

Language and Society among Spanish, Canadian, and Asian Cultures

Winter, 2020

SP2957B

TENTATIVE



COURSE DESCRIPTION

This hybrid (in-person & online) course is an introduction to the study of the relationship between language and society with the goal of understanding social structure through language. In this course, we specifically focus on three main cultures: Canadian, Hispanic and Asian. We compare their differences by working within socially-informed perspective; topics covered will include language, perception, and identity development; verbal and non-verbal communication; speaking across cultures; language use and social networks; and language and power. Note: since the course is hybrid, Tuesday classes will be in person, while Thursday classes will be via Zoom.

Course Objectives

- Introduce concepts necessary to understand the role of language in society
- Define key terms used by linguists carrying out research in this area
- Connect theoretical concepts to every day experiences
- Understand differences according to cultural norms

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, students will

- Become familiar with the main terms and concepts while studying language and society
- Will be able to apply the concepts studied during the semester while critically assessing different population groups

- Become aware of similarities and differences among Canadian, Asian and Spanish cultures
- Get knowledge of an observational linguistic method while studying different groups
- Learn how to write a solid linguistic proposal and paper
- Get familiar with using Zoom and other online methodologies

READING MATERIAL

Alberts, J.K., Martin, J.N., & Nakayama, T.K. (2011). *Communication in society*. Boston: Pearson Education, Inc. ISBN: 978-0-205-62787-5
 Articles found in OWL

COURSE EVALUATIONS

The final mark in this course will be based on:

Online quizzes (5% x5)	25%
Online forum discussion/debate	20%
Participation	10%
Independent group project (Proposal 10%, Oral presentation 10%, Essay 25%)	45%

There is no final exam!

Online quizzes (25%)

There will be 5 online quizzes scheduled prior to Tuesday classes. Each online quiz will test the studied material. The quizzes will be timed. In order to successfully receive a high mark, ensure you study the assigned material prior to opening the quiz. Once the quiz is opened, you will have to complete it. The quiz will be open on a Sunday prior to Tuesday classes.

Online forum discussion/ debate (20%)

Students will be required to discuss proposed scenarios in OWL. Students will need to 1) respond to the proposed scenario by providing relevant examples from the lecture or textbook, including the use of the terminology (5% per entry), and 2) critically respond to someone's thread (5% per entry). A total of 2 entries for the response and 2 entries for responding to someone's thread. Please note, you cannot respond to your own thread.

Participation (10%):

You are expected to attend all the classes and participate **actively** during the discussion period. This will also include coming prepared to class with completed homework. Inconsistent attendance (including frequent absences and late arrivals) will negatively impact your level of participation and will significantly affect your final participation grade. Attendance **without** active participation will lead to a poor final participation grade. The maximum mark for attendance without active participation will be 50%. Only 3 missed classes will be allowed.

Independent group project (45%)

Students in groups of 2-4 will collect data using participant observation while comparing two different cultures based on the theme studied during the semester. The aim of this project is to build on what they have learned in this course and gain hands-on experience with the execution of a research project from start to finish through careful selection of a topic, library research, data collection and critical reflections and analysis about the readings and other material.

◆ **Proposal (10%):**

This will involve presenting your group project (introducing your phenomenon) including the main research question(s) and hypotheses; (some of) the previous research on the topic; and a brief outline of the experimental methodology (e.g., number of participants, setting, social factors, etc.). The outline should not exceed 5 pages (Times New Roman, 12 pts, double-spaced). The outline should be submitted in person.

◆ **Oral Presentation (10%):**

Since this is a hybrid course, the presentation should be well thought and presented in a creative manner. You and your partners should think of an engaging way to present it to the rest of the class (e.g., voice thread, voice recording on PowerPoint, Prezi, YouTube video, poster, etc.) Your presentation should elaborate the aspects presented in your outline, including the addressed feedback that I will have provided, and present the complete methodological design (participant(s), task(s), stimuli, testing protocol) and some preliminary results. Please note: since this course won't include ethics, you cannot take pictures of the participants **WITHOUT** their consent. Presentations will be on **April 2** and **April 7**. The presentations should be **15-20** minutes.

