Studies in language and culture center on the dual question of what, if any, effect one’s language has on one’s cognition or perception (linguistic relativity), and the effectiveness of extending linguistic models to the analysis of culture. First, we look at how contemporary linguistic theories and methodologies (constructivism and conversation analysis) are used for the investigation of cultural systems. We read two enlightening Polynesian ethnographies. Second, we discuss the historical roots of linguistic relativity and then analyze in detail the state of the current debate. Third, the role of language ideology in generating linguistic change and political marginality are dealt with by an in-depth reading of an Indonesian ethnographic work.

**Required Texts:**

- **Packet** of articles/chapters in Reserve (electronic)

**The course is divided in three parts as follow:**

**Part 1:** Language and Culture: Reflection, Construction, and Conversation (weeks 1-6)

**Part 2:** Linguistic Relativity (weeks 7-12)

**Part 3:** Language Ideology (week 13-15)

**PART 1: LANGUAGE AND CULTURE: REFLECTION, CONSTRUCTION, AND CONVERSATION**

(Weeks 1-6)

**Week 1: Language and Culture: General Issues**

(August 24) Introduction to the Course

(August 26) Reflection, Relativity, and Ideology

**Readings:**

(i) **Ottenheimer:** *The Anthropology of Language*, Chapter 2 (pp. 17-27)

**Week 2: Constructivism in Polynesia:**

(August 31) Samoa

(September 2) Methods

**Readings:**

(i) **Duranti:** Chapter 1 (pp. 1-13)

(ii) **Duranti:** Chapter 2 (pp. 14-46)

**Week 3: A Samoan Fono and Politics**

(September 7) A Samoan Fono

(September 9) Politics and Verbal Art

**Readings:**
Week 4: Agency
(September 14)  Agency in Politics and in Everyday Settings
(September 16)  Conclusions
Readings:
(i)  Duranti: Chapter 5 (pp. 114-143)
(ii) Duranti: Chapter 6 (pp. 144-166)
(iii) Duranti: Chapter 7 (pp. 167-176)

Week 5: Conversation in Tonga
(September 21)  Conversation Analysis
(September 23)  Tonga and Hierarchy
Readings:
(i)  Taufa: Chapters 1-4 (pp. 1-43)
(ii) Taufa: Chapters 5-6 (pp. 44-95)

Week 6: Review and Midterm 1
(September 28)  Final Discussion and Review
(September 30)  MIDTERM 1

PART 2: LINGUISTIC RELATIVITY
(Weeks 7-12)

Week 7: Linguistic Particularism and Linguistic Relativity (Then)
(October 5)  Linguistic Relativity
(October 7)  Boas, Sapir, and Whorf
Readings:
(i)  Ottenheimer: The Anthropology of Language, Chapter 2 (pp. 28-47)
(i)  Gumperz and Levinson (G and L): Introduction (pp.1-18) and Intro to Part 1 (pp.21-28)

Week 8: Linguistic Relativity (Now)
(October 12)  LR now: Lucy
(October 14)  LR now: Slobin
Readings:
(ii)  G and L: Lucy's chapter (pp.37-69)
(iii)  G and L: Slobin's chapter (pp.70-96)

Week 9: Linguistic Relativity (Revisited)
(October 19)  Bowerman
(October 21)  Levinson
Readings:
(i)  G and L: Introduction to Part 2 (pp.133-144) and Part 4 (pp.359-373)
(ii)  G and L: Bowerman's chapter (pp.145-176)
(iii)  G and L: Levinson's chapter (p.177-202)

Week 10: Some Doubts about Linguistic Relativity
(October 26)  Kay
(October 28)  Kellers
Readings:
(i)  G and L: Kay's chapter (pp.97-114)
(ii)  G and L: Kellers' chapter (pp.115-129)
Week 11: Universal Findings
(November 2) Boyers
(November 4) Color and Ethnobotany

Readings:
(i) G and L: Boyer's chapter (p.203-221)

Week 12: Review and Midterm
(November 9) Final Discussion of LR and Review
(November 11) MIDTERM 2

PART 3: LANGUAGE IDEOLOGY
(Weeks 13-15)

Week 13: Language Ideology in Indonesia
(November 16) Language Ideology: Sumba, Indonesia: A Place of Marginality
(November 18) Emotions, Self, and Language
Readings:
(ii) Kuipers (K): Introduction (pp.1-21) and Chapters 2-3 (pp.22-66)

Week 14: Language and Marginality
(November 23) Political Expression and Audiences
Readings:
(i) K: Chapter 4-5 (pp.67-124)

Week 15: Conclusion and Review
(November 30) Naming and Erasure/From Miracles to Classrooms
(December 2) Final Discussion and Review
Readings:
(ii) K: Chapter 6-7 (pp.125-155)

TAKE HOME FINAL EXAM DUE Tuesday, December 7, BY 4:30 P.M.
Contributions of Students to Class:
This course takes the position that students who have not read the assignments before class will not fully profit from in class activities. The lectures (and other activities) augment and expand on the material presented in the assigned readings, not repeat the information. Reading assignments are included in the specific content of the week they refer to, but must be read before the first Monday lecture of that same week (except for first week!).

Active participation is expected, encouraged, and also evaluated as part of your final grade. I strongly encourage you to speak up and/or get help when something is unclear. I am available during office hours for help.

As part of their grade students are asked to summarize 2 chapters (from part 2 of course) of their choice from the readings (only those assigned to be presented by students), one of them should be presented in class (summaries should be handed in at the beginning of class the day the article/chapter is discussed). Arrangements will be made during the first week of class (a sign-up sheet for the presentations will be made available).

Grading:
The two midterms have similar formats. They include (among others) definitions, short answers, and a short essay. The final is a take home exam in which students are asked to answer one or more questions about the last three weeks of instruction. The last class before the three exams is mainly devoted to a review of the material covered and tested in the exams. During this class a study guide is handed out.

Students are urged to study constantly throughout the semester. No late assignment will be accepted. Absences may lower your grade and are excused only by handing in written medical proof. No extra credit assignment is allowed.

Plagiarism (the presentation of the ideas or writings of another as one's own) will be penalized. When one uses an idea (or writing) of another, it must be credited in citation. If the student copies words directly, they must be in quotation marks.

Requirements for the Class:
1. A midterm exam (in class) (125 pts.; 25%); 
2. A midterm exam (in class) (150 pts.; 30%); 
3. A final exam (take home) (110 pts.; 22%); 
4. An article/chapter presentation (40 pts.; 8%); 
5. An article/chapter summary (25 pts.; 5%); 
6. Attendance and participation (50 pts.; 10%).

Grading scale (in %, points, letters):
100-90 (500-450) (A) 79-70 (399-350) (C)
89-80 (449-400) (B) 69-60 (349-300) (D)
59-0 (359-0) (F)

NIU abides by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 regarding provision of reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities. Moreover, your academic success is of importance to me. If you have a disability that may have a negative impact on your performance in this course and you may require some type of instructional and/or examination accommodation, please contact me early in the semester so that I can provide or facilitate in providing accommodations you may need. If you have not already done so, you will need to register with the Center for Access-Ability Resources (CAAR), the designated office on campus to provide services and administer exams with accommodations for students with disabilities. CAAR is located on the 4th floor of the University Health Services building (753-1303). I look forward to talking with you to learn how I may be helpful in enhancing your academic success in this course.

Have a great time!

PLEASE READ AND KEEP THIS SYLLABUS FOR REFERENCE