

Linguistics 132: Language, Gender, and Sexuality Summer 2013

Lecture: Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday 2:00 p.m. – 3:25 p.m.

Section: Friday 2:00 p.m. – 3:25 p.m.

Location: South Hall 3605

Instructor: Shawn Warner-Garcia

Office: South Hall 4430

Office Hours: Wed. 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

warnergarcia@umail.ucsb.edu

Teaching Assistant: Lynnette Arnold

Office: South Hall 4430

Office Hours: Thurs. 12 p.m. – 2 p.m.

lynnettearnold@umail.ucsb.edu

Requirements

Attendance/participation	10%
Weekly online reading responses	10%
Quizzes (5@4%)	20%
Field assignments (5@4%)	20%
Final paper	20%
Final exam	20%

Required readings

All required readings (aside from the textbook, which you are responsible for purchasing) will be available online for download on GauchoSpace, organized by week. In addition, the bottom of the class schedule contains a full reference list for you to use as well.

Crasher policy

Students trying to crash the class must (1) email Karen Barteld in the Linguistics Department office to add their name to the wait list (kbarteld@hfa.ucsb.edu); (2) attend every class meeting and section; and (3) complete all assignments.

GauchoSpace

The GauchoSpace site for Linguistics 132 provides the most up-to-date information about the course. You should bookmark the site (<https://gauchospace.ucsb.edu/>) and visit it often. Lecture notes will be available on the website after each lecture. If you miss class or lose an assignment or handout, you can download it from the course website. Moreover, some assignments (such as reading responses and field assignments) must be submitted through GauchoSpace, so it is important that you are comfortable with this resource.

Reading and participation

In addition to the textbook, you will be reading original research articles throughout the quarter. Reading guides are provided to help you understand the readings, which are sometimes a bit

challenging, as well as to help prepare you for quizzes and write your reading responses (see next section for more details about reading responses).

Section is an extremely important part of the course. You are expected to participate in discussions and activities at every section meeting. It is therefore vital that you come to every section with all required readings and other assignments complete. If you do not usually feel comfortable speaking up in a group setting, rest assured that there will be numerous opportunities to participate relatively painlessly throughout the quarter. Attendance in both section and lecture is a crucial part of the course, especially given the fast-paced nature of the Summer Session; if you are unable to be present at a lecture or section meeting, you must let me or your TA know in advance and/or bring a doctor's note when you return to class.

Weekly online reading responses

Each student is required to post a weekly reading response on the GauchoSpace discussion forum, which appears at the bottom of each week's block on GauchoSpace. A minimum of one post per student should be submitted by **no later than Tuesday at 12 p.m. each week**, except as noted on the syllabus. (However, feel free to continue the online discussion threads after the due date.) You may meet this requirement either by starting your own discussion thread or participating in an existing thread. There is no length or topic requirement; you can ask or answer a question, link to something relevant to the class (with some explanation of why you find it interesting), make a connection between something you've encountered in class and something you've experienced, or anything else that connects to the class material. **However, you must make an explicit connection between the content of your post and at least one of the weekly readings.**

Quizzes

To help you keep up with the readings for the course and to prepare you for the final exam, short weekly quizzes will be given in section. Quizzes will cover lectures, readings, and other course material from the preceding week. (For example, the quiz on Friday of Week 1 will cover the materials from Tuesday through Thursday of Week 1.) Quizzes happen at the beginning of section each week, and there are no makeup quizzes.

Field assignments

To help you synthesize the ideas from the course, each week you will be asked to observe some aspect of language in your everyday life and make connections between your observations and the readings and other course materials in a brief discussion of 2 pages (typed, double-spaced). These assignments will be graded on a check-off basis (i.e., based on whether you completed the assignment on time and adequately) rather than on a letter grade. Each field assignment will be based on course material from the preceding week. Field assignments will be turned in electronically via GauchoSpace.

Final paper: Data analysis

In order to apply the concepts and analytic methods you learn in this course, you will carry out a short data-driven assignment in which you will collect and analyze a small amount of data illustrating some issue regarding language, gender, and sexuality. The analysis will be approximately 6-8 pages in length in a standard 12-pt font, typed and double-spaced. Guidelines for the analysis will be distributed separately, and time in section will be dedicated to helping you develop your analysis.

Final exam

There will be a comprehensive final exam at the end of the quarter covering the readings, lectures, and other course material (see schedule for date and time). The exam will contain identifications, compare and contrast, short answers, data analysis, and essay questions. Exam guidelines will be distributed in the final week of class.

Extra credit

You may earn credit for a total of three extra credit assignments during the quarter, selected from among available videos to watch, readings to complete, or events announced in class and online. For each assignment, you must write a 2-3-paragraph typed response that includes (1) an overview of the main ideas or theme of the video, reading, or event, (2) a discussion of how the ideas in the video, reading, or event connect to issues discussed in lectures, sections, and/or readings, and (3) your own response to the video, reading, or event. Extra credit should be posted in the GauchoSpace discussion forum labeled “Extra Credit.” Extra credit does not have a fixed value but is taken into account in calculating final grades. **All extra credit is due at the beginning of lecture on the last day of class (Thursday, August 1).**

Special accommodations

If you need special accommodations or if you have other learning needs your TA and I should be aware of, you may request accommodations by contacting the Disabled Students Program (893-2668, 2120 Student Resource Building, <http://www.sa.ucsb.edu/dsp/>).

A word of caution

This course addresses a range of controversial and taboo topics involving gender, sexuality, and other sensitive issues. We will often need to talk about and examine profanity and other potentially offensive language, sexually explicit content, and similar R-rated (and occasionally NC-17-rated) material. Developing your skills in linguistics requires that you be able to talk about any aspect of language from an analytic standpoint, no matter how taboo. You are expected to treat your fellow students with respect and sensitivity when discussing controversial issues. (However, sometimes the material we’ll discuss is just plain funny, and it’s okay to laugh and have fun with language in the class, as long as it’s not at the expense of any of your classmates or any group.) You may also have strong emotional reactions to some of the course content and to the contributions of your fellow students. You’re encouraged to discuss your

emotional/personal reactions as well as your intellectual and political reactions to the course material, but you must be respectful of others' viewpoints. You are under no obligation to use any language you feel uncomfortable with. However, *if you are extremely sensitive to sexually explicit language, profanity, and controversial material, this is not the course for you.*

How to succeed in this course

Come to class. You are expected to be present and on time for every lecture and section and to remain for the entire class period. It is extremely rude and distracting to have students arrive late and (especially!) leave early. If you absolutely must do so, you should let the instructor know well in advance. In return, we'll do all we can to make lecture and section time interesting and fun.

Do the work. The workload for this course is substantial, but not extremely difficult, as long as you stay on top of it. Keep up with the readings, meet your deadlines, and do your best work. If you're having trouble understanding something, talk to your TA or me in office hours. We are here to help as much as we can.

Use GachoSpace. It not only contains the most up-to-date information about the course, but it also includes all past lecture notes, assignments, and other materials, as well as tips on how to read articles on language, gender, and sexuality, how to conduct research and write a paper for Linguistics 132, and other useful information.

Meet with your TA and me. We're here to help you, but we can't unless you come see us. We're glad to give feedback on drafts of assignments in office hours (however, due to time constraints we can only read and comment on papers in face-to-face meetings, not via email). If you can't make our regularly scheduled office hours, make an appointment. You'll also have a better learning experience if your instructors know who you are.