General Syllabus
English 2340
Introduction to the Study of Language

Pre-requisite: Successful completion of English 1301 and 1302 or equivalents

Course Description
This course provides an introductory survey of the social and cultural contexts of language. It examines how human language reflects the ways of life and beliefs of its speakers and how language influences culture. A variety of cultures and languages are examined.

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<th>ASU SLO</th>
<th>Course SLO</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Assessment Method</th>
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<tr>
<td>CT2: Develop and demonstrate a logical position (i.e. perspective, thesis, hypothesis) that acknowledges ambiguities or contradictions.</td>
<td>Students will be able to express how various aspects of culture can affect language and that language can affect various aspects of culture.</td>
<td>Written and oral presentations on language use in common cultural events, such as national or religious holidays.</td>
<td>See attached rubric. (on last page)</td>
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<tr>
<td>CS1: Develop, interpret, and express ideas through effective written communication.</td>
<td>Students will be able to critically assess their own culture and language and point out examples where culture and language affect one another.</td>
<td>Written presentation on language use in common cultural events, such as national or religious holidays.</td>
<td>See attached rubric.</td>
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<td>CS2: Develop, interpret, and express ideas through effective oral communication.</td>
<td>Students will be able to critically assess their own culture and language and point out examples where culture and language affect one another.</td>
<td>Oral presentation on language use in common cultural events, such as national or religious holidays.</td>
<td>See attached rubric.</td>
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<td>SR1: Demonstrate intercultural competence.</td>
<td>Students will be able to give examples from other cultures of how language and culture have affected one another.</td>
<td>Written and oral presentations on language use in common cultural events, such as national or religious holidays.</td>
<td>See attached rubric.</td>
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<td>PR1: Demonstrate the ability to evaluate choices, actions and consequences as related to ethical decision-making.</td>
<td>Students will be able to connect choices, actions, and consequences to language features related to ethical decision-making.</td>
<td>Written and oral presentations on language use in common cultural events, such as national or religious holidays.</td>
<td>See attached rubric.</td>
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Foundational Component Area: Language, Philosophy & Culture. Courses in this category focus on how ideas, values, beliefs, and other aspects of culture express and affect human experience. Courses involve the exploration of ideas that foster aesthetic and intellectual creation in order to understand the human condition across cultures.

Core Student Learning Objectives
This course is intended to fulfill the core student learning objectives of critical thinking, communication, social responsibility, and personal responsibility.

Angelo State University Student Learning Objectives
- Develop and demonstrate a logical position (i.e. perspective, thesis, hypothesis) that acknowledges ambiguities or contradictions.
- Develop, interpret, and express ideas through effective written communication.
- Demonstrate intercultural competence.
- Demonstrate the ability to evaluate choices, actions and consequences as related to ethical decision-making.
Course Learning Objectives

- Students will be able to express how various aspects of culture can affect language and that language can affect various aspects of culture.
- Students will be able to critically assess their own culture and language and point out examples where culture and language affect one another.
- Students will be able to give examples from other cultures of how language and culture have affected one another.
- Students will be able to connect choices, actions, and consequences to language features related to ethical decision-making.

Overview

The course will focus on topics such as identity, social factors of language use, language vitality, language structures and issues of globalization. Each language is a repository of history and knowledge as well as the culture of a group of speakers. Languages and cultures from around the world will be discussed, with special focus on endangered languages. In addition, this course will cover basic linguistics concepts.

Readings

Readings for this class will include two textbooks and articles emailed to you. You are expected to complete the readings prior to the class in which they are discussed.

Required Texts

You may use the Kindle or paperback edition of the required texts.


Teaching and Learning Methods

This course will be a combination of interactive lectures, case studies, and in-class activities. The lectures will present information on basic linguistic concepts and how culture affects language – specifically examining dialects, identity, language politics, and society. The case studies will examine a variety of endangered languages and cultures. These case studies will highlight the relationship between culture and language loss. The in-class activities will allow you to put the information and skills you learn into practice. The activities require active engagement by you as a student. You will be expected to contribute ideas and participate in active learning.

Although this class is an introductory course, you will be required take notes, attend class, do several readings a week, complete weekly quizzes, and synthesize difficult concepts. As culture and its many components can be sensitive issues, you are expected to display a level of personal maturity. Respecting others’ views, experiences, languages, dialects, and cultures are vital aspects of personal maturity.

Policies

The University requires students to attend classes. You are responsible for any material covered in class, including lectures, handouts, and group work. Because we will be doing group work during class, I expect you to attend all classes. If, by some unfortunate circumstance, you do miss a lecture, make sure you do the reading and borrow notes from a reliable classmate. If you are unable to obtain the notes from a classmate, please see me during office hours to discuss the missed lecture.

Important Note: Attendance will be taken. Excessive absences and/or tardiness will affect your grade—two tardies are equal to an absence; seven absences will result automatically in a course grade of F. Note also that at least 50% of each exam will cover material presented during the lectures.

