

LING 45 – Introduction to Language and Society – SYLLABUS

*Extra Credit Opportunities: Available until Sunday midnight of week one only.
Complete the Syllabus Quiz for 1% added to your final class grade.
Complete the Extra Credit Orientation/Introduction for 1-3% added to your final grade.*

Instructor: Richard Abend (Please call me Richard)

Email: rabend@mpc.edu

Office & Phone: HSS123 & (831) 646-4112

Office Hours:

Textbook: *What Is Sociolinguistics?* by Gerard Van Herk, Wiley-Blackwell ©2012

Course Description: This course examines the interaction of language with society and the individual and how language establishes power, ethnicity, gender, and social identity. Students are also introduced to linguistic diversity in US society today and methodology for sociolinguistic analysis of conversations. Also offered as Ethnic Studies 45; credit may be earned only once.

GE AREAS: MPC – C, D, F CSU – D3, D7 IGETC – 4C, 4G

General Education Outcomes:

MPC Area C, Humanities:

Upon successful completion of this area, students will have demonstrated an ability to analyze and interpret human thought, achievement, and expression relevant to such branches of knowledge as philosophy, literature, and/or the fine and performing arts, and to communicate the results.

MPC Area D, Social Sciences:

Upon successful completion of this area, students will have demonstrated an ability to critically examine and comprehend human nature and behavior, social traditions, and institutions.

MPC Area F, Intercultural Studies:

Upon successful completion of this area, students will have demonstrated an ability to examine interactions and interconnections across cultures.

Student Learning Outcomes: Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Analyze a conversation and explain the characteristics of language use
- Explain “language” in linguistic terms and describe its relationship to society and the individual
- Explain how various social, cultural, and affective factors influence language and communication

Course Objectives: Upon completion of this course, students have demonstrated the ability to:

- Explain a dialect in linguistic terms
- Assess the role of dialect in affecting the user’s education, ethnic identification, and place in society
- Describe a process of language change
- Analyze a conversation socio-linguistically
- Assess the role that language plays in forming the values, concepts, and beliefs held by individuals and society

GRADING:

This course awards letter grades (LG) unless you opt to receive a Credit/No Credit (CR/NC) grade. Discuss this option with a counselor if you are considering it. A special “Pass/No Pass (P/NP) Grade Request Form” must be submitted during the first weeks of the semester to be eligible for this option. The grading scale is

A/P = 100 – 90%

B/P = 89 – 80%

C/P = 79 – 70%

D/NP = 69 – 60%

F/NP = 59% or lower

Grades are calculated by the following formula:

DISCUSSIONS = 25% of the total grade

You need a total of **40** points in the Discussions to receive full credit for this portion of the class.

The weekly online Discussions are our primary means of communication. They take the place of class lectures and discussions. The Discussions are used to review the class content and help

each other understand the course material, so your responses to the Discussion prompts (your **postings**) are extremely important to us all. In addition, it is equally important that we build a community of learners in our class, so your **replies** to other students' postings are just as important! We need to know that people are "listening" to what we are "saying." We take turns **posting** or **replying** most weeks.

Our class is divided into two groups called **Red** and **Blue**. Find your group for the semester by clicking **RED and BLUE GROUP MEMBERSHIP** in the Week One Module. Our Discussion schedule follows:

Even numbered weeks (2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, and 14) - Group **Red** posts on the Discussion and Group **Blue** replies to those postings. **Always** begin your **posting** by telling us the prompt number you are responding to. **Always** begin your **reply** with the person's name you are responding to. Just one posting or reply per person is scored each week.

Odd numbered weeks (1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13 and 15) - Group **Blue** posts on the Discussion and Group **Red** replies to those postings. **Always** begin your posting by telling us the prompt number you are responding to. **Always** begin your reply with the person's name you are responding to. Just one posting or reply per person is scored each week.

It is not necessary for you to be active in each weekly Discussion. Of course, I would like you to follow each Discussion, but you are only required to reach **40** points in the Discussions for full credit for this section of the class. Keep track of your points as the semester continues. You are limited to just one scored posting or reply in any week's Discussion. Your Discussion participation is evaluated according to the following formula:

Points are awarded as follows:

Discussion posting 75-150 words in length ** = 1 point

Discussion posting 151-250 words in length ** = 3 points

Discussion posting 250 words or longer ** = 5 points

Discussion reply 50-75 words in length ** = 1 point

Discussion reply 76-100 words in length ** = 2 points

Discussion reply 101 words or longer ** = 3 points

**** Your CANVAS typing screen records word count in the lower right corner before posting.**

***CAUTION! While the semester is in progress, CANVAS grades indicates your class percentage according to the quizzes you have**

completed. When the semester ends, zeroes are added to your grade calculation for any missed quizzes. This may lower your total percentage for the class.

