

ANT 4930/SSA 4930/AFS 4935

African Languages & Worldview

Sections: 8522/2122/4232

FALL 2011

Tue 11:45-1:40 (CSE E221) & Thur 12:50-1:40 (CSE E220)

Instructor: Charles Bwenge

email: cbwenge@africa.ufl.edu

Office: 423 Grinter Hall

phone: 352-392-6232

Office Hours: Tue & Thur 10 -11:30 & by appointment

Course description

In comparison of their languages with African languages, this course aims at enabling students to develop the ability to critically examine **how languages people speak affect or influence the way they perceive and construct their view of the 'real world'**. How does the language we speak affect our behavior? How do we organize 'reality' by means of our languages? Is it possible to understand other people's worldviews by examining their languages? The course expands on these and other related questions by reading and discussing examples from English and African languages that have native speakers on the campus and around Gainesville. Course assignments will include Students conducting interviews with African language speakers, writing short essays and do brief oral presentations throughout the semester.

Required texts

A course packet of xeroxed material (available at Orange & Blue Textbooks –OBT- @ 309 NW 13th Street & 3421 W. University Avenue)

Responsibilities, Assignments, and Grading

Reading assigned articles in a course packet (CP), interviewing your assigned speaker and attending class are of course the keys to the success of this course. They are the foundation for what goes on in the course. Every individual's active participation is expected. The material discussed in this course guides us to rethink about the role of languages we speak in shaping and/or reflecting our thinking and actions. Your course grade will be based on a combination of class attendance & participation, oral presentations (4), reading quizzes (4), topical short papers (4), and a concluding paper. The breakdown of the grading is as follows:

Class attendance and participation	5%
Oral presentations (4)	20%
Reading Quizzes (4)	20%
Topical short papers-TSP(4)	40%
Concluding paper (1)	15%
TOTAL	100%

The authorized letter grades (A, B, C, D, E) are as follows:

A = 95-100; **A-** = 90-94; **B+** = 87-89; **B** = 83-86; **B-** = 80-82; **C+** = 77-79; **C** = 73-76; **C-** = 70-72; **D+** = 67-70; **D** = 63-66; **D-** = 60-62; **E** = 59 and below.

Grade Points:

A = 4.0; **A-** = 3.67; **B+** = 3.33; **B** = 3.0; **B-** = 2.67; **C+** = 2.33; **C** = 2.0; **C-** = 1.67; **D+** = 1.33; **D** = 1.0; **D-** = 0.67; **E** = 0.0

Academic Honesty

The University of Florida's honor code requires all students to be honest in their academic work.

University policies on cheating, plagiarism, and related issues are available at:

<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/procedures/academicguide.html>

Students with disabilities

Students with disabilities will be accommodated accordingly. Those requesting such accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office which will provide them with documentation.

Minor in African Studies

Please note that this course, in combination with others, can count towards a Minor in African studies, an ideal complement to your disciplinary major. For more information contact Dr. Todd Leedy: tleedy@africa.ufl.edu

Proposed Schedule

Week 1

Introductions; syllabus review; key conceptual terms (including language, worldview, culture, reality/real world, linguistic relativity, linguistic determinism, etc.)

Naugle, David. 2002. *Worldview : The History of a Concept*. Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company. (pp. 238-252).

Hickerson, Nancy. 1980. *Linguistic Anthropology*. Chicago: Holt, Rinehart & Winston, Inc. Chapter 2 (pp. 8-26).

Week 2

Worldviews: the concept (cont...)

RQ-1

Week 3

Language and Culture

Linguistic relativity (an overview)

Ottenheimer, Harriet. 2006. *The Anthropology of Language*. Belmont, CA: Thomson Wadsworth. Chapter 2 (pp. 14-32).

Week 4

African languages (an overview)

Childs, Tucker. 2003. *An Introduction to African Languages*. Philadelphia, PA: John Benjamins Publishing Co. Chapter 1 (pp.1-31).

RQ-2

Week 5

'My African language': exploration & presentation

Presentations-1

Week 6

Human body part terminology (**case study-1**)

Enfield, N.J. *et al.* 2006. Cross-linguistic categorization of the body: introduction. *Language Sciences*, 28 (2006) 137-147.

RQ-3

Week 7

Kinship Terminology (**case study -2**: "Kinship Terminology of the South African Bantu")

RQ-4

Interviews - 1 @ body part terminology.

TSP-1 due (African languages)

Week 8

Presentations -2 (Body parts)

Interviews -2 @ Kinship terminology

Week 9

Disability terminology

Interviews -2 @ Kinship terminology.

TSP -2 due (Body parts)

Week 10

Presentations – 3 @ Kinship terminology

Interviews -3 @ Disability terminology

Week 11

Presentations – 4 @Disability terminology

TSP -3 due (kinship terminology)

Week 12 & 13

Compiling and analyzing data (body parts, kinship terms, & disability terminology)

TSP -4 due (disability terminology)

Week 14 &15

Conclusions

Concluding paper due