

DISCOURSE

Fall: Reed College

Ling/Anth 326
Tu/Th 19:40-21:00
Eliot 405

Steve Hibbard
Eliot 409
x7489

Office Hours:

Tuesday, 4:00-5:30

Wednesday, 3:00-4:30

Or anytime, by appointment (hibbards@reed.edu)

ORGANIZATION OF THE COURSE

Student Responsibilities

Students are responsible for reading the assigned work each week—*all* the work, *every* week. I strongly encourage all of you to give me honest and timely feedback regarding the amount and difficulty level of the reading. As many of you know, I sometimes assign heavy reading loads, but you may also know that I am very flexible; everything on this syllabus is open to adjustment or more radical change.

Each student will be responsible for preparing at least three questions/topics directly relating to the week's assigned reading. These questions can be matters you did not fully understand, or that you found particularly interesting or surprising—you have great latitude in choosing these the topics and form. I reserve the right to call on students in class and to request that one or more of their questions be made topics of general discussion.

Each week, two students will “volunteer” to take responsibility for reading one or more of the assignments (usually, a less-technical, more theoretical piece) with particular care and for leading the conference in discussion of that material.

Weekly Conferences

Each Tuesday, I will present the week's material in a quasi-lecture format, with ample time for questions and discussion. Thursday classes will be devoted, on the one hand, to addressing as many of students' prepared questions/topics as possible and, on the other, to a more focused, student-led discussion of one or several assigned readings.

Grading, Exams

Weekly participation is clearly central to a challenging, stimulating, and ultimately successful conference. Thus, 50% of students' final grade will be based on the degree to which you (i) evidence the fact that you have read, and critically, thoughtfully engaged with, the assigned readings, (ii) consistently produce critical, thoughtful questions in response

to the weekly readings, (iii) successfully lead the class in discussion of your chosen (or assigned) reading, and (iv) generally engage productively with your colleagues in conference. 20% of the final grade will be based on quizzes, short essay questions assigned over the course of the semester. The remaining 30% of the final grade will be based on a midterm and a final exam.

COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK 1 *Course Introduction*

THEMATIC FOCUS

Talking about talk: constructing a vocabulary for an unnatural act

- 📖 **Schiffrin**, *Approaches to Discourse*: 1-45
- 📁 **Halliday & Hassan**, "The Concept of Cohesion"
- 📁 **Hymes**, "Models of the Interaction of Language and Social Life"
- 📁 **Hanks**, "Text and textuality"
- 📁 **Dillon**, et al., "Analyzing a speech event: The Bush-Rather exchange, a (not very) dramatic dialogue"

WEEK 2 *Conversation Analysis - I*

THEMATIC FOCUS

Text and Context

- 📖 **Schiffrin**, *Approaches to Discourse*: 232-281
- 📁 **Maynard & Clayman**, "The diversity of ethnomethodology"
- 📖 **Goffman**, "Replies and Responses," *Forms of Talk*: 5-77
- 📁 **Goodwin & Duranti**, "Rethinking Context: an introduction"
- 📁 **Schegloff**, "In another context"

WEEK 3 *Conversation Analysis - II*

- 📁 **Goodwin & Heritage**, "Conversation analysis"
- 📁 **Gumperz**, "Contextualization and understanding"
- 📖 **Goffman**, "Response Cries," *Forms of Talk*: 78-123
- 📁 **Blommaert**, "Context in/as critique"
- 📁 **Ervin-Tripp**, "Is Sybil there? The structure of some American English directives"

WEEK 4

Interactional Sociolinguistics - I

THEMATIC FOCUS

The structure of speech events: genre and generic regimentation

- 📖 **Schiffrin**, *Approaches to Discourse*: 97-134
- 📁 **Gumperz**, "The Retrieval of Socio-Cultural Knowledge in Conversation"
- 📁 **Gumperz**, "Contextualization Conventions"
- 📖 **Goffman**, *Forms of Talk*: 124-15
- 📁 **Irvine**, "Shadow conversations: The indeterminacy of participant roles"

WEEK 5

Interactional Sociolinguistics - II

- 📁 **Hyland**, "Genre: language, context, and literacy"
- 📁 **Duranti**, "On theories and models"
- 📁 **Labov**, "The transformation of experience in narrative syntax"
- 📁 **Hanks**, "Discourse genres in a theory of practice"

WEEK 6

Speech Act Theory - I

THEMATIC FOCUS

Discourse in context: examples from educational institutions

- 📖 **Schiffrin**, *Approaches to Discourse*: 49-91
- 📖 **Austin**, *How to do Things with Words*, Selections
- 📁 **Brown**, "Introduction to politeness: some universals of language usage"
- 📁 **Mertz**, "Recontextualization as socialization: Text and pragmatics in the Law School classroom"
- 📁 **Collins**, "Socialization to text: structure and contradiction in schooled literacy"

WEEK 7

Speech Act Theory - II

- 📖 **Searle**, *Speech Acts*: Selections
- 📁 **Goffman**, "Felicity's Condition"
- 📁 **Rosaldo**, "The things we do with words: Illogot speech acts and speech act theory in philosophy"

WEEK 8

The Ethnography of Communication - I

THEMATIC FOCUS

Discourse, Poetics, Performance

- 📖 **Schiffrin**, *Approaches to Discourse*: 137-189
- 📁 **Hymes**, "The Ethnography of Speaking"

- 📁 **Bauman & Sherzer**, "The Ethnography of Speaking"
- 📁 **Bauman**, "Transformations of the word in the production of Mexican festival drama"

WEEK 9

The Ethnography of Communication - II

- 📁 **Jakobson**, "Linguistics and Poetics"
- 📁 **Rains**, "'You die for life': On the use of poetic devices in argumentation"
- 📁 **Bauman & Briggs**, "Poetics and Performance as Critical Perspectives on Language and Social Life"

WEEK 10

Pragmatics - I

THEMATIC FOCUS

Dialogism; narrating selves and construing identities

- 📖 **Schiffrin**, *Approaches to Discourse*: 190-231
- 📁 **Grice**, "Logic and Conversation"
- 📁 **Keenan**, "A Sliding sense of obligatoriness: The poly-structure of Malagasy oratory"

WEEK 11

Pragmatics - II

- 📁 **Fillmore**, "Pragmatics and the Description of Discourse"
- 📁 **Lambrecht**, "Information Structure and Sentence Form"
- 📁 **Ochs & Capps**, "Narrating the Self"
- 📁 **Chafe**, "Givenness, contrastiveness, definiteness, subjects, topics, and points of view"
- 📁 **Clark & Haviland**, "Comprehension and the given-new contract"

WEEK 12

Critical Discourse Analysis

THEMATIC FOCUS

Discourse analysis and representational practices: transcription

- 📁 **Van Dijk**, "Principles of Critical Discourse Analysis"
- 📁 **Fairclough**, *Analyzing Discourse*, Selections
- 📁 **Ochs**, "Transcription as Theory"
- 📁 **Bucholtz**, "The Politics of Transcription"
- 📁 **Haig**, "On the Critique of Critical Discourse Analysis"

WEEK 13

Incorporating Prosody into Discourse Analysis - I

- 📖 **Wennerstrom**: Selections
- 📁 **Hirschberg**, "The Pragmatics of Intonational Meaning"