working with Interview Data		Hutchby and Wooffitt: Interview Data (Bb)
Week 5			
9/21	Narrative		Labov : Narrative Structure (Bb)
9/23	Analyzing Narrative		Hutchby and Wooffitt: Analyzing II (Bb)
Week 6	Unit 2: Styles of Analysis		
9/28	Approaches to Discourse	2 min segment due	Cameron, Ch. 4

Deleted: 2 min segment due

	Analysis		
9/30	Ethnography of Speaking		Cameron, Ch. 5
Week 7			
10/5	Ethnography: Being an Indian		Wider and Pratt: On Being a Recognizable Indian... (Bb)
10/7	Pragmatics		Cameron, Ch. 6
Week 8			
10/12	Structure and Sequence	Transcript 1 Due	Cameron, Ch. 7
10/14	Critical Discourse Analysis		Cameron, Ch. 9
Week 9			
10/19	Fall Break		
10/21	Roundtable	Paper 1 Due	
Week 10 Unit 3: Projects			
10/26	Developing your Project		Cameron, Ch. 12
10/28	Examples of Analysis		Wood and Kroger: Examples (Bb)
Week 11			
11/2	Analysis		Cameron, Ch. 10
11/4	Data Session - Aaron	Project Plan	
Week 12			
11/9	Interaction and Face		Goffman: On Facework
11/11	Identity and Relationships		Cameron, Ch. 11
Week 13			
11/16	NCA – Student Work Day		Individual Reading (Project Focused)
11/18	Data Session/Article Presentation		Individual Reading (Project Focused)
Week 14			
11/23	Data Session/Article Presentation	Transcript	Individual Reading (Project Focused)
11/25	Thanksgiving		
Week 15			
11/30	Data Session/Article Presentation		Individual Reading (Project Focused)
12/2	Data Session/Article Presentation		
Week 16			
12/7	Data Session/Article Presentation		Individual Reading (Project Focused)
12/9	Data Session/Article Presentation		Individual Reading (Project Focused)
Final	Meeting – Tuesday 12/14 1:00 to 3:00 – Paper Presentations, Papers Due		

Deleted: Transcript 1 Due

Citations:

Cameron, D. (2001). *Working with Spoken Discourse*. London : Sage

Goffman, E. (1967/1999). Interaction ritual: Essays on face-to-face behavior. in A. Jaworski and N. Coupland, (eds.), *The Discourse Reader*, Routledge, New York, pp. 299-310

Hutchby, I., Wooffitt, R. (1998). *Conversation Analysis*, Cambridge, UK: Polity Press

Labov, W. (1999). The transformation on experience in narrative. in A. Jaworski and N. Coupland, (eds.), *The Discourse Reader*, Routledge, New York, pp. 214 – 226.

Wood, L.A. and Kroger, R.O. (2000). *Doing discourse analysis*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.