

Course: LIN 207 Language, Society, and the Individual
Semester: Fall 2004
Instructor: Bohnemeyer
Text: Bonvillain ⁴2003

Overview: Language is the most important “interface” between any one human being’s mind and the minds of other people. A number of subdisciplines of linguistics, psychology, sociology, and anthropology are dedicated to the study of how language is used to convey messages from mind to mind; in particular: neurolinguistics – the study of how language is supported by the brain; psycholinguistics – the study of how utterances are processed in the mind/brain; language acquisition research – the study of how languages are learned; sociolinguistics – the study of the social determinants of language variation and change; and linguistic anthropology – the study of the cultural embedding of linguistic practice. This course is designed to provide a first acquaintance with these various fields of study. The main emphasis will be on the social and cultural aspects of language use.

Lecture: MWF 11:00-11:50 144 CFA (Center for the Arts)
Instructor: Dr. Juergen Bohnemeyer – Office 627 Baldy Phone 645-2177 ext. 727
E-mail jb77@buffalo.edu Office hours WF MF 10:00-10:30 W 13:00-14:00
TA: Paula Chesley – Office 604 Baldy Phone 645-2177 ext. 704
E-mail tba. Office hours 10:00-11:00 W 12:00-13:00

Reading: Bonvillain ⁴2003 (required); six chapters from other books are on reserve and can be downloaded from the UB Libraries website (see below) – readings *must* be completed prior to the lecture for which they are assigned!

Assessment: There will be six **homework assignments**, seven **in-class exercises** to be completed in group work, and a three-hour open-book, open-notes **final exam**. HW assignments consist of problem sets and will be graded according to the number of points you score on the solution to each problem. In-class exercises consist of similar problem sets, but will not be graded – only your participation will be recorded. The final exam consists again of the same kind of problem sets and will be graded in the same way as the hw assignments. Overall grades compute as follows:

- Best five hw assignments – 50%
- Participation during in-class exercises – 20%
- Final exam – 30%

Syllabus

(Readings marked with an asterisk can be downloaded from the Course Reserve website of the UB Libraries. For example, if you start from <http://myub.buffalo.edu/>, click on the *UB Libraries* or *My Library* link, then on the *Course Reserve* link under *Library Services* (lower right), and follow the instructions. Materials are downloadable only in Internet Explorer. Note that the pages designated for preparatory reading below may be less than the entire chapter!)

Week 1: Introduction; Properties of language

Mo Aug 30	<i>Introduction and overview</i>	Reading: Bonvillain ch. 1
We Sep 01	<i>Properties of language</i>	Reading: *Hockett 1958: 569-580
Fr Sep 03	<i>Language as a mental phenomenon</i>	Reading: *Jackendoff 1994: 8-20

Week 2: The form of the message

Mo Sep 06 *** Labor Day ***
 We Sep 08 *Phonetics* Reading: Bonvillain pp. 7-13
 Fr Sep 10 *Phonemic analysis; prosodic features* Reading: Bonvillain pp. 13-16

Week 3: The form of the message (cont.)

Mo Sep 13 **IN-CLASS EXERCISE #1!** **HW #1 out!**
 We Sep 15 *Morphology: The structure of words* Reading: Bonvillain pp. 17-24
 Fr Sep 17 *Syntax: The structure of sentences* Reading: Bonvillain pp. 24-28

Week 4: Meaning in language

Mo Sep 20 *Semantics* Reading: Bonvillain pp. 28-30 **HW #1 due!**
 We Sep 22 *Extended and transferred meaning* Reading: Bonvillain pp. 63-73
 Fr Sep 24 **IN-CLASS EXERCISE #2!** **HW #2 out!**

Week 5: Language and cognition

Mo Sep 27 *The Sapir-Whorf Hypothesis* Reading: Bonvillain pp. 46-51
 We Sep 29 *Cognitive Anthropology: color terms* Reading: Bonvillain pp. 51-63
 Fr Oct 01 *Cognitive Anthropology: space* Reading: *Levinson pp. 109-123 **HW #2 due!**

Week 6: Language acquisition

Mo Oct 04 *The puzzles of language acquisition* Reading: Bonvillain pp. 241-243
 We Oct 06 *First utterances* Reading: Bonvillain pp. 245-251; 262-266
 Fr Oct 08 **IN-CLASS EXERCISE #3!** **HW #3 out!**

