Research Strategies in Language and Social Interaction
COMM 873 - Spring 2011

Professor: Leah Wingard   **Office Hours**: Mon/Wed: 2-4
Phone: (415) 338-317   (by appointment when necessary)
E-mail: wingard@sfsu.edu (<u>best </u>way to contact me!)
Office: Humanities 258
Class meets: Wednesdays 6:10-9:50pm

Course Description

Language and Social Interaction (LSI) is the designation for a set of affiliated approaches to the study of communication that generally emphasizes the detailed study of language use in face-to-face interaction. LSI approaches to studying communication generally assume that naturally occurring interaction (e.g. that is not researcher prompted or controlled) are important for understanding the day to day practices and processes of communication. In this class we will explore the historical and theoretical bases for LSI approaches to studying communication through the texts we read. We will additionally read about and gain practice in using some of the tools associated with LSI methods. In particular we will emphasize a sequential analysis of discourse of transcribed, recorded data (known broadly as discourse analysis/conversation analysis). As we learn the tools of analysis, students will be engaged in conducting semester projects using recorded data.

Course Objectives

By the end of this course, students will:
- understand key theoretical and historical basis for LSI approaches to studying communication
- develop awareness of the ethical and methodological considerations involved in collecting recordings and transcribing naturally occurring interaction
- acquire tools and analytic skill in conducting a sequential analysis of discourse in a research project

Required Texts

Sidnell, J. (2010) *Conversation analysis: An introduction*. West Sussex: Wiley-Blackwell. Abbreviated in schedule as "CA".

All other readings will be made available on our Ilearn site as PDFs and most come from the following books.

Bergmann, J.R. (1993) *Discreet indiscretions: The social organization of gossip.*
   New York: Aldine de gruyter.
Blum, S.D. (Ed.) (2009) *Making sense of language: Readings in culture and*
   communication. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
Gee, J.P. (2005). *An introduction to discourse analysis theory and method.*
   (Second edition). New York, NY: Routledge.
Heritage, J. & Clayman, S. (2010). *Talk in action: Interactions, identities and*
    institutions. Malden, MA: Wiley - Blackwell.
Jaworski A. & Coupland, N. (Eds.) (2006). *The discourse reader. (Second edition).*
   New York, NY: Routledge.
Talbot, M. (2010). *Language and gender. (Second edition).* Cambridge: Polity
Taylor, J.R. & Van Every, E.J. (2011). *The situated organization: Case studies in the*
    pragmatics of communication research. New York, NY: Routledge.

Wetherall, M., Taylor, S. & Yates, S.J. (2001). *Discourse theory and practice: A reader.*
   London: Sage.
Wodak, R. & Neyer, M. (Eds.) (2009). *Methods of critical discourse analysis.*
   (Second edition). London: Sage.

Grading
Complete 9 (out of 10) weekly assignments	9 @ 10 pts each	(90 total)
Present a secondary reading/act as discussant	3 @ 10 pts	(30 total)
Activity log/data synopsis + topic proposal	1 @ 25 pts	(25 total)
Project presentation (Weeks 13-15)	1 @ 25 pts	(25 total)
Final project with literature review	1 @ 100 pts	(100 total)
Participation	25 points	(25 total)

Grading will be based on the following standard scale according to percentage of points earned.

A 94-100	B+ 87-89.9	C+ 77-79.9	D+ 67-69.9
A- 90-93.9	B 83-86.9	C 73-76.9	D 63-66.9
	B- 80-82.9	C- 70-72.9	D - 60-62.9

Weekly assignments
Weekly written synthesis papers or other practice based assignments will be due every week to process readings and prepare you for discussion of the texts. There are 10 opportunities to do a weekly assignment which means you have the option to miss one assignment without penalty. Weekly assignments are due typed, and double-spaced at the beginning of the class period. Assignments for will be accepted late at my discretion and late penalty points may also be assessed. Weekly assignments will be posted on our Ilearn site approximately one week before they are due.

Article presentation
You will sign up to present a secondary reading three times over the course of the semester. You should present the main ideas in your reading and relate them explicitly to the other articles assigned for the week and provide a brief handout. You will also be expected to be an especially active participant in the general discussion on the days you assume the discussant/presentation role.

