

BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

The City University of New York
Department of Academic Literacy and Linguistics

Title of Course Language and Culture

Class Hours 3

MW 4-5:15

Chambers St. S738

LIN 100 160W

Laboratory Hours per Week 0

Semester Spring 2024

Instructor Information:

Name: Dr. Tuvi Voorhees

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Office location: N499P

Email: tvoorhees@bmcc.cuny.edu

Office Hours: Tuesdays(remote only)- 12-1; Thursdays 11-12 (virtual OR in-person) and 2-3 (virtual OR in-person); other times available as needed.

Credits 3

Course Description

This course will introduce the student to the study of language and culture. The course will introduce related topics, such as bilingual/bidialectal families and bilingual education, language and gender, literacy in a changing, technological society, child language acquisition, and different dialects and registers of English. The readings will draw on works in linguistics, literature and related fields. Students will work on critical reading and produce writing based on the readings in connection with their own experiences and backgrounds.

What makes this course a Writing Intensive Course?

This is a Writing Intensive course that fulfills the WI requirement for graduation. Writing intensive courses pay special attention to developing critical reading, writing, and analytic skills to prepare students for college-level coursework. Both informal and formal writing will be designed to maximize your understanding of the subject matter. Formal writing assignments, at least 10-12 pages total, account for the largest portion of your grade and will include opportunities for revision.

Basic Skills Requirements: ESL 94; ACR 94; Proficiency index score above 58 or placement based on a CUNY-wide placement test

Mode of Instruction

THIS IS AN IN-PERSON CLASS. YOUR PHYSICAL PRESENCE IS REQUIRED ON MONDAYS AND WEDNESDAYS FROM 4-5:15 throughout the duration of the course.

The attendance policy is as follows: Students are permitted 3 absences (no-questions asked). After the third absence, the student’s grade will be deducted 5% for each additional absence.

Course Student Learning Outcomes	Measurements
<p>1. Students will be able to define language and its components and describe how it relates to culture and society (including: multiculturalism, bilingualism, language varieties, gender differences, discourse, and contemporary language use).</p>	<p>1. Observed class discussions; Graded exam items; Topically-guided writing/ homework assignments</p>
<p>2. Students will be able to analyze linguistic practices.</p>	<p>2. Graded exam items</p>
<p>3. Students will be able to collect real-world linguistic data as related to social and cultural factors/variables</p>	<p>3. Data collection reports (interview and observation notes, recordings of talk,</p>
<p>(including appraising linguistic identities and language use).</p>	<p>transcripts) connected with the Language Observation Project.</p>
<p>4. Students will be able to analyze linguistic practices and to use prior research findings and literature in the interpretation of data.</p>	<p>4. Data Analysis (Language Observation Project); Topically-guided writing/homework assignments; Graded exam items</p>
Writing Intensive Learning Outcomes	Measurements
<p>Students will be able to complete (a) formal writing assignment(s) of at least 10-12 pages in length that has/have gone through the revision process (e.g., research paper, content-related report, and essay).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short papers /essays/ data collection report • Research Proposal • Annotated bibliography
<p>Students will be able to generate pieces of informal writing in response to a variety of prompts, concepts, situations, or reading assignments.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blog discussions • Journal assignments

	General Education Learning Outcomes	Measurements
<input type="checkbox"/>	Communication Skills- Students will be able to write, read, listen and speak critically and effectively.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Language/Discourse Observation Project summary of findings • Topically-guided writing/homework assignment
<input type="checkbox"/>	Social and Behavioral Sciences- Students will be able to apply the concepts and methods of the social sciences.	<input type="checkbox"/> Language/Discourse Observation Project summary of findings

Required Text(s) No text is required. Readings and materials will be provided by the instructor and posted on Open Lab. Students are responsible for retrieving materials from Open Lab. **Other Resources**

Use of Technology: While this is an in-person course, we will be using the OPEN Lab as a means to disseminate course materials, etc. Students must be able to use Open Lab.

Topics covered in this course (may vary)

- Language and Communication
 - o Animal communication
 - o The uniqueness of human language
- Overview of components of language (phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics)
- Language Development and Interaction
- Bilingualism, Multilingualism and bilingual education
- Language and society
- Language contact and change
- Language varieties: African American English, Caribbean English, Pidgins & Creoles, World Englishes, nonnative varieties of English, American Sign language
- Language attitudes
- Language, identity and ethnicity
- Discourse and Pragmatics
- Language and power
- Language and social class
- Language and gender: differences in speech style of and about women and men.

- Language and Technology
- Data collection and analysis methods

Evaluation and Requirements of Students

Attendance and punctuality; participation	10%
Journal	20%
Quizzes 3@5% each	15%
Midterm (Language/Discourse Observation Project)	25%
Final Exam	30%

BMCC is committed to the health and well-being of all students. It is common for everyone to seek assistance at some point in their life, and there are free and confidential services on campus that can help.

Advocacy and Resource Center (formerly Single Stop)

<https://www.bmcc.cuny.edu/studentaffairs/arc/>, room S230, 212-220-8195, arc@bmcc.cuny.edu.

If you are having problems with food or housing insecurity, finances, health insurance or anything else that might get in the way of your studies at BMCC, come by the ARC Office for advice and assistance. Assistance is also available through the Office of Student Affairs, S350, 212-220-8130, studentaffairs@bmcc.cuny.edu.