CHAPTER QUIZZES = 65% of the total grade

EXTRA CREDIT OPPORTUNITIES: Available until Sunday midnight of week one

- **Syllabus Quiz = 1 extra credit point added directly to your final grade.**
- **Extra Credit Orientation/Introduction Discussion**

***Please be careful using the CANVAS Grades tool to check your current grade in the class. The information may not be totally correct. Only your graded quizzes are included in this number while the course is progressing and missed quizzes are not part of the calculation. At the end of the semester, your discussion points are calculated along with extra credit points and zeros are added to missed quizzes which will affect your overall score.**

Final Discussion = 10% of the final grade.

Repeatability: Students repeating a course in which they previously received a substandard grade of D, F, NC, or NP, or W are limited to a total of three enrollments. Students are advised to carefully choose their courses each term to ensure successful completion. This new regulation is retroactive to Fall 1995. Please see the 2012-2013 Catalog for more information

Weekly Schedule of Activities

Week One –

- Chapter One - Introduction
- Discussion - Chapter One
- Chapter One Quizzes

Week Two –

- Chapter Two – Language and Society
- Discussion - Chapter Two
- Chapter Two Quizzes

Week Three –

- Chapter Three – Place
- Discussion - Chapter Three
- Chapter Three Quizzes

Week Four –

- Chapter Four – Social Status
- Discussion - Chapter Four
- Chapter Four Quizzes

Week Five –

- Chapter Five – Time
- Discussion - Chapter Five
- Chapter Five Quizzes

Week Six –

- Chapter Six – Ethnicity
- Discussion - Chapter Six
- Chapter Six Quizzes

Week Seven –

- Chapter Seven – Gender and Identity
- Discussion - Chapter Seven
- Chapter Seven Quizzes

Week Eight –

- Chapter Eight – Style
- Discussion - Chapter Eight
- Chapter Eight Quizzes

Week Nine –

- Chapter Nine – Interaction
- Discussion - Chapter Nine
- Chapter Nine Quizzes

Week Ten –

- Chapter Ten – Multilingualism
- Discussion - Chapter Ten
- Chapter Ten Quizzes

Week Eleven –

- Chapter Eleven – Language Contact
- Discussion - Chapter Eleven
- Chapter Eleven Quizzes

Week Twelve –

- Chapter Twelve – Attitudes and Ideologies
- Discussion - Chapter Twelve
- Chapter Twelve Quizzes

Week Thirteen –

- Chapter Thirteen – Language as a Social Entity

- Discussion - Chapter Thirteen
- Chapter Thirteen Quizzes

Week Fourteen –

- Chapter Fourteen – Education
- Discussion - Chapter Fourteen
- Chapter Fourteen Quizzes

Week Fifteen –

- Chapter Fifteen – What is Sociolinguistics?
- Discussion Chapter Fifteen
- Chapter Fifteen Quiz

Week Sixteen –

- Final Discussion

[Canvas Login](#)

Course Communication: My first choice of communication with you is through email rabend@mpc.edu. I respond to emails seven days a week, usually within 12 hours. My second choice of communication is through my on-campus office phone (831) 646-4112. Leave a message and I will respond within a day, seven days a week. If you don't hear back from me within a day, please email or call me again.

Participation: Students are expected to regularly participate in online Discussions.

Build Rapport

If you find that you have any trouble keeping up with assignments or other aspects of the course, make sure you let Richard know as early as possible. Building rapport and effective relationships are key to becoming an effective professional. Make sure that you are proactive in informing me when difficulties arise during the semester so that we can find a solution.

Complete Assignments

All assignments for this course are submitted electronically.

Drop Policy: The number of times a student may attempt a class is limited to three times per class by the California Community College system. To prevent any future problems, if you have not completed at least one discussion or quiz during the first two weeks of class, you may be dropped without any record of you having registered for the class. Beginning in the third week of the semester, a drop from the class is noted by a **W** on your official college transcript. The last day to drop a class is the 12th week of the semester. It is your responsibility to drop the class after the second week of the semester.

Incomplete Policy: Under emergency/special circumstances, students may petition for an incomplete grade. An incomplete will be assigned if the only assignment missing is the Final Project. All incomplete course assignments must be completed within one year.

Inform Your Instructor of Any Accommodations Needed

If you have a disability and would like to request accommodations, please contact the instructor during the first week of the semester so that your accommodations may be provided in a timely manner. [Access Resource Center](#) provides assistance in determining and facilitating appropriate accommodations for students with verified disabilities. The SS&I office is located on the first floor of the Student Services building (STS 115).

MPC's Academic Honesty Policy & Procedures

From the [MPC Academic Catalog](#): Academic honesty is a cornerstone of the educational community; therefore, students are expected to understand the standards of academic honesty as they pertain to students' behavior in the classroom.

Plagiarism

It is important for students to acknowledge sources that are used for completing classroom assignments. Plagiarism is a form of academic dishonesty.

Consult the MPC Catalog for a full description of the Policy.

Have a wonderful semester and please tell me how I can make this the best possible learning experience for you. Please let me know how I'm doing.

Best wishes, Richard

