

## COMM 562- Discourse in Interaction – Spring 2010

**Professor:** Dr. Leah Wingard

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**Office:** HUM 258

**Class website:** <https://ilearn.sfsu.edu/login/index.php>

Log in using your student ID and sfsu password

**Class TA: M/W 12-2: Andrea Lee (andrea.lee@gmail.com)**

**M/W 4-6: Miranda Olzman (olzman@gmail.com)**

**Office Hours:** Mon/Wed: 2-3

Tues/Thurs: 12 -1

(by appointment if necessary)

### Course Description:

This course is an introduction to the study of discourse from a Language and Social Interaction (LSI) perspective and satisfies a breadth area 4, "Language and Social Interaction" in the Communications Studies major. LSI scholarship examines the connection between language and communication and tends to focus specifically on the structures of talk and the social actions those structures manifest in face to face interaction. The course readings will expose you to some of the basic theoretical foundations that inform an LSI approach to the study of communication. We will additionally read about the structures of discourse that have been identified and studied by LSI scholars most frequently. As a class we will observe and discuss how such structures vary and may be implemented in a wide variety of interactional settings. Finally, we will consider how discourse used in social interaction has implications for more global topics such as the constructions of identity, culture and power.

### Learning objectives include:

1. Understanding the theoretical basis and assumptions of LSI, and understanding how they are different from other approaches to studying communication.
2. Learning to recognize recurrent structures used in naturally occurring interaction.
3. Understanding and recognizing the ways in which the situated use of discourse has implications for how identity and relationships are socially constructed.

**Grading** will be based on the following standard grading scale.

A 94-100

B+ 87-89.9

C+ 77-79.9

D+ 67-69.9

A- 90-93.9

B 83-86.9

C 73-76.9

D 63-66.9

B- 80-82.9

C- 70-72.9

D - 60-62.9

Please note that the grade of A is given for consistently excellent work that demonstrates an in-depth understanding of all course materials. B's are given for work that demonstrates instances of excellence with a very good understanding of course materials. C's are given for work that demonstrates a consistent and satisfactory competence in course materials. D's are given for passing, but less than satisfactory work, or work that is incomplete.

Evaluation Items		Possible points each	Total possible points	Total grade percentage
Reading guides	Complete 6 out of 8	20 points	120 points	approx. 38%
Exams	Two (2)	45 points	90 points	approx. 28%
Observations	Two (2)	20 points	40 points	approx. 12%
Presentation	One (1)	40 points	40 points	approx. 12%
Attendance		15 points	15 points	approx. 5%
Participation		15 points	15 points	approx. 5%
<b>Total</b>			<b>320 points</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Assignments: Reading Guides and Observations

**Reading guides** are designed to assist you with checking your comprehension of main ideas presented in class and through readings and should be used as a study guide for exams. A “preliminary” version of the reading guide will be available the week before the concepts are covered in class, and a “final” version will be posted after we have discussed the concepts in class. Usually the “preliminary” and “final” guide will be the same or very similar so you can easily start to prepare the reading when the “preliminary” guide is posted. Reading guides are due at the beginning of class. Please leave sufficient time to print your guide before class if you print on campus. I recommend that you bring a hard copy of the preliminary guide to take notes on while we discuss the concepts in class. Reading guides will be graded according to a 20 point scale. While you may work in groups to discuss the answers on reading guides, **it is expected that each student write his or her own answers to the guide. Reading guides may not be copied word for word between students. Guides that have been copied between students word for word will be considered plagiarized and both students will be given a zero for that assignment.** Please see statement on plagiarism below.

#### Extra credit

Since a 6 out of 8 guides are required, you may do up to 2 extra reading guides for up to 20 extra credit points. At the end of the semester 50% percent of any reading guide points above 120 you have earned will be extra credit and counted toward the overall grade. All reading guides (including those done for extra credit) may only be turned in on the day they are due in the class. I highly suggest you do all the reading guides since they are designed to prepare you for exams.

**Observations** are assigned to offer you practice at noticing the details of interactions and apply concepts we have discussed in class to real interaction. Each observation will have a separate set of guidelines and will be posted on our Ilearn site.

#### **Policies regarding turning in work:**

1. All assignments **must be typed** to receive credit.
2. Reading guides and observations must be turned in on the day they are due and **you must be present for at least half of the class on that day to turn in your work for credit.**

I offer 2 exceptions to these policies.

- I offer **one opportunity to submit an assignment on a day that you can not be in class** because of an unexpected emergency (such as sudden illness, car trouble, family emergency) that prevents you from coming to class, but the assignment

must get to me by the evening of the day it is due to not be considered late. On one such occasion, you may send the assignment electronically by the end of the day with a brief explanation of your absence and I will count it for normal credit. Send documents as attachments in Word, RTF or PDF formats only. I can not read Word Perfect documents. I will send a follow up-mail confirming that I have received your assignment. If you do not receive a response e-mail, please follow up with me.

- I also offer **one opportunity to turn in an assignment late up to 4 days**. A late penalty will be assessed of 2 points per 24 hour period after the assignment was due.

#### **Exams:**

Two non cumulative exams will test your knowledge and recognition of key terms, concepts and examples used in the readings, lectures and student presentations in class. The exams will be in a multiple choice format. Exams may only be taken on the scheduled day. Make-up exams are only possible in case of extreme and documentable circumstances.