Counseling Center www.bmcc.cuny.edu/counseling, room S343, 212-220-8140,

counselingcenter@bmcc.cuny.edu. Counselors assist students in addressing psychological and adjustment issues (i.e., depression, anxiety, and relationships) and can help with stress, time management and more. Counselors are available for walk-in visits.

Office of Compliance and Diversity

<https://www.bmcc.cuny.edu/aboutbmcc/compliancediversity>, room S701, 212-220-1236. BMCC is

committed to promoting a diverse and inclusive learning environment free of unlawful discrimination/harassment, including sexual harassment, where all students are treated fairly. For information about BMCC's policies and resources, or to request additional assistance in this area, please visit or call the office, or email olevy@bmcc.cuny.edu, or twade@bmcc.cuny.edu. **If you need immediate assistance, please contact BMCC Public safety at 212-220-8080.**

Office of Accessibility Students who need academic accommodations in connection with a disability must initiate the request with BMCC's Office of Accessibility (OA). Students need to register with the Office of Accessibility in order to officially disclose their disability status to the

College and to determine eligibility for appropriate reasonable accommodations (including any prior IEPs or 504s). Please contact the OA at the start of the semester (or as soon as possible) to coordinate any accommodation request/s. Office of Accessibility www.bmcc.cuny.edu/accessibility, Room N360 (accessible entrance: 77 Harrison Street), [212-220-8180](tel:212-220-8180), accessibility@bmcc.cuny.edu.

Class Participation

Participation in the academic activity of each course is a significant component of the learning process and plays a major role in determining overall student academic achievement. Academic activities may include, but are not limited to, attending class, submitting assignments, engaging in inclass or online activities, taking exams, and/or participating in group work. Each instructor has the right to establish their own class participation policy, and it is each student's responsibility to be familiar with and follow the participation policies for each course.

BMCC Policy on Plagiarism and Academic Integrity Statement

Plagiarism is the presentation of someone else's ideas, words or artistic, scientific, or technical work as one's own creation. Using the idea or work of another is permissible only when the original author is identified. Paraphrasing and summarizing, as well as direct quotations, require citations to the original source. Plagiarism may be intentional or unintentional. Lack of dishonest intent does not necessarily absolve a student of responsibility for plagiarism. Students who are unsure how and when to provide documentation are advised to consult with their instructors. The library has guides designed to help students to appropriately identify a cited work. The full policy can be found on BMCC's Web site, www.bmcc.cuny.edu. For further information on integrity and behavior, please consult the college bulletin (also available online).

AI can sometimes enhance the learning environment. However, using AI to generate work and then passing it off as one's own is cheating and will not be tolerated. If you are in doubt, please talk to me.

Gender-Inclusivity

BMCC community members have the right to use and be referred to according to their preferred name, title, and/or personal pronouns. Everyone also has the right to use all spaces according to their self-identification, including restrooms and locker rooms. To learn more about how to change your preferred name and affirm your gender identity at CUNY (including requesting a new ID card and/or email address), go here: <https://www.bmcc.cuny.edu/student-affairs/lgbtq/> Anyone who has experienced harassment related to gender or sexual identification, who needs assistance, or who wishes to file a complaint, can contact the Office of Compliance and Diversity: <https://www.bmcc.cuny.edu/about-bmcc/compliance-diversity/>.

Tentative Schedule

Monday, 29 January

Course intro, syllabus review

Wednesday, 31 January

Language myths and realities

Monday, 5 February

The nature of language

Wednesday, 7 February

Language and communication; communication in non-human animals; Quiz 1

Monday, 12 February

NO CLASS-COLLEGE CLOSED IN OBSERVANCE OF LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY

Wednesday, 14 February

Language socialization

Monday, 19 February

NO CLASS- COLLEGE CLOSED IN OBSERVANCE OF PRESIDENT'S DAY

Wednesday, 21 February

Culture, language socialization continued from 14 February; assign midterm

Thursday, 22 February

CLASSES FOLLOW A MONDAY SCHEDULE SO WE WILL MEET!

Language socialization

Monday, 26 February

Pragmatics and discourse

Wednesday, 28 February

CLASSES FOLLOW A MONDAY SCHEDULE

Pragmatics and Discourse

Monday, 4 March

Dialects

Wednesday, 6 March

Dialects; Language and social status

Monday, 11 March

Continued from 6 March

Wednesday, 13 March

Midterm presentations

Monday, 18 March

Language and race; assign final

Monday, 25 March

Continued from 18 March

Wednesday, 27 March

Language and identity

Monday, 1 April

Language and identity continued

Wednesday, 3 April

Quiz 3; Language and identity continued

Monday, 8 April

Language and gender

Wednesday, 10 April

Continued from 8 April

Monday, 15 April

Language and age

Wednesday, 17 April

Language and humor

Monday, 22 April

NO CLASS- Spring Break

Wednesday, 24 April

NO CLASS- Spring Break

Monday, 29 April

NO CLASS-Spring Break

Wednesday, 1 May

Language learning and culture; language planning

Monday, 6 May

Language learning and culture

Wednesday, 8 May

Bilingualism and multilingualism

Monday, 13 May

Course wrap-up

Wednesday, 15 May

Presentations

Last day of classes before exams

Monday, May 20

Presentations

Last meeting- NOTHING ACCEPTED AFTER 4PM