Activity log / Synopsis
This assignment will be a useful tool to get you familiarized with your data so that you may begin to formulate possible topic foci for your semester project. With this assignment I will be able to provide feedback and guidance for developing your semester project. More specific assignment guidelines will be provided.

Project Presentation
Students will present their semester project in progress during the last three weeks of class. Presentations will require a preliminary topic formulation and some analysis of examples of the sequences being analyzed. Students will have the opportunity to give one another feedback on their emergent projects with me facilitating and guiding directions in research. As we engage with one another's work, our expertise in analyzing data and recognizing recurrent structures will increase collectively. More specific assignment guidelines will be provided.

Final Project
Your final project will be a paper that explores a recurrent discursive practice or other LSI related topic emerging out of the data you have been working with. The final project

will incorporate a review of relevant literature, multiple segments of transcribed data and analysis of that data. More specific assignment guidelines will be provided.

Participation and Attendance

Engaged participation and regular attendance are naturally important for successful understanding of course materials. One absence is granted free of penalty. Each absence after 1 (for whatever reason) will result in a 3 point deduction from participation grade. Being late and/or leaving early will also result in points deducted commensurate with time missed. If you use a computer in class, do not give in to the temptation to be engaged in activities unrelated to class. Please be prepared to contribute to discussions by having read the readings and bringing them to class with you. I look forward to lively and engaged discussion. I encourage the voicing of disagreement and critical perspectives only when civility and explicit displays of respect for others are maintained at all times.

Accommodations

I wish to make this course as accessible as possible to students with disabilities or medical conditions that may affect any aspect of course assignments or participation. Please communicate with me about any accommodations that will improve your experience of or access to the course.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism occurs when a student misrepresents the work of another as his or her own. Plagiarism may consist of using the ideas, sentences, paragraphs, or the whole text of another without appropriate acknowledgement, but it also includes employing or allowing another person to write or substantially alter work that a student then submits as his or her own. Any assignment found to be plagiarized will be given an "F" grade. All instances of plagiarism in the College of Humanities will be reported to the Dean of the College, and may be reported to the University Judicial Affairs Officer for further action.

Class schedule

The following is a tentative schedule of the readings and assignments for this class. Changes to the schedule may happen. Please check Ilearn since it will be the most up to date resource for the class schedule.

Week and Date	Topics	Graded items
Week 1 **Jan. 26**	Introduction to class	
Week 2 **Feb. 2**	Topics: What is discourse? What is LSI?	Weekly assignment #1
Week 3 **Feb. 9**	Topics: Comparative methodologies Comparative discourse analysis	Weekly assignment #2 Ethics Certification Due/ Commit to filming location
Week 4 **Feb 16**	Topics: Turn Taking/adjacency pairs/sequences	Weekly assignment #3 due
Week 5 **Feb 23**	Topics: Turn construction/Topic	Weekly assignment #4 due
Week 6 **March 2**	Topics: Institutional talk / openings and closings	Weekly assignment #5 due
Week 7 **March 9**	Topics: Assessments/Accounts and Teasing	Weekly assignment #6 due
Week 8 **March 16**	Topic: Storytelling/Narrative	Weekly assignment #7 **last** week of filming
Week 9 **March 23**	Topic: Transcription and collection formation	Activity log/synopsis of data due + formulation of possible topics

Week and Date	Topics	Graded items
March 28 – April 1	**Spring Break**	
Week 10 April 6	Topics: Emotions/Emotion work and Socialization	Weekly assignment #8
Week 11 April 13	Topic: Gender/Ethnicity and constructions of Self	Weekly assignment #9
Week 12 April 20	Topic: Critical Perspectives/What is context	Weekly assignment #10
Week 13 April 27	Project presentations and discussion	Work on projects/ independent reading
Week 14 May 4	Project presentations and discussion	Work on projects/ independent reading
Week 15 May 11	Project presentations and discussion	Work on projects/ independent reading
Finals week May 18	Final projects due (make-up class if needed)	