

WAYLAND BAPTIST UNIVERSITY
Virtual Campus
School of Languages and Literature

Wayland Baptist University Mission Statement: Wayland Baptist University exists to educate students in an academically challenging, learning-focused and distinctively Christian environment for professional success, and service to God and humankind.

Course Name: ENGL 5306.VC01 – Sociolinguistics and Discourse Studies

Term and Year: Winter 17-18

Full Name of Instructor: Dr. Laura Brandenburg

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(If I don't answer, leave a message.)
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Office Hours, Building, and Location: Online, various times and by appointment
Blackboard IM: LBrandenburg

Class Meeting Time and Location: WBU's Virtual Campus: <http://wbu.blackboard.com>

Catalog Description: An in-depth study of descriptive linguistics, with an emphasis on pragmatics, sociolinguistic theory, and how we use and interpret language in social contexts.

Students will be introduced to a range of sociolinguistic theories about language acquisition, language use, and language perception; individual research projects will focus on a social issue of language, such as language and identity, language and class, or language and gender.

Prerequisite: Advanced Standing

Required Textbook and Resources:

- Curzan, Anne, and Michael Adams. *How English Works: A Linguistic Introduction*. 3rd ed. Boston, MA: Pearson Longman, 2012.
- Supplemental PDF readings, posted in Blackboard
- Access to Blackboard and WBU email and access to computer with internet.

Optional Materials: None

Course Outcome Competencies: Upon the conclusion of this course, students actively engaged in learning will be able to:

1. Define linguistics and its major subfields including phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics.
2. Identify factors that influence language change and variation and discuss the sociological, geographical, and economic relationships to such changes.

3. Understand the various theories for language acquisition and discuss the implications of universal grammar and other grammar systems on our acquisition of primary and secondary languages.
4. Analyze discourse for specific markers, turn-taking, politeness, or other face-saving strategies.
5. Discuss issues pertaining to language standards and recognize the implications for terms like “standard” and “correctness.”
6. Recognize the social impact of language use and perception within the major variationist areas such as geography, gender, age, socio-economic class, ethnicity, and race. This includes an understanding of the broad intersections in sociolinguistics between language and gender, language and class, and language and identity.

The more the student puts into the course, the higher his or her outcome competencies will be.

Attendance Requirements: As stated in the Wayland Catalog, students enrolled at one of the University’s external campuses should make every effort to attend all class meetings. All absences must be explained to the instructor, who will then determine whether the omitted work may be made up. When a student reaches that number of absences considered by the instructor to be excessive, the instructor will so advise the student and file an unsatisfactory progress report with the campus executive director. Any student who misses 25 percent or more of the regularly scheduled class meetings may receive a grade of F in the course. Additional attendance policies for each course, as defined by the instructor in the course syllabus, are considered a part of the University’s attendance policy.

*** Because this is an online course and because we will not meet synchronously, your attendance for the course is largely dependent on your contribution to the discussion board’s weekly topics and other participation grades. In keeping with the on-site attendance policy, failure to provide a full response for at least 75% of the discussion topics will result in an F for the course. ***

Disability Statement: “In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), it is the policy of Wayland Baptist University that no otherwise qualified person with a disability be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any educational program or activity in the university. The Coordinator of Counseling Services serves as the coordinator of students with a disability and should be contacted concerning accommodation requests at (806) 291- 3765. Documentation of a disability must accompany any request for accommodations.”

Academic Honesty: Students are expected to submit original work in this class. This means the work students submit for this class cannot be from another course. Further, plagiarism in this course will not be tolerated. Plagiarism is constituted as stealing words or ideas from another source and passing them as your own. Since this class specifically includes elements of writing and research, students should be especially conscientious of attributing sources. Students who plagiarize or recycle work in this class will receive a zero for the assignment and will be subject to university policies regarding plagiarism. (Please see full WBU Statement on Plagiarism in Blackboard.)

Due Dates and Late Penalties: Assignments are due by 11:59 p.m. (Central Time Zone) on the date posted. Be sure that your clock matches the clock in WBU’s Blackboard. All assignments must be submitted to the Blackboard site to receive a grade. These deadlines, like most deadlines in life, are not negotiable. *Any late assignment will receive a 20-point*

deduction per day late. Late assignments are not accepted after 5 days of the assignment's due date.

