

Discourse Analysis

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Office Hours: Wed 2-4pm, and by appointment.

Course Description:

This course serves as an introduction to the theory and methods of discourse analysis (DA). In this course we will examine several approaches to DA, including anthropological and sociolinguistic perspectives, as well as a conversation analytic approach to studying human interaction. During the semester, we will cover topics such as context, intertextuality, information structure, performance, genre, and more (see tentative schedule below). Several case studies are examined, providing models for pursuing research from a discourse analytic approach.

Texts: Johnstone (2007) *Discourse Analysis*. (required)

I have put some books on reserve that you will find useful to (selectively) thumb through during the semester. These books include:

Blommaert (2005) *Discourse: A Critical Introduction*
Gee (2010) *An Introduction to Discourse Analysis: Theory and Method*

Homework:

There will be a total of four reaction papers and two 5-7 page essays. The reaction papers, 1-2 pages, will require you to take a position on a topic from lecture or assigned readings. You will be evaluated on your ability to concisely synthesize material from class and readings.

The essays should be **typed, stapled** (when more than one page), and handed in the day they are due in class. I will not accept emailed submissions. If you know you will not be in class the day an assignment is due, please contact me ahead of time. Late papers will be accepted only in cases of emergency (if such a situation arises, please contact me).

Final Essay:

There will be no final exam. Instead, there will be a final essay (10-12 pages), similar in aims and format to the other two essays written earlier in the semester.

Grading:

4 Reaction Papers @ 5---- 20 %

2 Essays @ 20----- 40

Final Essay----- 40

TOTAL-----100 %

Grade Scale: 98-100: A+, 94-97: A, 91-93: A-, 88-90: B+, 84-87: B, 81-83: B-, 78-80: C+, 74-77: C, 71-73: C-, 68-70: D+, 64-67: D, 61-63: D-, < or = 60: F.

Tentative Schedule:

	Topics	Readings (for class days)	Assignments
Week 1: 8/27	Overview / Syllabus	(syllabus)	
8/29	Texts, social events and social practices	Fairclough (2003)	
8/31	Intertextuality and assumptions	Fairclough (2003)	
Week 2: 9/3	No class: <i>Labor day</i>		
9/5	Discourse Analysis: An overview	Blommaert (2005)	
9/7	Johnstone on discourse analysis	Johnstone (2007) Ch 1 Introduction	Reaction Paper 1 handed out
Week 3: 9/10	Collecting and Analyzing Data	Wood & Kroger (2000)	
9/12	Transcribing discourse	Edwards (2003)	
9/14	Doing conversation analysis	Ten Have (2007)	Reaction 1 due
Week 4: 9/17	Context	Blommaert (2005) Ch 3	Transcription assignment handed out
9/19	Rethinking context	Goodwin & Duranti (1992): Ch 1	
9/21	In another context	Schegloff (1992)	
Week 5: 9/24	Intertextuality	Allen (2000)	
9/26	Intertextuality (cont.)	Allen (2000)	
9/28	Prior texts, prior discourses	Johnstone (2007)	Reaction 2 handed out
Week 6: 10/1	Information Structure	Ward & Birner (2003)	Transcription due
10/3	Effects of givenness and constraints on free word order	Skopeteas & Faneslow (2009)	
10/5	Conditionals as topics in discourse	Schiffrin (1992)	Reaction 2 due
Week 7: 10/8	Genre	Bauman (1999)	Intertextuality assignemnt handed out
10/10	Genre, intertextuality, and social power	Bauman & Briggs (1992)	

10/12	Genres and generic structure	Fairclough (2003)	
Week 8: 10/15	Interpreting discourse	Brown & Yule (1983)	
10/17	Intention and interpretation	Johnstone (2007)	
10/19	Cohesion and discourse	Martin (2003)	Reaction 3 handed out
Week 9: 10/22	Discourse and gender: Organizing Talk	Eckert & McConnell-Ginet (2003)	Intertextuality due
10/24	Positioning ideas and subjects	Eckert & McConnell-Ginet (2003)	
10/26	Girls, gender, enculturation and discourse	Sheldon (1998)	
Week 10: 10/29	Entextualization, replication, and power	Urban (1996)	Reaction 3 due
10/31	The secret lives of texts	Sliverstein (1996)	
11/2	The social circulation of media discourse and the mediation of communities	Spitulnik (1996)	Reaction 4 handed out
Week 11: 11/5	Analyzing performance I: Parody	Chun (2004)	
11/7	Parody and the symbolic meaning of style	Sclafani (2009)	
11/9	Intertextual sexualities	Hall (2005)	Reaction 4 due
Week 12: 11/12	Analyzing performance II: Hip hop	Cutler (2003)	Final Essay handed out
11/14	An emic view of hip hop cultures	Alim (2006)	
11/16	Language and the three spheres of hip hop	Androtsopoulos (2009)	
Week 13: 11/19	Discourse and identity	Blommaert (2005)	
11/21	Participants in discourse: Relationships, roles, identities	Johnstone (2007)	
11/23	No class: <i>Thanksgiving</i>		
Week 14: 11/26	Interactional sociolinguistics	Gumperz (2003)	
11/28	Discourse as an interactional achievement III	Schegloff (2003)	
11/30	Discourse and interaction	Heller (2003)	
Week 15: 12/3	Discourse and representation in media discourse	Fairclough (2007)	
12/5	On the recontextualization of hip-hop in European speech communities	Androutsopoulos (2002)	
12/7	From lived experience to mediated narrative	Dimitriadis (2009)	Final Essay due

Other Things to Note:

If you have a documented disability please set up a time with me to discuss your needs; you must also register with Disability Services in the Student Center if you haven't already.

The Honor Code applies in this class. You are encouraged to discuss the homework assignments and final paper with classmates, but you must write them up on your own.

One Final Note:

If you carry a cell phone, please turn it off or set it to silent before class begins.