ANTH 678: Ethnographic Discourse Analysis
Professor Jennifer Roth-Gordon
University of Arizona
Fall 2017

Course Information:
Class Time/Location: Wednesdays 10:00-12:30
Haury 310
My Contact Information: Email: jenrothg@email.arizona.edu
Office: Haury 301
Phone: 626-0696 (email preferred)
Class Website: http://d2l.arizona.edu

Course Description:
This class investigates the relationship between language, culture, and social order through the analysis of discourse. While there are many different ways to study discourse (through different academic disciplines such as education or linguistics, through different approaches such as conversation analysis or speech act theory, etc.) and many definitions of discourse, this class is focused on understanding discourse within ethnographic and sociopolitical contexts. The goals of this class are two-fold: 1) to give students hands-on experience in linguistic analysis at the level of discourse and 2) to interrogate the micro/macro relationship between discourse patterns, ethnography, and larger sociopolitical contexts. Thus, as we draw on linguistic studies of spoken and written discourse, we will be asking how particular discourse patterns help speakers negotiate larger questions of citizenship, modernity, globalization, power, identity, and inequality. In this class, we will take up an explicitly ethnographic approach to discourse, in order to show how speakers, and speech, are simultaneously located in interactional, local, national, and global contexts. Not all of the readings here attend to these levels; it will be our job to continually ask (and then show) how discourse analysis can contribute to these broader anthropological concerns.

Because of our strong focus on ethnographic and sociopolitical contexts, students are encouraged to draw on fieldwork data that they have collected. However, it is not necessary to have recordings to work with in order to participate in this class, and many students write papers with easily accessible data (from social media, the internet, popular culture, etc.) that is on a topic of their interest and related to their future research. I am open to different kinds of discourse, including written or online discourse, provided there is a way to more fully explore the context. Students should feel free to come talk with me or send emails to flesh out potential research topics. Human Subjects clearance is not required for the purposes of recording and/or analyzing data for class assignments. However, should students wish to publish on this research (at any future point), or should this constitute ongoing research that will go beyond the confines of this class, students must receive IRB certification and clearance. Please get started on this as soon as possible, as this can be a time-consuming process.
Course Requirements:

1) Attendance and Participation:

In advanced graduate seminar, it goes without saying that your active and informed participation is expected. As a courtesy, please let me know ahead of time if you will be late or unable to attend a session of class. This class is designed as a hands-on data workshop that includes an in-depth discussion of readings and theory. This means we need all hands-on-deck! Please speak with me individually if you are planning to audit. Frequent absences (over 3) will negatively impact a student’s grade and may constitute grounds for dismissal from the class.

►All students are advised to meet with me at least once during the semester to discuss your research and/or progress in the class.

2) Group Presentations:

In order to delve into actual discourse analysis, students will be working both independently and in groups. Each group will work together to design a presentation of at least 30 minutes that will start off the class. There are several ways to approach these presentations, but all presentations must include: 1) a PowerPoint presentation and 2) detailed handouts for each student. There are two parts to these presentations: You should present and synthesize the readings (with short examples either from the readings or the internet) and also introduce new data that will allow us to work through the discourse theme of the day. You have many options in choosing data to present. You may work with data that one student has collected and transcribed from their ongoing fieldwork; you may do a comparison of several students’ data; and you may also compare previously published data (properly cited), or written/online discourse taken from the internet or other sources. Your job is to present an in-depth example of the discourse pattern at hand, synthesizing both micro and macro perspectives. Pay careful attention to the ethnographic and sociopolitical context, even if this takes the form of open-ended questions, critique, or future directions for research.

3) Papers:

For your first paper assignment, you will choose one topic discussed in the 2nd content area of the course (“The Discursive Construction of Social Order”). These topics include: frames and footing, participant roles, stance, register, and genre. Students will be expected to present a short transcript and analyze it through the discourse theme that they have chosen. You are expected to submit your transcript (no longer than 3 pages) along with a 7-10 page paper. This paper is due via email by Friday, October 20th. For your final paper, you have the option of focusing on one of the topics from the 3rd section of the course in a 15-20 page paper OR completing two additional short papers, on different topics from either section of the course (7-10 pages each). Should you choose one final paper, an abstract of your proposed topic is due no later than November 15th by email, and the paper is due on December 8th. Shorter papers will be due on November 15th and December 8th (no abstract necessary). You are always welcome to
email me your ideas for feedback or schedule a time to come visit me in office hours. Please note that no hard copies are needed/accepted: All assignments should be emailed.

**Grading:**

- Attendance and Participation: 25%
- Group Presentations: 25%
- Mid-term Paper: 25%
- Final Paper(s): 25%

**Course Readings:**

All readings will be made available at the d2l class website. If you have trouble accessing the site for any reason, please email me.

**Class Schedule:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section 1: Locating Discourse in Context(s)</th>
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**Week One: Introductions**

**August 23**


**Week Two: Conducting Ethnographic Discourse Analysis**

**August 30**


Jacobs-Huey, Lanita. 2006. *From the Kitchen to the Parlor: Language and Becoming in African American Women’s Hair Care* (chapters 2 and 5). New York: Oxford University Press. 29-46, 89-104. [also see review posted online]


**Week Three: Discourse in Context**

**September 6**


Section 2: The Discursive Construction of Social Order

Week Four: Frames and Footing

September 13


Week Five: Participant Roles

September 20


**Week Six: Stance**

**September 27**


**Week Seven: Register**

**October 4**


*Week Eight: Genre*

*October 11*


*Week Nine: Synthesis*

*October 18*

**Section 3: Heteroglossia**

*Week Ten: Intertextuality*

*October 25*


*Week Eleven: Decontextualization and Recontextualization*

**November 1**


*Week Twelve: Multivocality*

**November 8**


Week Thirteen: Voice
November 15


Week Fourteen: Chronotopes
November 22

Readings TBA

AAA’s in Washington, D.C.: No class
November 29

Week Fifteen: Conclusions
December 6

Have a nice winter break!