INTR 113-900 Discourse Analysis
Spring Semester 2019

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Office Hours: Thursdays from 2pm-4pm via Big Blue Button (Conferences) in Canvas or by appointment.

Class Times and Locations: This class is conducted online in Canvas, January 7 – May 3, 2019. (Follow the course map posted in class for specific dates/times.)

Canvas: We will be using Canvas for this class. You can access it at this address http://canvas.unco.edu. Your log in is the same as you use for BearMail. Be sure to check both regularly. All of your homework assignments, quizzes, and tests are submitted in Canvas.

Course Description: In this course, students study discourse by analyzing the context and intentions of the people within various communication events.

Course Purpose: In order to produce effective interpretations (whether it is in ASL, contact signing, or a manual code for English), it is essential to understand the underlying meaning of the source language, and to be able to produce the same meaning in the target language. This underlying meaning, the coherence, requires much more than a simple understanding of the words or signs that are strung together. It requires an understanding of the context, the implicit intentions, the connotations of the words and signs, the goal of the speaker/signer, and the goal of the audience. In this course, you will discuss the impact of understanding discourse in everyday communication. Then, you will apply this to language and communication in a variety of settings and contexts.

Pre-Requisites: Knowledge in the discipline including American Sign Language level 5 competency.

Course Objectives: Upon the completion of this course, students will be able to do the following:

1. Discuss the concept of discourse as dynamic interaction, especially in terms of conversational exchanges in English and ASL, including open and close signals, backchannel signals, turnover signals, bracket signals, preempt signals, and other discourse signals that mark various communicative events.

2. Understand the sociolinguistic aspects of communication (i.e., variation based on features such as social setting and functions, register, age, gender and region) and how these aspects of communication specifically apply in various contexts.
3. Discuss Grice’s maxims and how these maxims impact communication events.

4. Discuss the discourse structure of interaction as it is interpreted.

5. Define the structure of communicative exchanges in ASL and English discourse.

6. Discuss the implications of the above analyses for interpreting interaction in various contexts (e.g., classrooms, business transactions, job interviews, and doctor’s appointments), and identify strategies for managing the implications.

7. Apply a 10-step discourse analysis process to examine the meaning and structure of ASL and English texts in various contexts.

8. Apply the analysis of ASL and English texts in various contexts to retell the texts in both the source and target language.

9. Demonstrate accuracy and equivalency of meaning in retelling texts in ASL and English.


11. Conduct a peer review of language performance based on the retelling of texts in ASL and English.

**Entry-to-Practice Competencies:**

1.2 Demonstrate knowledge of linguistics and cross-cultural and interpretation theories by discussing the implications of each for the work of interpreters in various contexts.

1.3 Apply linguistic and cross-cultural and interpretation theories by analyzing a wide range of consecutive and simultaneous interpreting samples in a manner that reflects synthesis of the theoretical frameworks as they apply to interpretation.

1.4 Compare and contrast linguistic characteristics in a variety of sign language samples and interpretation samples.

4.3 Analyze the effectiveness of interpreting performance generated by self and peers by applying contemporary theories of performance assessment and peer review.

**Required Materials:**

**Textbooks**


**Media (www.uncbooks.com)**

eReserves


Equipment

Digital camera or webcam for recording video assignments and video conferencing.

Supplemental Materials (not required)


The following reference for ASL transcription is also available in eReserves as a resource to you, not a required reading:


Course Requirements: This is a brief overview; full instructions posted in online class.

