ENGL 355: Introduction to Discourse Analysis
Spring 2020

Professor: Dr. Kristen Fleckenstein
Email: kfleckens@coastal.edu
Office: EHFA 292

Course Description:

(Prereq: ENGL 101 and ENGL 102 with a grade of 'C' or better) This course provides an introduction to discourse analysis, the study of language in context. It looks at what makes a complex stretch of language an interpretable piece of discourse, and examines the structural aspects of how language is used in society as well as how it reflects and shapes our world. It explores how we make sense of what we hear and read, and how we can recognize well-constructed discourse as opposed to that which is jumbled or incoherent. This course examines both the formal and contextual features of discourse and how it is that language users successfully understand what other language users intend to convey.

Required Materials:

- Johnstone, Barbara. 2018. *Discourse Analysis*. *3rd edition*
- Additional readings to be supplied through Moodle

Course Goals and Objectives:

The study of discourse is essentially the study of language in its natural habitat. We use language in a variety of contexts, to fulfill a broad range of communicative and social goals. In this course, we will examine how contexts and functions of use influence linguistic form. The course is divided into three broad sections: We will begin by examining the 'macro-structure' of discourse: the organization of different kinds (genres) of language, such as conversation, narrative, and institutional dialogue. We will analyze re-occurring patterns of structure and discuss how they are shaped and motivated by communicative and social functional goals. The next section of the course focuses on how speakers routinely perform social action through discourse, such as disclaimers, orders, refusals, and questions. We will discuss the role of discourse markers in structuring discourse. We will also investigate the relationship between discourse and identity, discourse and ideologies, and the social nature of the common features of spoken language: 'reported speech,' dialogicality, framing, and discourse norms. We will analyze how these contribute to discourse structure, and how they reflect, manage, and construct social interaction. We will conclude the course by examining the 'micro-structure' – the role of discourse and interaction in motivating and explaining grammar and meaning. We will discuss the way in which grammatical structures are functionally brought about by the communicative and social aspects of discourse.

Student Learning Outcomes:

The learning outcomes for this course are threefold:

- Students will gain a broad overview of this subfield of linguistics, and an introduction to the relevant literature.
- Students will gain experience conducting hands-on analysis of spontaneous spoken language, and the ability to use this skill in their own research.
- Students will gain an understanding of the implications of discourse research for analyzing language, and its consequences for linguistic theory.

Course Requirements and Evaluations:

This course will be graded out of 100% as outlined below. Final grades will be converted to a letter scale.

• Participation	10%
• Homework Assignments (x5)	35%
• Midterm Group Project & Data Presentation	25%
• Final Project	30%

Grading Policy:
Letter Grade

A	90-100%
B+	87-89.9%
B	80-86.9%
C+	77-79.9%
C	70-76.9%
D+	67-69.9%
D	60-66.9%
F	59.9% or below

Participation: Students are expected to attend class and to actively participate in discussions and in-class analyses of discourse data. Your participation grade will be based on both your attendance and participation.

Homework Assignments: There will be five (5) brief homework assignments during the semester. Each assignment will cover a different method or approach to discourse analysis and will cover a step along the way to building toward the subject of your final paper.

Midterm Group Project & Data Presentation: During the first half of the semester, each student will record 45-60 minutes of natural spoken discourse and transcribe approximately six minutes of it. Students will work in pairs to check and reconcile the transcripts. We will pool these recordings and transcripts, and they will form a collective source of class data for researching topics covered during the semester. During the week after the transcripts are due, each student will do a short, in-class presentation (around 10 minutes per student); students will

briefly summarize their recordings for the class, and will show how some aspect of the recording is relevant to something we have looked at in the course so far.

Final Project: Each student is expected to submit an original term paper related to the subject matter of this course. The paper should either be a macro-level analysis of a piece of discourse data, a close analysis of a social action pursued through talk, or a micro-level analysis of a grammatical phenomenon as observed in discourse. The data may be from any language, but must be naturally-occurring discourse (any genre, written or spoken). Students should meet with me sometime during the semester to discuss ideas for their projects.

Course Policies:

Attendance: Attendance is essential to your success in this course. As a serious student, you should plan to miss class only when it is unavoidable and are expected to keep track of your absences and the work you miss on those days. Excessive absences (more than 3 unexcused) will negatively impact your final grade; every class you miss after those initial 3 will result in a drop of a half letter grade for participation. In addition, arriving or leaving class more than 15 minutes late or early will be counted as a half absence. As two of these equal one absence you should plan to get to class on time. **8 or more unexcused absences for a T/Th course will result in automatic failure of this course.**

Accessibility and Disability Services: Coastal Carolina University is committed to equitable access and inclusion of individuals with disabilities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. Individuals seeking reasonable accommodations should contact Accessibility & Disability Services (843-349-2503 or https://www.coastal.edu/disabilityservices/).

Academic Integrity: Coastal Carolina University is an academic community that expects the highest standards of honesty, integrity and personal responsibility. Members of this community are accountable for their actions and are committed to creating an atmosphere of mutual respect and trust. All members of our community – students, faculty, staff and administrators – share responsibility for promoting a culture of academic integrity. Each group plays a different role and, together, cultivates mutual respect and ethical behavior.
Students:
- Understand and abide by the Code of Student Conduct
- Take responsibility for personal behavior
- Actively oppose every instance of academic dishonesty

Projected Schedule, Readings, and Due Dates

The table below presents the anticipated schedule for course topics, reading, homework assignments, and exams. Please complete the reading for each class prior to arriving in class. As the instructor for this course, I reserve the right to adjust this schedule in any way that serves the educational needs of the students enrolled in the course.

Week 1	Introduction & Course Overview	
	What is Discourse Analysis?	
Week 2	Discourse & Genre	
	Monologic vs. Dialogic Discourse	
Week 3	Discourse Transcription #1	
	Discourse Transcription #2	
Week 4	Recording Spoken Discourse	Homework #1 Due
	Conversation Analysis	
Week 5	Conversation Analysis	
	Conversation Analysis	
Week 6	CA Data Session	
	Narrative	Homework #2 Due
Week 7	Narrative Data Session	
	Offers	
Week 8	Refusals	
	Midterm Group Project & Data Presentations	
Week 9	Disclaimers	
	Interview Questions	
Week 10	Discourse Markers	
	'Like'	Homework #3 Due
Week 11	'lol' in Digitally Mediated Conversation	
	Information Flow in Conversation	
Week 12	Intertextuality Data Session	
	Discourse Old and Discourse New	
Week 13	Dialogic Syntax	Homework #4 Due
	Discourse and Identity	
Week 14	Critical Discourse Analysis	
	Discourse Ideologies and Racism	
Week 15	Verb Argument Structure	Homework #5 Due
	Preferred Argument Structure	
	Final Paper Due	