Week 7: Language acquisition (cont.); Language processing

Mo Oct 11 *Learning word meanings* Reading: Bonvillain pp. 243-244; 251-252
 We Oct 13 *Speech perception* Reading: *[RABCS] pp. 120-125
 Fr Oct 15 *Speech production* Reading: *[RABCS] pp. 125-133 **HW #3 due!**

Week 8: Language and brain

Mo Oct 18 *Language and the brain* Reading: *[ADFH] pp. 501-520
 We Oct 20 *Language and the brain (cont.)* Reading: *[ADFH] pp. 521-530
 Fr Oct 22 **IN-CLASS EXERCISE #4!** **HW #4 out!**

Week 9: Using language

Mo Oct 25 *Speech acts and speech events* Reading: Bonvillain pp. 76-81; 92-94
 We Oct 27 *Conversation analysis* Reading: Bonvillain pp. 112-116
 Fr Oct 29 *Implicatures* Reading: Bonvillain pp. 116-119 **HW #4 due!**

Week 10: Using language (cont.)

Mo Nov 01 *Politeness: Terms of address* Reading: Bonvillain pp. 83-87; 126-129
 We Nov 03 *Politeness: Face and redress* Reading: Bonvillain pp. 129-134
 Fr Nov 05 **IN-CLASS EXERCISE #5!** **HW #5 out!**

Week 11: Sociolinguistics

Mo Nov 08	<i>Social stratification and language use</i>	Reading: Bonvillain pp. 140-150; 157-159
We Nov 10	<i>Pidgin and Creole languages</i>	Reading: Bonvillain pp. 325-332
Fr Nov 12	<i>African American Vernacular English</i>	Reading: Bonvillain pp. 159-164; HW #5 due! 171-173

Week 12: Language and gender

Mo Nov 15	<i>The sociolinguistic approach</i>	Reading: Bonvillain pp. 181-189
We Nov 17	<i>The ethnographic approach</i>	Reading: Bonvillain pp. 221-234
Fr Nov 19	<i>The conversation-analytical approach</i>	Reading: Bonvillain pp. 196-205

Week 13: Language and gender (cont.)

Mo Nov 22	IN-CLASS EXERCISE #6!	HW #6 out!
-----------	------------------------------	-------------------

*** FALL RECESS We Nov 24 till Fr Nov 26 ***

Week 14: Multilingualism

Mo Nov 29	<i>Multilingual nations: India</i>	Reading: Bonvillain pp. 298-306
We Dec 01	<i>Multilingual nations: USA</i>	Reading: Bonvillain pp. 316-325
Fr Dec 03	<i>Bilingual communities</i>	Reading: Bonvillain pp. 336-347 HW #6 due!

Week 15: Multilingualism (cont.)

Mo Dec 06	<i>Code switching</i>	Reading: Bonvillain pp. 355-366
We Dec 08	IN-CLASS EXERCISE #7!	
Fr Dec 10	<i>Endangered languages</i>	Reading: Bonvillain pp. 347-354

FINAL EXAM – TBA!

The final exam is open-book, open-notes, and consists entirely of problem sets of a kind that have already occurred in hw assignments and in-class exercises. Essentially, you get questions you've seen before, but wrt. to new data sets. So your preparation should focus on reviewing the assignments and exercises and making sure you know (a) the solution to each of the problems and (b) *why* the solution to a particular problem is the solution to that problem.

Bibliography

(The books marked with a ^ are on reserve in the Undergrad Library, *in addition* to the designated chapters downloadable online, for voluntary follow-up reading. You can check them out for two hours max, or overnight.)

- ^[ADFH] Akmajian, A., Demers, R. A., Farmer, A. K., and R. M. Harnish (1995). *Linguistics*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.
- ^Bonvillain, N. (2003 [1997]). *Language, culture, and communication*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.
- ^Hockett, C. F. (1958). *A course in modern linguistics*. New York, NY: Macmillan.
- ^Jackendoff, R. (1994). *Patterns in the mind*. New York, NY: BasicBooks.
- Levinson, Stephen C. 1996. Frames of reference and Molyneux's question: Crosslinguistic evidence. In: Bloom, Paul, Mary A. Peterson, Lynn Nadel, and Merrill F. Garrett (Eds.), *Language and space*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press. 109-169.
- ^[RABCS] Radford, A., Atkinson, M., Britain, D., Clahsen, H., and A. Spencer (1999). *Linguistics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

LIN 207 Language, Society, and the Individual – Fall 2004 – Syllabus

The following information has been sent to Library Reserve Department at libresrv@buffalo.edu.

