**SPAN 6501: Theory and Foundations Seminar (3 credits)**

**Course Objectives:**

This course is designed as a foundational seminar for the MS-ALIS, BS/MS-ALIS, and MS-GMC Programs. The course covers theoretical texts related to three course modules: (1) Social and Intercultural Studies; (2) Literary, Media Studies and Technology; or (3) Linguistics and Language Application. The seminar introduces students to major theoretical readings and requires their application in a variety of assignments. The main objective of the course is to increase theoretical knowledge and practical applications in key areas of language and culture study. By providing a three-pronged foundation in culture, literature/media, and linguistics, graduate students will be prepared to research and work in a variety of sectors upon completion of their degree.

**Learning Outcomes:**

This course aims to achieve the following learning outcomes:

* Students will identify, investigate, and analyze cultural and social problems in a variety of oral, visual and written texts, both print and digital, through the application of relevant critical theories.
* Students will identify, analyze, and interpret formal, structural, and constitutive patterns of multimedia artifacts.
* Students will apply critical thought and relevant theory in the production of an original research paper or media project in one of the following fields: (1) Social and Intercultural Studies; (2) Literary and Media Studies; or (3) Linguistics, Language Application, and Technology.
* Students will identify and use scholarly sources, both print and online, successfully, which includes the ability to demonstrate accepted methods of citation, to detect author bias, and to read critically.
* Students will be able to understand and collaborate across cultures with other professionals who explore similar topics and themes.

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| **Module:** | **Week:** | **Class Topic:** |
| 1. Social and Intercultural Studies | 1 | Semiotics, Ethnography, and Semiotic Ethnography |
| 2 | Constructivist Theory of Communication and Culture |
| 3 | Intercultural Theory of International Relations |
| 4 | Social Network Theory in Intercultural Communication |
| 5 | Cultural Convergence and Accommodation Theories |
| 2. Literary, Media Studies and Technology | 6 | Narrative Theory |
| 7 | Film and Media Theory |
| 8 | Theories of Nation Formation |
| 9 | Gender, Sexuality, and Performance Theory |
| 10 | Postcolonial Theory |
| 3. Linguistics and Language Application | 11 | Theories of Applied Linguistics |
| 12 | Theories of Sociolinguistics and Anthropological Linguistics |
| 13 | Language Acquisition Theory |
| 14 | Computational Linguistics |
| 15 | Psycholinguistics |

**Grade Breakdown:**

In-Class Participation 10%

Note: Participation grades are based on the quantity and quality of students’ comments in class discussion. Students will receive a participation grade for each of the three course modules, which will be posted on t-square during weeks 5, 10 and 15 of the semester.

Assignment for Module 1:

Devise and conduct an intercultural study on a small scale. 20%

**Rubric:**

*Organization and Development of study and write-up: 20%*

*Elimination of Bias and Avoidance of Stereotyping and Ethnocentrism: 20%*

*Analysis of Study Results and Conclusions: 40%*

*Written and Oral Spanish: 20%*

Assignment for Module 2:

Write a theoretically-driven essay of literary or media interpretation or create a multi-media project that combines new technologies and literary and film analysis 20%

**Rubric:**

*Ideas and Argumentation: 40%*

*Organization and Development: 20%*

*Support and Textual Evidence: 20%*

*Written and/or Oral Spanish: 20%*

Assignment for Module 3:

Develop and carry out a case study examining original linguistics data. 20%

**Rubric:**

*Case Study Development: 20%*

*Case Study Implementation and Field Work: 20%*

*Analysis of Results and Conclusions: 40%*

*Written and oral Spanish: 20%*

Final Research Paper or Media Project (to be related to one of the course modules) 30%

**Rubric designed in consultation with faculty member.**

**Attendance:**

Students who are absent because of participation in approved Institute activities (such as field trips, professional conferences, and athletic events) will be permitted to make up the work missed during their absences. Approval of such activities will be granted by the Student Academic and Financial Affairs Committee of the Academic Senate, and statements of the approved absence may be obtained from the Office of the Registrar. <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/4/>

**Academic Integrity:**

In some of the classroom activities in this course, you will be asked to work with other classmates; in addition, you are encouraged to study with others in order to help yourself and others in the class understand the information presented by the professor. However, any written/oral work that forms the basis of your final grade in the class MUST be your (or your group’s) own original work. This includes all exams and assignments.

Any and all indications of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Dean of Students office. Should you have any questions regarding what constitutes "academic dishonesty" in this class, please see your instructor at once. See also: <http://www.honor.gatech.edu/>

**Disability Services:**

Students with disabilities will receive necessary accommodations. For details, please refer to the GT Disabilities Services’ “Policies and Procedures” page located at this link: <http://disabilityservices.gatech.edu/content/15/policies-procedures>