If for any reason you have trouble submitting your assignment online, send me an email with the attached assignment (preferably in Microsoft Word) before the due date/time, with an explanation of the technical problem. I will note the submission time of the email in order to assess removing late penalties. You will be required to re-submit the assignment within 24 hours, or once the technical problem is resolved.

Expectations, Communication, & Other Information:

While the nature of an online course allows students to work at their own pace, you are expected to keep up with the course materials weekly. *Please note: this is not a self-paced course.* This means that you should keep up with the readings and discussions posted each week and are responsible for turning in any assignments by the posted due date. Students who get behind in the weekly requirements will likely not do well in the course. Remember, also, that your attendance for the course is measured by your participation in the weekly discussions.

Announcements and important information will be posted on the Blackboard site. Be sure to check the site often. Additional information may be sent to your WBU emails, so make sure you've set up a WBU email and are checking it often. Always feel free to email me or chat online anytime I'm signed on if you are concerned about the course or your progress. I am available to help you, provide resources, and give direction—but I cannot help you if I do not know you're struggling.

Students should contact me by using my wbu.edu email. I am also available on Blackboard IM (LBrandenburg) throughout the day and by appointment. I have an office on the Plainview campus, as well, so Plainview campus students can set up an appointment to visit with me there. Please note that the phone number listed in this syllabus is my office number, which may be checked periodically throughout the week, but the best way to get in touch with me quickly is likely through email.

Course Requirements and Grading Criteria:

Participation: (25%). Students will be responsible for the reading and assigned discussion posts based on the readings. The draft for the peer critique and the peer critique are also participation grades. The majority of students' participation grade will come from students' responses to weekly discussion posts in the discussion forum.

Writing Assignments: (60%). Students will be required to write a short discourse analysis of a recorded conversation between two or more people. In addition, students will be required to submit a proposal and final paper exploring a particular sociolinguistics topic within the field. Available topics are provided for students to choose from.

1. Discourse Analysis (25%)
2. Proposal & Final Paper (5% and 30%)

Final exam (15%). The final exam will include questions over the readings and exercises and ask students to write a few essay responses based on his or her own opinion and critical thinking over various discussions in the course.

Tentative Schedule: The schedule below is a tentative outline for the term. As such, it is subject to change, with notification of course. All readings ought to be completed *prior* to doing any posts in the discussion forum.

Summary of Important Dates:

12/17: Discourse Analysis Due
 1/21: Topic Proposal Due
 1/28: Draft for Peer Critique Due
 2/4: Peer Critique
 2/11: Final Paper Due
 2/17: Final Exam

Topic	Reading	Weekly Assignment
Week 1 – Linguistics and its subfields	Ch. 1	Nov 19: DP: Introductions
Week 2 – Nature of Language	Ch. 1, Cont.	Dec 3: DP: “Language Peeves” and Attitudes toward Language
Week 3 – Spoken Discourse	Ch. 8	Dec 10: DP: “Neutral” Language v. “Political” Language
Week 4 – Spoken Discourse, Cont.: Focused on language and gender	PDFs – language and gender	Dec 17: DP: Language & Gender Dec 17: Discourse Analysis due
Week 5 – Language and Authority	Ch. 2	Jan 7: DP: Language Standards
Week 6 – Language Variation	Ch. 11 & Ch. 12	Jan 14: DP: Dialect Judgments & the Standard
Week 7 – Language Variation, Cont: Focused on language and identity	PDFs – language and identity; variation studies	Jan 21: DP: Language Variation and Identity Jan 21: Proposals due
Week 8 – Language Acquisition	Ch. 10	Jan 28: DP: Second Language Development & Bilingual Education Jan 28: Draft for Peer Critique
Week 9 – Future of English	Ch. 14	Feb 4: DP: Future of English—English in a Globalized World Feb 4: Peer Critique
Week 10 – Final Topics	None	Feb 11: Final Paper Due
Week 11 – Final Exam	None	Feb 17: Writing Review Feb 17: Final Exam

Please note the break between Weeks 1 and 2 and between Weeks 4 and 5 for Thanksgiving and Christmas Breaks