Linguistics 326 - Discourse
Reed College, Spring 2016
M/W 3:10 – 4:30 pm, ETC 211

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Office Hours: Tuesday 3-4pm; Wednesday 1-3 pm; and by appointment

Prerequisites
Linguistics 211 and 212, or consent of instructor.

Course Description

This course is an investigation into linguistic units above the level of the sentence, and how these units are used by speakers in social interaction. Our investigation will be equal parts theoretical (in particular, surveying the historical trajectories and theoretical motivations for a variety of types of discourse analysis) and empirical (recording, transcribing, and analyzing discourse). We will ask what is discourse (a question with no short answer), why is discourse a valuable object of study, as well as how is discourse analysis situated within the field of linguistics and what can discourse analysis accomplish. Students will read and critically engage with scholarly works each week; in addition, they will do discourse analysis. Part of each week’s class time will be devoted to lab work, whether collaborating on transcription conventions, critiquing a specific discourse analysis, practicing field techniques, etc. Students will complete four recording/transcription/analysis assignments, and submit a final project that is a discourse analysis of their choosing. Conference. (Fulfills Group B).

Text

+Supplementary Readings, provided in PDF on Moodle.

Course Requirements

Participation, 20%
Participation in conference is mandatory and crucial to the success of our class, particularly at the upper division. Engage in class in a way that demonstrates the effort you put in to our class and our readings. Ask questions, connect concepts and readings, and clarify or expand on what others say in class.

In this class read papers on Tuesdays; I expect you to arrive to class with at least two questions or comments related to those readings. On Thursdays during our lab time each week you will present aspects of the work you will doing with the class.

Assignments, 60%
Four assignments (15% each) during the semester:

Assignment #1: The structure of (d)iscourse
Assignment #2: Narrative Analysis
Assignment #3: Conversation Analysis
Assignment #4: Critical Discourse Analysis

Each assignment is divided into three parts:
1) A recording of some naturally occurring speech, gathered by you, for use as text/data.
2) A transcription of the text in question.
3) A write-up describing your analysis of the text using the relevant method.

Final Project. 20%
For your final project, you will do a discourse analysis of some text. You must
1) Select an approach (a type of DA) with which to interact with your text
2) Use original data from naturally occurring interaction: speech gathered by you, transcribed by you, and analyzed by you
3) Append the full text, transcribed, with conventions
4) Cite in-text and include a bibliography

Course Policies

On Absences: Regular, prepared and disciplined conferencing is intrinsic to this course. Once you have missed two weeks of class – whether or not your absences are excused – you will have missed two much material and will not receive credit for this course. If a condition is chronic, appropriate documentation and reasonable accommodations should be considered in consultation with both me and the Disability Support Services office. If you must be absent due to health or an emergency, it is your responsibility to catch up on missed material.

On Accommodations: If you are a student with a disability and believe you will need accommodation for this class, it is your responsibility to contact and register with Disability Support Services and provide them with documentation of your disability, so that they can determine what accommodations are appropriate for your situation. With your permission they will discuss with me those reasonable and appropriate accommodations. To avoid any delay you should contact the DSS office as early as possible in the semester, and contact me for assistance in developing a plan to address your academic needs in this course. Please note that accommodations are not retroactive and that reasonable disability accommodations cannot be provided until I have received an accommodation letter from and discussed your case with the DSS office. You can reach Disability Support Services at (503) 517-7921 or disability-services@reed.edu

On Incompletes: I don’t give them except in the case of an acute, extreme emergency or health crisis that interrupts what otherwise was good work in this course.

On Late Work/Extensions: You are entitled to one one-day extension on a due date in this course, no questions asked. After that, any late work drops a full letter grade for every 24 hours past the deadline.
COURSE OUTLINE

Week 1
Monday January 25th
DR, Introduction pgs. 1-11

Wednesday January 27th
Lab: Recording Equipment. Field methods.

Week 2. Transcription
Monday February 1st
DR, Chapter 1: Linguistics and Poetics

Wednesday February 3rd
Due: Recording #1: discourse unit
Lab: ELAN Tutorial.

Week 3. Politeness
Monday February 8th
DR Chapter 19, On Face-work: An analysis of ritual elements in social interaction
DR Chapter 20, Politeness: Some universals in language use

Wednesday February 10th
Due: Transcription #1
Lab: Workshop transcriptions

Week 4. Discourse and Variation
Monday February 15th

Wednesday February 17th
Due: Write-up #1: The structure of discourse
Lab: Present Analysis #1

Week 5. Narrative Analysis
Monday February 22nd
DR, Chapter 12: The Transformation of Experience in Narrative Syntax.
DR, Chapter 13: Narrative Analysis

**Wednesday February 24**
Due: Recording #2: A narrative
Lab: Working with narratives

**Week 6. Narratives and Identity**
Monday February 29

**Wednesday March 2**
Due: Transcription #2
Lab: Workshop transcriptions

**Week 7. Discourse and Identity**
Monday March 7

**Wednesday March 9**
Due: Write-up #2: Narrative Analysis
Lab: Present Analysis #2

**Week 8. Conversation Analysis.**
Monday March 14
DR Chapter 3: Logic and Conversation
DR Chapter 16, Conversation Analysis
DR Chapter 17, *Oh* as a Marker of Information Management

**Wednesday March 16**
Due: Recording #3: A conversation
Lab: Working with Conversations

**Week 9. Happy Spring Break!**

**Week 10.**
Monday March 28, *Conversational Style*
DR Chapter 22, Performing gender identity: Young men’s talk and the construction of heterosexual masculinity.
Wednesday March 30th
Due: Transcription #3
Lab: Workshop transcriptions

Week 11.
Monday April 4th. Critiquing CA.

Wednesday April 6th
Due: Write-up #3: Conversation Analysis
Lab: Present Analysis #3

Week 12. Critical Discourse Analysis
Monday April 11th
DR Chapter 26, Language and Symbolic Power (replace with Foucault)

Wednesday April 13th
DR Chapter 25, Signs of the Times: A discourse perspective on public signage, urban space and the law
These readings were great! And we did the analysis of random texts exercise

Week 13. Discourse and Racism
Monday April 18th
DR Chapter 27, Discourse and the Denial of Racism

Wednesday April 20th
Due: Assignment #4 Text
Lab: Workshop Texts

Week 14
Monday April 25th
DR Chapter 7, Ethics, Advocacy and Empowerment
Bhavnani, Kum-Kum. 1982. Empowerment and social research: some comments.

Wednesday April 27th – Last Day of Class
Due: Write-up #4: Critical Discourse Analysis
Lab: Present Analysis #4

Final Papers Due Wednesday, May 11th at 5pm.