Syllabus

THE POLITICS OF LANGUAGE - 53409

Last update 03-03-2016

HU Credits:  2

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

 Responsible Department: sociology & soc. anthropology

Academic year: 0

Semester: 2nd Semester

Teaching Languages: English

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Dr. Brink-Danan

Coordinator Email: Marcy.bd@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: Thurs. 2:30-3:30

Teaching Staff:
Dr. Marcy Brink-Danan
Course/Module description:
When is the way we speak a political issue?
Why are some languages — Basque in Spain, Kurdish in Turkey or Spanish in the United States — seen as dangerous? From Afrikaans to Zulu, this course shows how ideas about language stand in for divisive (and often violent) social myths about nationalism, race, class and gender.

Course/Module aims:
Together we will read anthropological studies of language and nationalism, globalization of languages, multilingualism, language death, language revitalization and language loyalty to reconsider the central role language ideologies play in our political and social lives.

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:
IDENTIFY HOW CLAIMS ABOUT LANGUAGE ARE OFTEN POLITICAL STATEMENTS ABOUT GROUPS OF PEOPLE; CRITIQUE IDEAS ABOUT LINGUISTIC DIFFERENCE (OF MANY CATEGORIES); TO DESCRIBE, IN BASIC TERMS, THE SOCIOLINGUISTIC MEANS THROUGH WHICH IDENTITY IS PERFORMED ON A LOCAL, NATIONAL AND GLOBAL LEVEL.

Attendance requirements(%):
90

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: LECTURE AND DISCUSSION; You are graded on your class participation. If the instructor doesn't know your name by the end of the semester due to lack of attendance or participation, your grade will be reduced.

Course/Module Content:
LINGUISTIC NATIONALISM; SPEECH COMMUNITIES; LANGUAGE DEATH AND REVITALIZATION; NATIVE LANGUAGES; LANGUAGE IN EDUCATION; LANGUAGE, ETHNICITY AND RACISM; THE ECONOMICS OF LANGUAGE; LANGUAGE AND IDEOLOGY; POLITICAL AND LEGAL SPEECH; GENDERED DISCOURSE; LANGUAGE AND SEXUALITY

Required Reading:
All readings are available as PDFs on moodle; see moodle for schedule (subject to
LINGUISTIC NATIONALISM
Read: Golden, Deborah. Now like real Israelis

SPEECH COMMUNITIES
Read: Morgan, M. Speech community

LANGUAGE DEATH AND REVITALIZATION
Brink-Danan, M. 2011. The meaning of Ladino: The semiotics of an online speech community.

NATIVE LANGUAGES Read:
Warner, S. Kuleana: The Right, Responsibility, and Authority of Indigenous Peoples to Speak and Make Decisions for Themselves in Language and Cultural Revitalization

LANGUAGE IN EDUCATION Read:
Fordham, S. Dissin' "the Standard": Ebonics as Guerrilla Warfare at Capital High

LANGUAGE, ETHNICITY AND RACISM Read: Bucholtz, Mary 2001 The Whiteness of Nerds: Superstandard English and Racial Markedness

THE ECONOMICS OF LANGUAGE Read:
Sonntag, S. Appropriating Identity or Cultivating Capital? Global English in Offshoring Service Industries

LANGUAGE AND IDEOLOGY Read: Crowley, T. The Political Production of a Language: The Case of Ulster-Scots.

POLITICAL AND LEGAL SPEECH Read:
Ilie, C. Insulting as (un)parliamentary practice in the British and Swedish parliaments

GENDERED DISCOURSE

LANGUAGE AND SEXUALITY
Read: Levon, E. The Voice of Others: Identity, Alterity and Gender Normativity among Gay Men in Israel
Additional Reading Material:

Course/Module evaluation:
End of year written/oral examination 40 %
Presentation 0 %
Participation in Tutorials 20 %
Project work 0 %
Assignments 0 %
Reports 40 %
Research project 0 %
Quizzes 0 %
Other 0 %

Additional information:
Students will be evaluated using the following criteria:
1) Class participation (20%)
2) Reading Responses [1 pg., double-spaced, per week, uploaded to moodle before class].
Free-form responses allow the instructor to evaluate the students’ engagement with readings. You are free to miss 2 weeks' responses without penalty; after that your grade will be reduced. %40
3) Final Exercise Report on a Speech Community (40%)
Building on skills learned over the semester, students will tape-record, transcribe, and analyze language use in a chosen speech community and submit a 5 page paper describing and analyzing it at the end of the semester.