

English 577.03: The Ethnography of Communication

Professor Amy Shuman
office: 566 Denney Hall; 292-6555; shuman.1@osu.edu

Texts:

Required:

Deborah Tannen Talking From 9 to 5: Women and Men in the Workplace: Language, Sex, and Power

Michael Stubbs Discourse Analysis

Packet of Readings

Recommended (Required for Graduate Students):

Deborah Schiffrin Approaches to Discourse

Requirements:

1. Five Examples of Course Topics

Select 5 course topics, and find an example of each, due on the date that topic is discussed. The example can come from the newspaper, television, daily life, literature, other media source, or your memory. Turn in the example (newspaper clipping or written description) with your brief notation (one sentence is fine) of the way that your example fits the topic. These do not count if turned in late. The topic will be described briefly at the end of the previous class. (Total of 5 points possible)

2. Mid-term exam

The Mid-term exam will cover the topics introduced in both Tannen and class discussion. The exam requires a brief definition and example. (Total of 15 points possible)

3. Term paper proposal

Your idea for the term paper is due **November 2**. You can change your idea if necessary after that date. The proposal itself, due when you have collected the data, should include the data for the project and the contextual information about the data: how collected, where, from whom (detailed information as relevant about age, occupation, ethnicity, race, regional identity, religion, etc), in what situation, and referring to what circumstances, cultural background. The proposal has a final deadline of **November 16**, but you are strongly encouraged to turn in the proposal as early as possible so that you can get responses and suggestions for the term paper. (Total of 30 points possible)

4. Term paper

The term paper is your major work for the course and is based on a collection of some piece of communicative interaction (a conversation, an event, a text). The paper has four components:

a) background information about the data (see the proposal); you can revise your proposal for the term paper.

b) a transcription of the data

c) an analysis of the transcription

d) a discussion on a particular topic of analysis (probably one of the topics introduced in class)

The term paper is due in class **December 2** (total of 30 points possible)

5. Oral presentation of your term paper

Using either an overhead transparency, a tape recording, or photocopies of the transcription, each

student will have an opportunity to present his/her data for class discussion. You can make your presentation anytime after you turn in your term paper proposal. For the presentation, describe what you collected and suggest what interests you about this data. (Total of 5 points possible)

6. Final exam

Definition and examples of the remaining topics covered in class (after the mid-term) and a one-page discussion of someone else's oral presentation. (Total of 15 points possible)

Grading:

96-100 A

90-94 A-

87-89 B+

82-86 B

79-81 B-

76-78 C+

71-76 C

69-71 C-

66-68 D+

61-65 D

50-61 D-

Reading Assignments

September 23. Topic: Course Introduction: What is the Ethnography of Communication

September 28. Topic: Conversational Style

Tannen, Chapter 1 pp 21-42

September 30. Topic: Ritual Apology

Tannen, Chapter 2 pp 43-77

Recommended: Goffman A Remedial Interchanges≅ from Relations in Public

October 5. Topic: Indirectness

Tannen, Chapter 3

Stubbs, Chapter 8

October 7. Topic: Talk and Gender

Tannen, Chapters 5 and 6 pp 132-203

October 12. Topic: Interruption and Turn Taking

Tannen, Chapter 7 pp 204-241

Recommended: Sacks, Schegloff, and Jefferson AA simplest systematics for the organization of turn-taking for conversation≅ Language 50 (4) 696-735.

October 14 Topic: Topic: Talk and Politics/The Politics of Talk

Tannen, Chapters 8 through end pp 242-317

October 19 Mid Term Exam

October 21 **NO Class meeting**; collect data for term paper

October 26 Topic: Analyzing Conversational Data
Stubbs, Chapter 2

October 28 Context
Stubbs, Chapter 3

November 2 Topic: courtroom talk
packet: Gumperz AFact and inference in courtroom testimony≡ Language and Social Identity

November 4 Topic: Topic: Ethnic Style in Political Rhetoric
packet: "Ethnic Style in Political Rhetoric" from Gumperz Discourse Strategies

November 9 Topic: Narrative
packet: Harvey Sacks Lectures 3, 4, 5 AStory organization...≡

November 11 Topic: Narrative continued
packet: Shuman essay

November 16 Speech Acts and Other extras
Stubbs, Chapter 4

November 18 **No class meeting**

November 23 Topic: Questions and Answers and "Adjacency Pairs"
Stubbs, chapter 6
Recommended: Stubbs chapter 7

November 30 Topic: Alignment
Stubbs, chapter 9
Recommended: Goffman "Footing" from Forms of Talk pp 124-157

December 3 Topic: Summary