

LING/ETNC 45 – Introduction to Language and Society – SYLLABUS

Instructor: Richard Abend

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Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 10:30 – 12:00 pm, Wednesday 1-3 pm

Textbook: *What Is Sociolinguistics?* by Gerard Van Herk, Wiley-Blackwell ©2012

Course Description: This course examines the interaction of language with society and the individual and how language establishes power, ethnicity, gender, and social identity. Students are also introduced to linguistic diversity in US society today and methodology for sociolinguistic analysis of conversations. Also offered as Ethnic Studies 45; credit may be earned only once.

GE AREAS MPC – C, D, F CSU – D3, D7 IGETC – 4C, 4G

General Education Outcomes:

MPC Area C, Humanities:

Upon successful completion of this area, students will have demonstrated an ability to analyze and interpret human thought, achievement, and expression relevant to such branches of knowledge as philosophy, literature, and/or the fine and performing arts, and to communicate the results.

MPC Area D, Social Sciences:

Upon successful completion of this area, students will have demonstrated an ability to critically examine and comprehend human nature and behavior, social traditions, and institutions.

MPC Area F, Intercultural Studies:

Upon successful completion of this area, students will have demonstrated an ability to examine interactions and interconnections across cultures.

Student Learning Outcomes: Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Analyze a conversation and explain the characteristics of language use
- Explain “language” in linguistic terms and describe its relationship to society and the individual
- Explain how various social, cultural, and affective factors influence language and communication

Course Objectives: Upon completion of this course, students have demonstrated the ability to:

- Explain a dialect in linguistic terms
- Assess a dialect's role in affecting the user's education, ethnic identification, and place in society
- Describe a process of language change
- Analyze a conversation socio-linguistically
- Assess the role that language plays in forming the values, concepts, and beliefs held by individuals and society

GRADING:

This course awards letter grades (LG) unless you opt to receive a Credit/No Credit (CR/NC) grade. Discuss this option with a counselor if you are considering it. A special "Pass/No Pass (P/NP) Grade Request Form" must be submitted during the first weeks of the semester to be eligible for this option. The grading scale is

A/P = 100 – 90%

B/P = 89 – 80%

C/P = 79 – 70%

D/NP = 69 – 60%

F/NP = 59% or lower

Grades are calculated by the following formula:

*Forums = 10% of the total grade

*(There are 16 Forums during the semester. Complete all 16 to receive full credit [10%]. For each forum missed, 1.5% will be deducted from the final grade.)

Quizzes = 70% of the total grade

Final Project = 20% of the total grade

Repeatability: Students repeating a course in which they previously received a substandard grade of D, F, NC, or NP, or W are limited to a total of three enrollments. Students are advised to carefully choose their courses each term to ensure successful completion. This new regulation is retroactive to Fall 1995. Please see the 2012-2013 Catalog for more information.

Week One –

- Chapter One Introduction
- Student Introductions Forum
- Chapter One Quiz

Week Two –

- Chapter Two – Language and Society
- Chapter Two Forum
- Chapter Two Quiz

Week Three –

- Chapter Three – Place
- Chapter Three Forum
- Chapter Three Quiz

Week Four –

- Chapter Four – Social Status
- Chapter Four Forum
- Chapter Four Quiz

Week Five –

- Chapter Five – Time
- Chapter Five Forum
- Chapter Five Quiz

Week Six –

- Chapter Six – Ethnicity
- Chapter Six Forum
- Chapter Six Quiz

Week Seven –

- Chapter Seven – Gender and Identity
- Chapter Seven Forum
- Chapter Seven Quiz

Week Eight –

- Chapter Eight – Style
- Chapter Eight Forum
- Chapter Eight Quiz

Week Nine –

- Chapter Nine – Interaction
- Chapter Nine Forum

- Chapter Nine Quiz

Week Ten –

- Chapter Ten – Multilingualism
- Chapter Ten Forum
- Chapter Ten Quiz

Week Eleven –

- Chapter Eleven – Language Contact
- Chapter Eleven Forum
- Chapter Eleven Quiz

Week Twelve –

- Chapter Twelve – Attitudes and Ideologies
- Chapter Twelve Forum
- Chapter Twelve Quiz
- Final Project Instructions Presented

Week Thirteen –

- Chapter Thirteen – Language as a Social Entity
- Chapter Thirteen Forum
- Chapter Thirteen Quiz

Week Fourteen –

- Chapter Fourteen – Education
- Chapter Fourteen Forum
- Chapter Fourteen Quiz

Week Fifteen –

- Chapter Fifteen – What is Sociolinguistics?
- Chapter Fifteen Forum
- Chapter Fifteen Quiz

Week Sixteen –

- Free Forum
- Final Project Submission

Course Communication: My first choice of communication with you is through email rabend@mpc.edu. I respond to emails seven days a week, usually within 12 hours. My second choice of communication is through my on-campus office phone (831) 646-4112. Leave a message and I will respond within a day, seven days a week. If you don't hear back from me within a day, please email or call me again.

Participation

Students are expected to participate twice weekly in online forum activities.

Build Rapport

If you find that you have any trouble keeping up with assignments or other aspects of the course, make sure you let your instructor know as early as possible. As you will find, building rapport and effective relationships are key to becoming an effective professional. Make sure that you are proactive in informing your instructor when difficulties arise during the semester so that we can help you find a solution.

Complete Assignments

All assignments for this course will be submitted electronically through MPC Online unless otherwise instructed. Assignments must be submitted by the given deadline or special permission must be requested from instructor *before the due date*. Extensions will not be given beyond the next assignment except under extreme circumstances.

All discussion assignments must be completed by the assignment due date and time. Late or missing discussion assignments will lower your grade.

Drop Policy: The number of times a student may attempt a class is limited to three times per class by the California Community College system. To prevent any future problems, if you have not completed at least one forum or quiz during the first two weeks of class, you will be dropped without any record of you having registered for the class. Beginning in the third week of the semester, a drop from the class is noted by a **W** on your official college transcript. The last day to drop a class is the 12th week of the semester. It is your responsibility to drop the class after the second week of the semester.

Incomplete Policy

Under emergency/special circumstances, students may petition for an incomplete grade. An incomplete will be assigned if the only assignment missing is the Final Project. All incomplete course assignments must be completed within one year.

Inform Your Instructor of Any Accommodations Needed

If you have a disability and would like to request accommodations, please contact the instructor during the first week of the semester so that your accommodations may be provided in a timely

manner. [Supportive Services & Instruction](#) (SS&I) provides assistance in determining and facilitating appropriate accommodations for students with verified disabilities. The SS&I office is located on the first floor of the Student Services building (STS 115).

Monterey Peninsula College's Academic Honesty Policy & Procedures

From the [MPC Academic Catalog](#): Academic honesty is a cornerstone of the educational community; therefore, students are expected to understand the standards of academic honesty as they pertain to students' behavior in the classroom.

Plagiarism

It is important for students to acknowledge sources that are used for completing classroom assignments. Plagiarism is a form of academic dishonesty.

Have a great semester and let me know how I can help you do that. Richard