

## 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

**Online (Open Lab)**

**LIN 100 B05W Express B**

**Laboratory Hours per Week** 0

**Semester** Spring 2024 (Express B)

### **Instructor Information:**

**Name:** Dr. Tuvi Voorhees

**Tel.:** 212.220.8078

**Office location:** N499P

**Email:** [tvoorhees@bmcc.cuny.edu](mailto: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 ONLINE ASYNCHRONOUS CLASS WITH NO IN-PERSON MEETINGS. THE CLASS WILL BE HELD VIA OPEN LAB.**

<b>Course Student Learning Outcomes</b>	<b>Measurements</b>
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).	1. Observed class discussions; Graded exam items; Topically-guided writing/ homework assignments
2. Students will be able to analyze linguistic practices.	2. Graded exam items
3. Students will be able to collect real-world linguistic data as related to social and cultural factors/variables	3. Data collection reports (interview and observation notes, recordings of talk,
(including appraising linguistic identities and language use).	transcripts) connected with the Language Observation Project.
4. Students will be able to analyze linguistic practices and to use prior research findings and literature in the interpretation of data.	4. Data Analysis (Language Observation Project); Topically-guided writing/homework assignments; Graded exam items
<b>Writing Intensive Learning Outcomes</b>	<b>Measurements</b>
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"> <li>• Short papers /essays/ data collection report</li> <li>• Research Proposal</li> <li>• Annotated bibliography</li> </ul>
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"> <li>• Blog discussions</li> <li>• Journal assignments</li> </ul>

	General Education Learning Outcomes	Measurements
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Communication Skills-</b> Students will be able to write, read, listen and speak critically and effectively.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Language/Discourse Observation Project summary of findings</li> <li>• Topically-guided writing/homework assignment</li> </ul>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Social and Behavioral Sciences-</b> 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:** 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%
Online Discussion Posting	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](mailto: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](mailto:studentaffairs@bmcc.cuny.edu).

#### **Counseling Center** [www.bmcc.cuny.edu/counseling](http://www.bmcc.cuny.edu/counseling), room S343, 212-220-8140,

[counselingcenter@bmcc.cuny.edu](mailto: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](mailto:olevy@bmcc.cuny.edu), or [twade@bmcc.cuny.edu](mailto: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](http://www.bmcc.cuny.edu/accessibility), Room N360 (accessible entrance: 77 Harrison Street), [212-220-8180](tel:212-220-8180), [accessibility@bmcc.cuny.edu](mailto: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 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.

### **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](http://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**

**Thursday, 21 March**

Class Begins

Unit One: The Nature of Language

**Thursday, 28 March**

Unit Two: Language and Culture

**Thursday, 4 April**

Unit Three: Language Socialization; Quiz 1; Assign midterm

**Thursday, 11 April**

Unit Four: Pragmatics and discourse

**Thursday, 18 April**

Unit Five: Conversational Style

**Thursday, 21 April**

Unit Six: Dialects; Assign Final

**Thursday, 28 April**

**Spring Recess- No unit this week**

**Thursday, 2 May**

Unit Seven: Language and social status; Quiz 2

**Thursday, 9 May**

Unit Eight: Language and Race

**Thursday, 16 May**

Unit Nine: Language and Gender

**Wednesday, 22 May**

**FINALS DUE. EVERYTHING DUE BY 4PM**

NOTE WELL!

1. New units will be posted on Thursdays on the Open Lab. Units will consist of one or more videos, readings, and discussion prompts. Discussions are to be written and posted PROMPTLY on the Open Lab
2. THE ONLY THINGS THAT ARE TO BE POSTED ON OPEN LAB ARE THE DISCUSSION PROMPTS. All other assignments are to be emailed to the professor. Please pay attention to submission instructions.
3. PLEASE ASK IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS