LING 370/ANTHCUL 370: Language and Discrimination
MW 1-2
1202 SEB

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Course Information available at Canvas: http://canvas.umich.edu

Course Description:
This course examines the ways language serves as a potential site of social statement and, sometimes, social conflict, particularly with respect to questions of "race" and ethnicity. We'll explore and investigate issues concerning multilingualism; regional and ethnically linked dialects; ideologies about language and language variation; linguistic diversity and language policy; hate speech and political correctness; and language-based discrimination in various public and private contexts. As we explore these issues, we'll also examine what we know about language as a human phenomenon, including the ways we use language to construct and reflect social identities and social group boundaries. We'll discuss how different aspects of social identity relate to language practice and use the critical lens of race and ethnicity to center most of our discussions. Because of this focus, this course fulfills the University's Race and Ethnicity requirement.

Texts:
Textbook (required). Lippi-Green, Rosina. 2011. *English with an Accent*, 2nd ed., Routledge. On reserve in the library.
Canvas Readings (required). You can access the other course readings directly from the Canvas site in the Readings folder in the Canvas Resources.
iClicker (required for in-lecture activities). We will be using iClicker for a variety of activities during lecture. Please be sure you have one and have registered it with Canvas. If getting an iClicker will pose a problem for you, please come and see me. Jan. 20 is the earliest you'll need it.

Course approach:
In this course you'll manage how we assess your progress through the course by choosing some activities and skipping others. Throughout the term, you'll choose activities that have an associated number of points. Many of the activities you choose also allow you to determine how much of the activity you want to do, with different rewards for different degrees of activity.

Organizing the course this way gives you a lot of freedom but also a lot of responsibility in managing how your performance is assessed. Except in cases of emergency, there are no make-ups, re-dos, or extra credit. As you'll see in reading through the details, you'll earn points most easily by being critically engaged with the course material, with us and with your classmates; front-loading your course work early in the term; and treating low stakes activities as weekly homework. Life will be easiest in this course with steady progress throughout the term rather than heightened activity at a few points. We reward engagement. Engagement of course starts face-to-face, so at the very least, we assume you'll to come to lecture and to section.

Accumulating course points
- There are eleven activities associated with earning points in this course. Every activity except attendance is entirely optional.
- Earning an A requires being present for the majority of section and lecture meetings.
- Some activities are low stakes; some are linked to an evaluative assessment of your work; and some are entirely merit-based (and influenced by your engagement in the course).
- You can earn up to **85 total points** out of 150 possible points for activities other than in lecture activities.
- You can earn an additional 12 points through activities done during lecture, primarily in the second half of the class.
  - This means that the only way to earn an A in the course is to participate in at least 8 in-lecture activities.
- Capping total points is a way to make it easier on you to manage the work you have to do to earn the grade you want.
- We'll post points accumulated for the prior week before sections each week.
  - A week runs from 12:00am on Monday through 11:59pm on Sunday
  - We'll be using GradeCraft to help you keep track of your accumulated points
    - Gradecraft is an experimental piece of software designed to support courses organized like this one. It allows you to see where you are in the course and to make various predictions about your final grade based on different levels of performance.
    - We're part of an experiment for using Gradecraft. As with all experiments, we'll probably find things that don't work as well as we might wish. The main thing for you to trust is that we'll have multiple places where your accumulated points are stored, so if something works weirdly in GradeCraft, you can trust that we will make it right. It may require a little patience on your part.

Overview of activities (Details are available on the Canvas wiki and in the Files. Please read carefully.)

Activity	Points	Total points available
Discussion Posts	1 pt	30; 3 point maximum per week
Random In Lecture Activities	1 pt	12
Opinion Polls	2 pts	10
Shared Material	2 pts	10
Curated Lecture Notes	3 pts	15
2 page Reflection	4 pts	12
Outstanding Engagement	5 pts	10
Data Collection Essay	8 pts	8
Section Attendance	10 pts	10
Exams	10 pts	20
Final Paper or Project	25 pts	25
Total		162

Choosing activities

You are free to select the activities in which you would like to engage. You are also free to decide how much you want to engage in the course. There are some broad parameters on activity selection and each individual activity is subject to additional parameters. You can find the parameters for each activity type and point scenarios on the Canvas wiki or in the Files area. We recognize that this is complex. Students in the past have found it generally easy once they read through the materials.

Please note, we recommend a plan that minimally includes an exam, a data collection essay, and two reflections. We also recommend that you think about course engagement as a weekly homework assignment involving forum posts,

opinion polls, sharing material, curating lecture notes, and contributing to class discussion in lecture and in section (which depends on having done the readings and attending lecture and section).

Broad Course Parameters
- Each of you starts with 0 points and earns points based on the work you do in the course.
- The only way to loose points is to miss a lot of your discussion section. We expect every student to attend section. Barring documented emergencies causing long-term absence, unsatisfactory attendance will negatively affect your final grade. You may choose not to earn points via attendance but **you may not choose to miss many section meetings without serious consequence to your final grade**.
  - Students in the past have had their grades lowered by as much as three letter grades for poor section attendance
  - There are three circumstances that will not count as absences provided there is written documentation:
    - If you are REPRESENTING THE UNIVERSITY (for instance through an athletic or other performance event), we expect you to provide documentation to Ariana **before** the absence.
    - If you are ILL, you should stay home and take care of yourself. You should provide medical documentation of your illness and contact Ariana **before your section meets** (you can give her the documentation the next time you see them).
    - If you have AN EMERGENCY, you should take care of it. You should provide documentation of the emergency and contact Ariana **before your section meets** (or as soon afterwards as possible). You can deliver the documentation when you next see her.
- Readings are listed for the day they should be read. We assume that you have read them and that we can ask you your thoughts about them.
- We want to see your curiosity, your brilliance, your creativity, your humility and the things that make you, well, you. We'll be working to show you the same.

Point/Letter conversion
The course is based on points. Letter grades and points are related to one another as follows:

>=93	**A**	77-79	**C+**
90-92	**A-**	73-76	**C**
87-89	**B+**	70-74	**C-**
83-86	**B**	67-69	**D+**
80-82	**B-**	63-66	**D**
		60-66	**D-**
		Below 60 pts	**E**

Note: An A+ in this course is awarded based on our assessment of extraordinary achievement that results in a grade bump. An A+ should be considered special, very rare and achieved through outstanding distinction in the course.

Other matters of business

1. We have very little time together and I want us to spend it interaction with one another as much as we can, so **electronic and computational devices (laptops, smart devices, tablets, etc.) are not allowed during class time**. If not having a device will cause a hardship for you, please see me and we'll work something out.
2. **I do not plan to post lecture slides** for the class. This is going a little bit old school and is primarily intended to facilitate your taking good notes and relying more on your own experience than on posted slides to make sense of course material. You can also rely on the curated lecture notes to help you study.
3. Please **take care of your personal needs** for food and breaks before you come to class.

4. We are happy to correspond with you over e-mail for short exchanges or if you need to make an appointment. In general, **you can expect us to answer a short e-mail within 24 hours**, except between 5 pm on Friday and 9 am on Monday or as otherwise noted.
    a. We won't go over material individually that you missed due to absence. You should identify a buddy in the course who you can work with to get notes and other information. You can also use the curated lecture notes area to find out what was covered if you had to miss class.
    b. If our answer to your email will be more than a few sentences, we are very likely to ask you to come and chat face to face.
5. Please plan to **check your email** at least daily (M-F) for updates about the class. We don't plan to send daily email but we do expect you to receive email that we send about the class. This may mean that you need to check and alter your Canvas notification settings.
6. If you think you need an **accommodation for a disability**, please let me know at your earliest convenience. Most aspects of this course, the assignments, the in-class activities, and the way the course is usually taught may be modified to facilitate your participation and progress. As soon as you make us aware of your needs, we can work with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) to help us determine appropriate academic accommodations. SSD (734-763-3000; ssd.umich.edu) typically recommends accommodation through a Verified Individualized Services and Accommodations (VISA) form. Any information you provide is private and confidential and will be treated as such. For additional information you can check the following: http://ssd.umich.edu/article/syllabus-statement; http://www.sacua.umich.edu/sacua/regents/regup06-06.html
7. Please **be fully aware of the University's policies on scholastic dishonesty**. When scholastic dishonesty is documented on any work for this course, you will forfeit the points you earned for that activity. Further, the matter may be turned over to the Dean of Student Academic Affairs for inquiry. You should familiarize yourself with issues of plagiarism and academic integrity at http://www.lib.umich.edu/academic-integrity.
8. We are **committed to your mental health and wellbeing**. If you or someone you know is feeling overwhelmed, depressed, and/or in need of support, services are available. For help, contact Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) at (734) 764-8312 and https://caps.umich.edu/. Counselors are physically located in schools on both North and Central Campus. You may also consult University Health Service (UHS) at (734) 764-8320 and https://www.uhs.umich.edu/mentalhealthsvcs, or for alcohol or drug concerns, see www.uhs.umich.edu/aodresources. For a listing of other mental health resources available on and off campus, visit: http://umich.edu/~mhealth/.