◆ **Final essay (25%):**

The final essay should present the phenomenon, complete literature review, methodology, quantitative results, and discussion. Since you will have investigated two different cultural groups, it is important to provide a critical analysis and draw our attention to the topics/concepts discussed in class. The paper should not exceed 15 pages (Times New Roman, 12 pts, double-spaced), including references. The final paper should be printed. Deadline is **April 9 in class**.

COURSE POLICIES

Missed Online Quizzes (5x 5%)

Since the quizzes will be open for the duration of 3 days, it is your responsibility to complete them. The failure to do so will result in the mark of **zero**, without any exceptions.

Late Penalties

A late penalty of **10%** per day (i.e., including weekends and holidays) will be applied towards your project outline and final paper. A late of **2%** will applied towards your online debate discussions.

Classroom Etiquette

You are expected to come to lecture on time and stay for the entire class to receive the participation mark for that day. Any use of electronic devices will **be restricted** to note-

taking and browsing the digital copy of the textbook. The use of social media, texting, emailing is **prohibited** and will be treated as a breach of classroom etiquette.

Communication:

The OWL homepage and the Course Syllabus are your first sources for information and questions about the course. You can email me with more practical questions concerning the course organization. I will try to respond to e-mails within **24 hours (excluding weekends)**. If you do not hear from me within that time, feel free to send a reminder e-mail. To ensure e-mail delivery, please use your @uwo.ca account and state the course code (**SP2957B**) in the subject line.

UNIVERSITY POLICY AND SERVICES

LINGUISTICS DEPARTMENT GRADING POLICY

The Department of MLL follows the University and Grading Practices Policy. Please refer to

<http://www.uwo.ca/modlang/undergraduate/policies.html>.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY is essential to the pursuit of learning and scholarship in a university, and to ensuring that a degree from the University of Western is a strong signal of each student's individual academic achievement. As a result, the University treats cases of cheating and **plagiarism** very seriously. The University of Western Ontario outlines the behaviours that constitute academic dishonesty and the processes for addressing academic offences (**refer to Scholastic Offense Policy in the Western Academic Calendar**). If you have questions or concerns about what constitutes appropriate academic behaviour or appropriate research and citation methods, you are expected to seek out additional information on academic integrity from your instructor or from other institutional resources.

ACCESSIBILITY

The University provides academic accommodations for students with disabilities in accordance with the terms of the Ontario Human Rights Code. This occurs through a collaborative process that acknowledges a collective obligation to develop an accessible learning environment that both meets the needs of students and preserves the essential academic requirements of the University's courses and programs. If you require accommodation for a disability please register with accessibility services as soon as possible so that we can assist you in reaching your academic goals in this course.

SUPPORT SERVICES

The Web sites for Registration Services is <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca> and Student Support

Services is <https://studentservices.uwo.ca> (including the services provided by the USC listed

here: <http://westernusc.ca/services/>). The Student Development Services can also be reached at

www.sdc.uwo.ca

Important Notice: Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

COURSE SCHEDULE

TIP: To succeed in this course, you must read the assigned material prior to coming to class.

Theme/Topic	Tuesday in-class lectures	Thursday Zoom classes
1: Week 1 Introduction	Tuesday, Jan 7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Introduction to the course and syllabus ◆ Expectations ◆ (In)Formality in writing emails across cultures ◆ Hw for Thursday: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review the syllabus 2. Download & read on Zoom 3. Bring laptops to class. First Thursday class will be in person 	Thursday, Jan 9 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Introduction to Zoom ◆ Hw. for Tuesday: Read Ch 1.
2: Week 2 Human Communication	Tuesday, Jan 14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Chapter 1: Introduction to Human Communication ◆ Definition & Importance of Human Communication ◆ Models defining HC ◆ Hw for Thursday: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review the PowerPoint & the Chapter. Focus on major sections 2. Complete Online Quiz 1 	Thursday, Jan 16 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Practice Qs for Ch 1 ◆ Hw. for Tuesday: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read Ch 2
3: Week 3 Perception & Identity	Tuesday, Jan 21 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Review online quiz ◆ Chapter 2: Perception & Identity ◆ Definition of perception, identity and type of society ◆ Identity and power ◆ Hw for Thursday: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review the PowerPoint & the Chapter 2. Watch YouTube video 	Thursday, Jan 23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Discussion of YouTube video ◆ Short presentations ◆ Hw. for Tuesday: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read Ch 3.
4: Week 4 Verbal Communication	Tuesday, Jan 28 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Chapter 3: Verbal Communication ◆ Definition of verbal communication ◆ Importance of verbal communication ◆ Ethics and skills ◆ Hw for Thursday: 	Thursday, Jan 30 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Discussion of Chapter 3 ◆ Hw for Tuesday: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Complete <u>Online quiz 2.</u> 2. Read Ch 4.

