

BUTTE COLLEGE

COURSE OUTLINE

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION

ANTH 17 - Introduction to Linguistics

3 Unit(s)

Prerequisite(s): NONE

Recommended Prep: Reading Level V; English Level V

Transfer Status: CSU/UC

51 hours Lecture

This course is a survey of linguistics. The focus is on the description, analysis, and theoretical modeling of various world language systems. Topics will include an introduction to the field of linguistics, the historical development of linguistic inquiry, language acquisition, historical/comparative linguistics and world language systems, phonology, language morphology, syntax, semantics, language in social context(s), discourse analysis, theoretical orientations, literacy process, and applied linguistics. Content for this course will be derived from the work of scholars around the world, including the distinctive contributions of women linguists with a focus on gender and language.

II. OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- A. describe and summarize the basic foundations of linguistic inquiry.
- B. apply forms of linguistic description and analysis across areas of linguistic concern such as language acquisition, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, and extended forms of discourse.
- C. review and apply various theoretical models such as those used to explain the nature of language, comparative and historical linguistics, and the structure of language.
- D. describe and analyze linguistics and literacy texts as they occur across social contexts.
- E. apply linguistic forms of analysis and explanation to the solution of language based human problems (Applied Linguistics).

III. COURSE CONTENT

A. Unit Titles/Suggested Time Schedule

Lecture	
<u>Topics</u>	<u>Hours</u>
1. Introduction to Linguistics	6.00
2. The Development of Linguistics as a Field of Study	6.00
3. Comparative and Historical Linguistics	6.00
4. Language Acquisition	6.00
5. Phonology and Phonetics	6.00
6. Morphology	3.00
7. Syntax	6.00
8. Semantics	6.00
9. Language and Social Context(s)	3.00
10. Applied Linguistics	3.00
Total Hours	51.00

IV. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

- A. Lecture
- B. Instructor Demonstrations
- C. Group Discussions
- D. Homework: Students are required to complete two hours of outside-of-class homework for each hour of lecture
- E. Problem-Solving Sessions
- F. Reading Assignments
- G. Multimedia Presentations
- H. Writing Assignments: students will be required 1500 words in the form of formal papers and essays.

V. METHODS OF EVALUATION

- A. Quizzes
- B. Written Assignments
- C. Written Examinations
- D. Essays and research papers
- E. Tests (objective)

VI. EXAMPLES OF ASSIGNMENTS

A. Reading Assignments

1.

1. Read Malcolm Coulthard's article on Discourse Analysis."
2. Read the chapter (chapter three) that summarizes the key ideas associated with Transformational Generative Grammar.
3. Read the article that focuses on the development of historical/comparative linguistics.
4. Read the chapter (chapter six) that deals with various theoretical models for language acquisition.

B. Writing Assignments

1.

1. Write a three page essay focusing on Edward Sapir's article "The Psychological Reality of Phonemes." Why did this article shift descriptive phonology away from phonetic transcription?
2. Compose a five page essay focusing on theoretical perspectives on syntax. Include the ideas of Noam Chomsky, Paul Postal, and George Lakoff.
3. Write a three page essay that summarizes the key ideas associated with Speech Act theory. Include ideas associated with J.L Austin, John Searle, and Dell Hymes.
4. Write a three page essay describing "Discourse Analysis" as a method and interpretive tool for linguistic analysis.

C. Out-of-Class Assignments

1.

1. Record 10 minutes of a TV situation comedy. Transcribe the segment using the International Phonetic Alphabet (IIPA) with attention to the way speakers actually pronounce sounds. Also, isolate all morphemes (free and bound).
2. With permission only, record a conversation with a friend. Isolate individual speech acts and analyze according to locution, illocution, and perlocution.
3. Record or graphically describe code-switching as it occurs in everyday situations. Use the TV or note code-switching as it occurs in public places (e.g. restaurants, at school, and so forth). Describe the conditions under which code-switching occurs.

VII. RECOMMENDED MATERIALS OF INSTRUCTION

Textbooks:

- A. Blum, Susan. Making Sense of Language. 1st Edition. Oxford University Press, 2009.
- B. O'Grady, William, Dobrovolsky, Michael, Aronoff, Mark. Contemporary Linguistics: An Introduction. 3rd Edition. St. Martin's Press, 2009.
- C. Salzmänn, Zdenek. Language, Culture and Society. 4th Edition. Westview, 2007.

Created/Revised by: Michael Findlay

Date: 11/15/2010