From: jb77@buffalo.edu (Bohnmeyer, Juergen)
To: libresrv@buffalo.edu, jb77@buffalo.edu
Subject: Item reserve request from Bohnmeyer, Juergen

Course Information:

Course Number: LIN207
Course Title: Language, Society, and the Individual
Instructor: Bohnmeyer, Juergen
Email Address: jb77@buffalo.edu
Department Name: Linguistics
Department Address: 627 Baldy Hall
Campus Phone: 645-2177 ext. 727
Semester: Fall
Year: 2005
Enrollment: 50

Reserve Requests:

Book:
Call Number: P121 .A4384 1984
Author: Akmajian, Adrian; Demers, Richard A.; Harnish, Robert M.
Book Title: Linguistics: An introduction to language and communication
Date/Year: 1984
Edition: 2nd
This Edition Only: No
Type: InNight
Owner: ublib

Book:
Call Number: P35 .B6 2000
Author: Bonvillain, Nancy
Book Title: Language, culture, and communication: The meaning of messages
Date/Year: 2000
Edition: 3rd
This Edition Only: No
Type: InNight
Owner: ublib

Book:
Call Number: P121 .H63
Author: Hockett, Charles Francis
Book Title: A course in modern linguistics
Date/Year: 1958
Edition:
This Edition Only: No
Type: InNight
Owner: ublib

LIN 207 Language, Society, and the Individual – Fall 2004 – Syllabus

Book:

Call Number: P37 .J33 1994
Author: Jackendoff, Ray S.
Book Title: Patterns in the mind : language and human nature
Date/Year: 1994
Edition: 1st
This Edition Only: No
Type: InNight
Owner: ublib

Book:

Call Number: P121 .L528 1999
Author: Radford, Andrew; Atkinson, Martin; Britain, David; Clahsen, Harald; Spencer, Andrew
Book Title: Linguistics : an introduction
Date/Year: 1999
Edition: 1st
This Edition Only: No
Type: InNight
Owner: ublib

Book Chapter:

Chapter Author: Levinson, Stephen C.
Chapter Title: Frames of reference and Molyneux's question:
Crosslinguistic evidence
Book Author: Bloom, Paul, Mary A. Peterson, Lynn Nadel, and
Merril F. Garrett
Book Title: Language and space
Year/Date: 1996
Pages: 109-169
Type: Online

Book Chapter:

Chapter Author: Hockett, Charles F.
Chapter Title: The origins of language
Book Author: Hockett, Charles F.
Book Title: A course in modern linguistics
Year/Date: 1958
Pages: 569-580
Type: Online

Book Chapter:

Chapter Author: Jackendoff, Ray S.
Chapter Title: The argument for mental grammar
Book Author: Jackendoff, Ray S.
Book Title: Patterns in the mind
Year/Date: 1994
Pages: 8-20
Type: Online

Book Chapter:

Chapter Author: Radford, Andrew; Atkinson, Martin; Britain, David;
Clahsen, Harald; Spencer, Andrew
Chapter Title: Processing sounds
Book Author: Radford, Andrew; Atkinson, Martin; Britain, David;
Clahsen, Harald; Spencer, Andrew

LIN 207 Language, Society, and the Individual – Fall 2004 – Syllabus

Book Title: Linguistics: An introduction
Year/Date: 1999
Pages: 120-133
Type: Online

Book Chapter:

Chapter Author: Adrian Akmajian, Richard A. Demers, Ann K. Farmer
and Robert M. Harnish

Chapter Title: Language and the brain

Book Author: Adrian Akmajian, Richard A. Demers, Ann K. Farmer
and Robert M. Harnish

Book Title: Linguistics:An Introduction to Language and
Communication

Year/Date: 19995

Pages: 501-530

Type: Online