

MBOROUGH OF MANHATTAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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

Title of Course Language, Race, and Ethnicity

Class Hours 3

Meeting days, times, and location: MTh 12:30-1:45; N490

LIN 150 121W

Laboratory Hours per Week 0

Semester Fall 2023

Instructor Information:

Dr. Tuvi Voorhees

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N499P

2122208078

Office Hours: M 3:30-4:30 (in-person or virtual); T 1-2 (virtual only); Th 11:30-12:30; other times available by appointment

Credits 3

Course Description

This course explores historical, cultural, and theoretical perspectives on the relationship between language, race, and ethnicity in the United States and its territories. It examines how language is understood to reflect, reproduce, and/or challenge and defy racial and ethnic boundaries, and how ideas about race and ethnicity influence the ways in which people use and construe language. It covers topics such as racialization and racism, ethnicization, notions of authenticity, repertoire, codeswitching and style shifting, linguistic mocking and linguistic racism, language ideology, and identity formation. This course will examine language varieties such as Black American English and its cross-racial uses by other groups, Chicano English and Spanglish, Asian American English, Hawaiian English, and American Indian English.

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

ALL SYNCHRONOUS (IN-PERSON)

All live sessions **REQUIRED**. You must attend class on Mondays and Thursdays from 12:30-1:45 in the N490 classroom. Missing classes will result in no participation credit and failing grades for any assignments completed during the session.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES Students will be able to...	MEASUREMENT
1. To define racialization, racism, and ethnicization and explain how they influence the formation of languages, social groups, communities of practice, and identities	1. Observed in-class discussions/case studies; Reading responses; Language and Race Analysis Paper; Midterm and Final Exams
2. To analyze how race and ethnicity produce widely accepted assumptions about languages and groups of speakers, including critical reflections on theoretical and methodological practice in linguistics.	2. Observed in-class discussions and case studies; Theory map; Reading responses
3. To examine how language is used to define, negotiate, reproduce, challenge, or defy/resist racial/ethnic categorization (i.e., identity)	3. Language and Race Analysis Paper; Reading Responses
4. To apply knowledge of language and race/ethnicity to examine political and social definitions of “diversity”, rights, justice, and inclusion and how they influence social institutions in the US and its territories (e.g., schooling, housing)	4. Observed in-class discussions/case studies; Reading responses; Midterm and Final Exams
Writing Intensive Learning Outcomes	Measurements
1. 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).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short papers /essays/ data collection report • Research Proposal • Annotated bibliography
2. Students will be able to generate pieces of informal writing in response to a variety of prompts, concepts, situations, or reading assignments.	<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"> • Express ideas clearly in written form • Employ critical reading skills to analyze written material • Exhibit active listening skills • Give an effective oral presentation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All written assignments • Reading Responses, Theory Map, Language and Race/Ethnicity Analysis • In-class case studies, presentations, in-class discussions • Presentation for Language and Race/Ethnicity Analysis
<input type="checkbox"/>	Social and Behavioral Sciences- Students will be able to apply the concepts and methods of the social sciences. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate an understanding of the unique theories and methods of a social or behavioral Science • Analyze and interpret a social, economic, political, cultural, philosophical, or historical issue 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysis of the relationship between language and race/ethnicity and critically analyze language for race/ethnicity • Analysis of linguistic phenomena (e.g., language events and practices) for reproductions of values related to race and ethnicity

<input type="checkbox"/>	Information & Technology Literacy- Students will be able to collect, evaluate and interpret information and effectively use information technologies. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct research using appropriate research strategies • Make effective use of technology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Checklist of appropriate sources for analyses
<input type="checkbox"/>	Values- Students will be able to make informed choices based on an understanding of personal values, human diversity, multicultural awareness and social responsibility. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate awareness of one’s own values and beliefs while showing respect for the ideas, values, and beliefs of others • Demonstrate an appreciation of social and cultural diversity • Demonstrate an appreciation of personal and social responsibilities • Demonstrate commitment to lifelong learning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluation of personal and social values through analysis of linguistic phenomena.

Required Text

No texts are required for this class. The instructor will provide all readings.

Other Resources

N/A

Use of Technology

Although this is an in-person course, we will rely heavily on technology for dissemination of course materials. Namely, students will use OpenLab. All materials for the course, including readings and other assignments, will be posted on the open lab. Also, assignments and student work will be submitted via the Open Lab. Students will need to sign up for Open Lab if they have not already done so.

Evaluation and Requirements of Students

- Participation (attending class, being prepared, and being engaged)(10%)
- Reading Responses (3 @5%=15%)
- “Objective” Test (5%)
- Essay Test (10%)
- Midterm project (20%)
- Final Language and Race/Ethnicity Analysis Paper (20%)

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/student-affairs/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/about-bmcc/compliance-diversity>, 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 in-class 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. For this course, excessive absences will result on negative consequences for the student's grade. More than 3 unexcused absences will result in lowering of the student's grade one who step. More than six unexcused absences will result in the student receiving a failing grade for the 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).

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 Course Schedule

Week 1- 28.8 and 31.8

Unit 1- Race

Week 2- 4.9 (no class-Labor Day) and 7.9

Unit 2- Approaching the study of language, the relationship between race and language; “objective” test; reading response #1.

Week 3-11.9 and 14.9

Unit 2 continued; “objective” test

Week 4- 18.9 and 21.9

Unit 3- Language and Culture: Dependence and Independence

Week 5- 25.9 (no class) and 28.9

Unit 3 continued; assign midterm

Week 6 – 2.10 and 5.10

Unit 4- Raciolinguistics; reading response #2

Week 7- 9.10 (no class on Monday 9.10 BUT WE MEET ON TUESDAY 10.10!!!NOTE WELL) and 12.10

Unit 5-African American Vernacular English (AAVE)/African American Language (AAL); assign final

Week 8- 16.10 and 19.10

Unit 6-Language and Ethnicity in focus: The Gullah; essay test

Week 9- 23.10 and 26.10

Unit 7- Language in Native American communities

Week 10- 30.10 and 2.11

Unit 8- Language and Ethnicity in focus: The Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina; midterm due

Week 11- 6.11 and 9.11

Unit 9- Language shift and language loss; reading response #3

Week 12-13.11 and 23.11

Unit 10- Language and Ethnicity in the US Latino context

Week 13- 20.11 and 23.11 (No class on Thursday)

Unit 11- Heritage language in the Asian American context

Week 14- 27.11 and 30.11

Unit 11 continued on Monday; Thursday Unit 12- Racism and language-based discrimination, micro-aggressions

Week 15- 4.12 and 7.12

Unit 12- Everyday racist language; affinity group language practices

Week 16- 11.12 and 14.12

Course wrap of and final due!

PLEASE NOTE:

1. There will be readings EVERY WEEK! Readings will be announced in class and posted online!
2. The due dates for assignments are listed above. The specific assignment will be presented in class and a description of the assignment will be posted online.
3. IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS PLEASE ASK THEM!!