You are expected to participate in class. Participation includes being attentive and contributing during class discussion. While you are allowed to use laptops and tablets, please limit your use to the academic domain (i.e. do
not check your Facebook). You are asked to sit in the last row if you choose to use a laptop. **Cell phones are not allowed in class.**

All students are expected to maintain professional behavior in the classroom setting, according to the Student Code, spelled out in the Student Handbook. Students have specific rights in the classroom as detailed in the “Procedures” section of the Code. The Code also specifies proscribed conduct, including cheating on tests, plagiarism, collusion, as well as fraud, theft, etc. Students should read the Code carefully and know they are responsible for the content. According to Faculty Rules and Regulations, the faculty is responsible for enforcing appropriate classroom behaviors, and I will do so, beginning with verbal warnings and progressing to dismissal from class and a failing grade. Students have the right to appeal such action to the Office of Student Affairs.

**Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Statement**
Angelo State University seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Student Affairs Office (942-2047). The SAO will work with you and me to make arrangements for accommodations.

**Assignments and Tests**
Your course grade will be composed of quiz and test grades, as well as written and oral presentations.

Weekly quizzes are designed to review and put into practice important concepts and to prepare you for the tests. Your scores on the quizzes are worth 10% of your grade. The quizzes cannot be made up if missed.

In addition, there will be three tests in this class, worth 60% of your grade. The first two tests are non-cumulative. The third test is cumulative and as such will cover all material presented throughout the entirety of the semester. The tests are equally weighted, each worth 20% of your final grade in the class. The first and third tests are in-class tests; the second test is a take home test. You are expected to work alone on all tests and cite all sources, outside the textbook and lecture, that you use in completing your test. Failure to cite sources will be considered plagiarism. Working with another student or person to complete your exam will be considered cheating. If you fail to take/turn-in a test, you will receive a zero. There are three exceptions. One is arranging to take the exam prior to the test date. If you know that you will be unable to take a test on the date indicated, please contact me prior to the date to make arrangements. This will be only done in extreme circumstances (and leaving early for Thanksgiving or Christmas is not a good reason). Failure to contact me prior to the date of the test will result in you being unable to take the test. The second exception is absence due to documented illness. If you are ill and miss a test, you must present documentation to me (in the form of a doctor’s note) as soon as possible. The last is attendance of University-related activities. This does not mean going to a game, this means playing in a game. You must present a note from your coach, director, etc. to be permitted to reschedule your test. This must be done prior to the test.

Finally, there will be a written presentation and an oral presentation worth 30% of your grade. These will be designed to evaluate your ability to explain language use in common cultural events, such as national or religious holidays. The assessment matrix for evaluating written and oral presentations is on the next page.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Superior</th>
<th>Proficient</th>
<th>Weak</th>
<th>Unsatisfactory</th>
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<tr>
<td>CT2: Develop and demonstrate a logical position (i.e. perspective, thesis, hypothesis) that acknowledges ambiguities or contradictions.</td>
<td>Demonstrates a thorough understanding of how various aspects of culture can affect language and that language can affect various aspects of culture.</td>
<td>Demonstrates adequate consideration of how various aspects of culture can affect language and that language can affect various aspects of culture.</td>
<td>Demonstrates awareness of how various aspects of culture can affect language and that language can affect various aspects of culture.</td>
<td>Demonstrates minimal comprehension of how various aspects of culture can affect language and that language can affect various aspects of culture.</td>
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<td>CS1: Develop, interpret, and express ideas through effective written communication.</td>
<td>Demonstrates detailed attention to and successful execution of a wide range of conventions including organization, content, presentation, formatting, and stylistic choices.</td>
<td>Demonstrates consistent use of conventions including organization, content, presentation, formatting, and stylistic choices.</td>
<td>Follows expectations appropriate for basic organization, content, and presentation.</td>
<td>Fails to use a consistent system for basic organization and presentation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CS2: Develop, interpret, and express ideas through effective oral communication.</td>
<td>Demonstrates effective organizational pattern, language choices, delivery techniques, supporting materials, and compelling central message.</td>
<td>Demonstrates organizational pattern, language choices, delivery techniques, supporting materials, and central message.</td>
<td>One of the following aspects of effective oral communication is absent or ineffectual: organizational pattern, language choices, delivery techniques, supporting materials, and central message.</td>
<td>Two or more of the following aspects of effective oral communication are absent or ineffectual: organizational pattern, language choices, delivery techniques, supporting materials, and central message.</td>
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<td>SR1: Demonstrate intercultural competence.</td>
<td>Uses appropriate, relevant, and compelling content to illustrate relationships between language and culture.</td>
<td>Uses some appropriate, relevant, and compelling content to illustrate tentative relationships between language and culture.</td>
<td>Uses little appropriate and relevant content to treat language and culture as unrelated phenomena.</td>
<td>Uses inappropriate and irrelevant content and demonstrates no understanding of language and culture.</td>
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<td>PR1: Evaluate choices, actions, and consequences as related to ethical decision-making.</td>
<td>Consistently demonstrates understanding of core beliefs via project preparation, teamwork, and academic honesty.</td>
<td>Generally demonstrates understanding of core beliefs via project preparation, teamwork, and academic honesty.</td>
<td>Occasionally demonstrates understanding of core beliefs via project preparation, teamwork, and academic honesty.</td>
<td>Rarely or never demonstrates understanding of core beliefs via project preparation, teamwork, and academic honesty.</td>
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**COMMENT TO STUDENT**