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Review the PowerPoint & the Chapter 2. Complete <u>Online Form Discussion</u> (entry 1) 	
5: Week 5 Non-Verbal Communication	<p>Tuesday, Feb 4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Chapter 4: Non-Verbal Communication ◆ Identification of non-verbal codes ◆ Functions of non-verbal codes ◆ Cultural differences ◆ Hw for Thursday: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2 Review the PowerPoint & the Chapter 3. Complete <u>online quiz 3</u> 	<p>Thursday, Feb 6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Mini presentations/discussions ◆ Hw: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Complete <u>Online Forum Discussion</u> (entry 2) 2. Review Ch 4.
6: Week 6 Guest-talk 1: <i>Cultural differences & (non)verbal communication</i>	<p>Tuesday, Feb 11 <i>Guest talk: Juan Carlos Osornio</i></p>	<p>Thursday, Feb 13</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Observational method: researcher as an observer
7: Week 7 READING WEEK	<p>Tuesday, Feb 18 NO CLASSES</p>	<p>Thursday, Feb 20 NO CLASSES</p>
8: Week 8 Communication Across Cultures	<p>Tuesday, Feb 25</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ How to write a proposal? ◆ Chapter 6: Communication Across Cultures ◆ The influence of cultural values on communication ◆ Negotiating tensions of border dwellers ◆ Hw for Thursday: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review the PowerPoint & the Chapter 2. Complete <u>online quiz 4</u> 	<p>Thursday, Feb 27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Scenarios to be discussed ◆ Hw: ◆ Read Ch 7.
9: Week 9 Communication, Technology & Culture	<p>Tuesday, Mar 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Proposals are due ◆ Importance of CMC ◆ Identity and relationship development ◆ Hw for Thursday: 	<p>Thursday, Mar 5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Group discussions and mini presentations

	1. Complete Online <u>Forum Discussion</u> (entry 3)	
10: Week 10 Guest-talk 2: Cultural differences while living in Asia	Tuesday, Mar 10 <i>Guest Talk 2: Maru</i>	Thursday, Mar 12 ♦ Data Analysis and Reporting Results ♦ Hw for Tuesday: 1. Read assigned articles
11: Week 11 Language Acquisition	Tuesday, Mar 17 ♦ Linguistics Challenges of SL learners ♦ Common Mistakes SL learners make ♦ AOA	Thursday, Mar 19 ♦ Discussion scenarios
12: Week 12: Interpersonal Relationships	Tuesday, Mar 24 ♦ Chapter 9: Managing Challenges in Interpersonal Relationships ♦ Cultural differences of love language ♦ Social influence skills ♦ Managing aversive communication ♦ Understanding relationship threats ♦ Hw: 1. Review Ch 9 3 Complete Online/Discussion Debate (entry 4)	Thursday, Mar 26 Scenario discussions Hw: 1. Read the assigned articles for Tuesday 2. Complete <u>online quiz 5</u>
13: Week 13	Tuesday, Mar 31 Final Presentations	Thursday, Apr 2 This class will be in person! Final Presentations

CAVEAT

This syllabus is not etched in stone, and any information on this syllabus is subject to change at any time. Although we try to minimize change as much as possible, we may need to make some necessary adjustments (not, however, assignment dates). Any changes will be announced in class and on the course webpage. Thus, it is your responsibility to be there, ask your fellow classmates or the instructor, or check the course webpage to be informed of any such changes.

I hope you enjoy the course 😊