

Course: LIN 207 Language, Society, and the Individual
Term: Spring 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 12:00-12:50 109 O’Brian
Instructor: Dr. Juergen Bohnemeyer – Office 627 Baldy Phone 645-2177 ext. 727
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Reading: Bonvillain ⁴2003 (required); three additional articles/chapters are on reserve and can be downloaded – readings *must* be completed prior to the lecture for which they are assigned!

Assessment: There will be six short **homework assignments**, seven **in-class exercises** to be completed in group work, and a three-hour open-book, open-notes **final exam**. Overall grades compute as follows:

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

Syllabus

Week 1: Introduction; language as a mental phenomenon

Mo Jan 12	<i>Introduction and overview</i>	Reading: Bonvillain ch. 1
We Jan 14	<i>Language as a mental phenomenon</i>	Reading: Jackendoff 2002: 19-27
Fr Jan 16	<i>Language as a mental phenomenon</i>	Reading: Jackendoff 2002: 27-37

Week 2: The form of the message

Mo Jan 19	*** MLK Day ***	
We Jan 21	<i>Phonetics</i>	Reading: Bonvillain pp. 7-13
Fr Jan 23	<i>Phonemic analysis; prosodic features</i>	Reading: Bonvillain pp. 13-16 HW #1 out!

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

Mo Jan 26	<i>Morphology: The structure of words</i>	Reading: Bonvillain pp. 17-24
We Jan 28	<i>Syntax: The structure of sentences</i>	Reading: Bonvillain pp. 24-28
Fr Jan 30	<i>Semantics</i> [IN-CLASS EXERCISE]	Reading: Bonvillain pp. 28-30 HW #1 due!

Week 4: The form of the message (conclusion); processing sounds

Mo Feb 2	<i>Manual language</i>	Reading: Bonvillain pp. 30-44	
We Feb 4	<i>Speech perception</i>	Reading: [RABCS] pp. 120-125	
Fr Feb 6	<i>Speech production</i>	IN-CLASS EXERCISE! Reading: [RABCS] pp. 125-133	HW #2 out!

Week 5: Language and brain; language and cultural meaning

Mo Feb 9	<i>Language and the brain</i>	Reading: [UMBZ] pp. 319-324	
We Feb 11	<i>Language and the brain (cont.)</i>	Reading: [UMBZ] pp. 324-331	
Fr Feb 13	<i>The Sapir-Whorf Hypothesis</i>	Reading: Bonvillain pp. 46-51	HW #2 due!

Week 6: Language and cultural meaning (conclusion)

Mo Feb 16	<i>Lexical and cultural categories</i>	Reading: Bonvillain pp. 51-63	
We Feb 18	<i>Semantic typology</i>	IN-CLASS EXERCISE!	
Fr Feb 20	<i>Extended and transferred meaning</i>	Reading: Bonvillain pp. 63-73	HW #3 out!

Week 7: Ethnography of communication

Mo Feb 23	<i>Settings and participants</i>	Reading: Bonvillain pp. 76-90	
We Feb 25	<i>Topics and goals; speech acts</i>	Reading: Bonvillain pp. 90-102	
Fr Feb 27	<i>Routines</i>	Reading: Bonvillain pp. 102-108	HW #3 due!

Week 8: Communicative interactions

Mo Mar 1	<i>Structural properties of conversation</i>	Reading: Bonvillain pp. 111-119	
We Mar 3	<i>Directives</i>	IN-CLASS EXERCISE! Reading: Bonvillain pp. 119-126	
Fr Mar 5	<i>Politeness</i>	Reading: Bonvillain pp. 126-138	HW #4 out!

Week 9: Sociolinguistics

Mo Mar 8	<i>Social stratification</i>	Reading: Bonvillain pp. 140-153	
We Mar 10	<i>Social stratification (cont.); Race</i>	Reading: Bonvillain pp. 153-164	
Fr Mar 12	<i>African American Vernacular English</i>	Reading: Bonvillain pp. 164-178	HW #4 due!

*** SPRING BREAK Mo Mar 15 till Fr Mar 19 ***

Week 10: Language and gender

Mo Mar 22	<i>Pronunciation, grammar, lexicon</i>	Reading: Bonvillain pp. 181-196	
We Mar 24	<i>Conversational styles</i>	Reading: Bonvillain pp. 196-205	
Fr Mar 26	<i>Gender bias</i>	IN-CLASS EXERCISE! Reading: Bonvillain pp. 205-213	HW #5 out!

Week 11: Language and gender (conclusion); language acquisition

Mo Mar 29	<i>Cross-cultural studies</i>	Reading: Bonvillain pp. 216-228	
We Mar 31	<i>Sound development; first utterances</i>	Reading: Bonvillain pp. 241-248	
Fr Apr 2	<i>Lexical and syntactic development</i>	Reading: Bonvillain pp. 249-256	HW #5 due!

Week 12: Language acquisition (conclusion)

Mo Apr 5	<i>Comparative evidence</i>	Reading: Bonvillain pp. 256-262	
We Apr 7	<i>Sequences</i>	IN-CLASS EXERCISE! Reading: Bonvillain pp. 262-269	
Fr Apr 9	<i>Learning to converse</i>	Reading: Bonvillain pp. 285-295	HW #6 out!

Week 13: Multilingualism

Mo Apr 12	<i>India</i>	Reading: Bonvillain pp. 298-306	
We Apr 14	<i>Canada</i>	Reading: Bonvillain pp. 306-315	
Fr Apr 16	<i>USA</i>	Reading: Bonvillain pp. 316-325	HW #6 due!

Week 14: Multilingualism (conclusion)

Mo Apr 19	<i>Bilingual communities</i>	Reading: Bonvillain pp. 336-347	
We Apr 21	<i>Endangered languages</i>	Reading: Bonvillain pp. 347-354	
Fr Apr 23	<i>Code switching</i>	Reading: Bonvillain pp. 355-366	

Week 15: Language ideologies

Mo Apr 26	<i>Language ideologies</i>	Reading: Bonvillain pp. 370-380	
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Reading list

- Bonvillain, N. (⁴2003 [1997]). *Language, culture, and communication*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.
- Jackendoff, R. (2002). *Foundations of language*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- [RABCS] Radford, A., Atkinson, M., Britain, D., Clahsen, H., and A. Spencer (1999). *Linguistics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- [UMBAZ] Uylings, H. M. B., Malofeeva, L. I., Bogolepova, I. N., Amunts, K., and K. Zilles (1999). Broca's language area from a neuroanatomical and developmental perspective. In C. M. Brown & P. Hagoort (eds.), *The neurocognition of language*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 319-336