#### **Presentations:**

In the second half of the semester, students will give short presentations on assigned readings in small groups. Students will sign up for a presentation from a list of possible articles and will summarize the main findings of the article and take classmates through the analysis of some of the transcript used in the article to illustrate the main ideas. Further guidelines and information will be provided.

#### **Attendance and participation:**

Regular attendance and participation is an important component of this class. Regular and meaningful contribution to class discussion will affect your participation grade positively. Texting and use of computers in class for other than note taking purposes and non-contribution to class discussion and group work will affect your participation grade negatively. Please show us all courtesy and turn off cell phones other devices that make noise and distract you and others while in class.

Attendance is taken at the beginning of each class. You can let me know if you are not coming to class by e-mail but I make no distinction between "excused" or "unexcused" absences. If you arrive after attendance has been taken, you should alert the class TA so you can be marked "late" instead of "absent". Each "late" is equivalent to a ½ absence. I grant 4 "lates" at a maximum. After you have been granted 4 "lates", any subsequent lateness will be considered a full "absence". If you need to leave early, please inform the class TA at the beginning of class. Leaving early for whatever reason will be counted as a ½ absence. If you leave early without informing the TA and it is noticed that you have left, you will be considered absent for the day. I grant 2 absences or its equivalent in lates (4) for the semester without subtracting points from the attendance grade. Any absences thereafter will result in a 2 point deduction per absence and a 1 point deduction per late.

#### **Class readings:**

Readings will be posted as PDF's files on our Ilearn website for the week we are reviewing those materials. I highly recommend that you print out these readings and bring them to class so that you can take notes on transcripts of interactions as we review them. I don't recommend reading PDF readings on a computer screen. There is also a short reader in the SFSU bookstore that will constitute the reading for the portions of the class that focus on conversation analysis.

### Spring 2010 Semester Schedule

This schedule is tentative. If changes are deemed necessary  
I will announce the change in class and make a note on iLearn.  
Please always check iLearn for changes if you are absent.

Week/Date	Readings & Topics	Evaluation items
<b>Week 1</b> Jan 25 & 27	Intro to class and syllabus The study of discourse	Wed: Turn in Student Information Sheet
<b>Week 2</b> Feb. 1 & 3	The study of discourse cont.	
<b>Week 3</b> Feb. 8 & 10	Discourse Pragmatics	Mon: Reading Guide # 1 due
<b>Week 4</b> Feb. 15 & 17	Conversation Analysis part 1 (sequences/adjacency pairs/turn-taking)	Mon: Reading Guide #2 due  (Observation #1 assigned)
<b>Week 5</b> Feb 22 & 24	No class Feb. 22 – University assigned furlough day  Conversation Analysis part 2 (alignment/preference/assessments/)	Wed: Reading Guide #3 due
<b>Week 6</b> Mar. 1 & 3	Conversation Analysis part 2 Cont.	Wed: Observation #1 due
<b>Week 7</b> Mar 8 & 10	Catch-up/flex day Wed: Take Exam 1	Mon: Reading Guide #4 due

<b>Week 8</b> Mar 15 & 17	Institutional Dialogue Wed: Class presentations	
<b>Week 9</b> Mar 22 & 24	Institutional Dialogue cont. Wed: Class presentations	(Observation #2 assigned)
<b>March 29th – April 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>Spring Break – No class</b>	
<b>Week 10</b> April 5 & 7	<b>No class April 5<sup>th</sup> –</b> Personal Furlough day Intercultural Discourse	Wed: Reading Guide #5 due
<b>Week 11</b> April 12 & 14	Intercultural Discourse cont. Gender in Language Wed: Class presentations	Mon: Observation #2 due
<b>Week 12</b> April 19 & 21	Stories and Narrative Wed: Class presentations	Mon: Reading Guide #6 due
<b>Week 13</b> April 26 & 28	Stories and Narrative Wed: Class presentations	
<b>Week 14</b> May 3 & 5	Language Variation and Identity Wed: Class presentations	Mon: Reading Guide #7 due
<b>Week 15</b> May 10 & 12	Language Variation and Identity Class wrap-up/evaluations	Wed: Reading Guide #8 due
<b>Final Exam</b> May 19	Exam #2 taken during designated final exam slot Wednesday, May 19 <sup>th</sup>	

**Accommodations:**

Students with disabilities who need reasonable accommodations are encouraged to contact the instructor. The Disability Programs and Resource Center (DPRC) is available to facilitate the reasonable accommodations process. The DPRC is located in the Student Service Building and can be reached by telephone (voice/TTY 415-338-2472) or by email [dprc@sfsu.edu](mailto:dprc@sfsu.edu)).

**Plagiarism:**

Plagiarism occurs when a student misrepresents the work of another as his or her own. Plagiarism may consist of using the ideas, sentences, paragraphs, or the whole text of another without appropriate acknowledgement, but it also includes employing or allowing another person to write or substantially alter work that a student then submits as his or her own. Any assignment found to be plagiarized will be given zero credit. All instances of plagiarism in the College of Humanities will be reported to the Dean of the College, and may be reported to the University Judicial Affairs Officer for further action.