

Request to Include Course in the General Education Curriculum

Category: Human Society and the Individual

Criterion	Course Information
Define vocabulary, concepts, and terminology in the social sciences; identify theories.	Terminology and theories from the field of linguistics will be introduced in assigned readings and class lectures, tested in reading quizzes and tests, and expected to be applied to specific examples of language use in real-world example presentations and all of the projects.
Explain the role of the individual and institutions within the context of society.	Language is a core element of individual human cognition that is learned and used in social contexts and strongly influenced by institutions: schools, governments, and the media, among others. The interaction of individuals and institutions in the context of society is relevant throughout the course but is particularly foregrounded in the units on language history and change, language variation, and language and culture.
Explain and apply theories to social phenomena and human activity.	With the course's focus on language structure and use (a core human activity used in social contexts), every topic in this course addresses social phenomena and human activity. Assigned readings and class discussion will guide students in applying linguistic theories to aspects of language use. They will apply these theories to new language data in real world examples and projects and explain them in short essays on tests.
Evaluate various types and forms of research, including their ethical considerations.	Class discussions of the research underlying the course material will evaluate the methods used, including ethical considerations, especially concerning research with animals (animal communication systems), children (child language acquisition), and speakers of indigenous or minoritized languages (social variation; language & culture). Students will practice developing their own effective and ethical research methods in the research proposal section of the signature assignment.

<p>Identify, frame, or respond to a research question related to human behavior.</p>	<p>The students' real world example presentations require them to identify, investigate, and analyze a specific example of language use of their choice. For each of the projects, a basic research question is posed for them (e.g., How do storytellers use each of several defined categories of co-speech gesture? How do the writing conventions you use differ between email, texting, and social media?) Students develop their own research questions about language use in the research proposal section of the signature assignment.</p>
<p>Compile, interpret, analyze, or evaluate qualitative or quantitative data.</p> <p>Communicate various representations of qualitative and/or quantitative data.</p>	<p>In assigned readings and class lecture, students encounter and interpret data in a variety of textual, numerical, and visual representations. In all of the projects, students analyze natural language data that is either provided to them or that they collect themselves (e.g., selections of their own texts). Methods of analysis are primarily qualitative but with some quantitative analysis (e.g., counting the frequency of different types of gestures). They code language data according to assignment instructions (e.g., labels within transcripts). They communicate their analyses of these data through short presentations (real-world example presentations), discussion board posts (e.g., real-world example presentations, dialect variation project), and short papers (e.g., writing style analysis project).</p>
<p>Responsibly identify, categorize, evaluate, and cite multiple sources</p>	<p>The animal communication project and the real-world example presentation require the identification, use, and citation of reputable external sources. The essay portion of the signature assignment requires selection, use and citation of multiple sources, most or all of them from class materials.</p>
<p>Recognize the complexities of diverse social identities.</p> <p>Evaluate issues of social responsibility regarding identities within diverse contexts.</p>	<p>A core tenet of the field of linguistics is that all language varies between different groups and changes over time, and that every language variety is complex, structured, rule-governed, and of equal value in linguistic terms, even though varieties may differ significantly in the</p>

<p>Apply knowledge and experience critically to realize an informed sense of self, family, community, and the diverse social world in which we live.</p>	<p>social, cultural, political, and economic power accorded to them. The linguistic analysis practiced in every aspect of this course explicitly demonstrates the rule-governed nature and linguistic equality of all language varieties, whether they are spoken, signed, or written. The last third of the class most explicitly addresses both language variation and its interactions with social structures, cultural values, and political and economic power. Throughout the course, but explicitly in the writing project and the variation project, students are asked to analyze their own language use in comparison with other varieties and consider their own sociolinguistic positioning in a larger social world.</p>
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