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<tr>
<th>Assignment #</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assignment 1</td>
<td>Discussion Postings: Participate in all on-line discussions making original comments and responses to peers’ postings. Responses to the posts of other students should be descriptive, thoughtful and constructive in a way that deepens the conversation.</td>
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<td>Assignment 2</td>
<td>Guided Discourse Analysis: Students will complete steps 1-9 of the 10-step discourse analysis process throughout the semester in preparation for their Final Discourse Analysis Project (see below). Each step to the process will be introduced and then students will use a source text provided by the instructor to complete steps 1-9 of the process.</td>
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<td>Assignment 3</td>
<td>Discourse Observations: Over the course of the semester, students will receive 3 observation forms. Each time, the student will have specific features related to ASL and/or English discourse that they will observe. Observations can be live or recorded, but must be of real (not mock) situations.</td>
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<td>Assignment 4</td>
<td>Register Analysis Project: as a part of this course, you will become familiar with register variation samples in both ASL and English. For the midterm project, you will identify a video example for each of the 5 registers. You will analyze, compare, and contrast various characteristics of each video. After your analysis of the video, you will determine which register the video fits in to. You will present your project using presentation software such as Microsoft PowerPoint or Prezi and share with the class.</td>
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### Assignment # | Description | Points
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**Assignment 5** | Final Discourse Analysis Project: Students will take two source texts through the first 9 steps of the 10-step discourse analysis process. The instructor will select the source text for each of these. Upon completion of the 9 steps, students will complete an analysis and reflection of the work. Submit the final discourse analysis packet in Canvas. | 30

**Total score: 100 points**

**Evaluation Method:** The points for all the assignments in a course will add up to 100 points and letter grades assigned as follows for UNDERGRADUATE classes:

- **A** = 91 - 100 superior achievement of course objectives
- **B** = 81 – 90 above average achievement of objectives
- **C/D** = 61 - 80 below average achievement of course objectives
- 60 or below considered not passing.

**University Policies**

**Student Code of Conduct:** You are expected to practice academic honesty in every aspect of this course. Make sure you know and understand the pillars of the UNC Honor Code: Honesty, Trust, Responsibility, Respect, and Fairness. Become familiar the Student Code of Conduct, especially the section on acts of dishonesty. Students who engage in academic misconduct are subject to grading consequences with regard to this course and/or university disciplinary procedures through the office of Student Rights and Responsibilities. If you have any questions, please refer to the Student Code of Conduct found at [Student Conduct Code](www.unco.edu/student-conduct).

**Sexual Misconduct/Title IX Statement:** The University of Northern Colorado prohibits and will not tolerate sexual misconduct or gender-based discrimination of any kind. UNC is legally obligated to investigate sexual misconduct (including, but not limited to sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, and intimate partner violence). If you disclose an incident of sexual misconduct to a faculty member, they have an obligation to report it to UNC’s Title IX Coordinator. “Disclosure” may include communication in-person, via email/phone/text message, or through in/out of class assignments.

If you wish to speak confidentially about an incident of sexual misconduct, please contact the UNC Counseling Center (970-351-2496) or the Assault Survivors Advocacy Program (970-351-4040). If you would like to learn more about sexual misconduct or report an incident, please visit [www.unco.edu/sexual-misconduct](www.unco.edu/sexual-misconduct).

**Equity and Inclusion Statement:** The University of Northern Colorado embraces the diversity of students, faculty, and staff, honors the inherent dignity of each individual, and welcomes their unique perspectives, behaviors, and worldviews. In this course, people of all races, religions, national origins, sexual orientations, ethnicities, genders and gender identities, cognitive, physical, and behavioral abilities, socioeconomic backgrounds, regions, immigrant statuses, military or veteran statuses, size and/or shapes are strongly encouraged to share their rich array of perspectives and experiences. Course content and campus discussions will heighten your awareness to each other’s individual and intersecting identities.
The Office of Student Rights & Responsibilities (located in Decker Hall) serves as resource to anyone seeking support or with questions about equity and inclusion at the University of Northern Colorado (UNC). If you are a witness to or experience acts of bias at UNC and would like to learn more about bias response or report a bias incident, please visit https://www.unco.edu/dean-of-students/shareaconcern/.

**Accommodations Statement:** Disability Resources - It is the policy and practice of the University of Northern Colorado to create inclusive learning environments. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that present barriers to your inclusion or to an accurate assessment of your achievement (e.g. time-limited exams, inaccessible web content, use of videos without captions), please communicate this with your professor and contact Disability Support Services (DSS) to request accommodations. Office: (970) 351-2289, Michener Library L-80. Students can learn more about the accommodation process at http://www.unco.edu/disability-support-services/