

AFS 4935/ANT 4930
African Languages & Worldview
Sections: 08HC/1C42
SPRING 2016
MWF 3:00-3:50PM
MAT 0003

Instructor: Charles Bwenge

email: cbwenge@ufl.edu

Office: 423 Grinter Hall

phone: 352-392-6232

Office Hours: Mon & Wed 10 -11:00 & 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? We will think about 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

Selected articles will be scanned and sent to students a week before the assigned dates.

Responsibilities, Assignments, and Grading

Reading assigned articles, interviewing your assigned native 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, reading quizzes (4) and three (3) short papers. The breakdown of the grading is as follows:

Class attendance and participation	10%
Oral presentation/discussions (3)	40%
Reading Quizzes (4)	20%
Short Discussion papers (3)	30%
<hr/>	
TOTAL	100%
<hr/>	

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 (Jan 6 & 8)

- 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).

Salzmann, Zdenek. 1998. *Language, Culture, and Society*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press. Chapter 3 (pp. 39-65).

Week 2 (Jan 11, 13, & 15)

- African languages (an overview)

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

READING QUIZ-1 (CP: pp 53-69)

Week 3 (Jan 20 & 22)

- Linguistic relativity (an overview)

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

READING QUIZ-2 (CP: 33-48)

Week 4 (Jan 25, 27, & 29)

- Human body part terminology

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

READING QUIZ-3 (CP: 71-80)

Week 5 (Feb 1, 3, & 5)

- Kinship Terminology (peruse/read c-p @ pp. 81-102, “Kinship Terminology of the South African Bantu”)
- **READING QUIZ-4** (CP: 109-120)
- INTERVIEWS-1 @ **body part terminology**.

Week 6 (Feb 8, 10, & 12)

- Kinship Terminology (continues)
- INTERVIEWS-1 (cont..)

Week 7 (Feb 15, 17, & 19)

- **Oral presentations – 1** @ body part terminology
- **Discussion Paper 1 [DP-1]** due
- INTERVIEWS-2 @ **Kinship terminology**

Week 8 (Feb 22, 24, & 26)

- Kinship Terminology (cont...)
- INTERVIEWS-2 @ Kinship terminology (cont...)
- **Oral presentations – 2** @ Kinship terminology

Week 9 **SPRING BREAK**

Week 10 (March 7, 9, & 11)

- Disability terminology (Read C-p @ pp. 151-153)
- **DP-2** due
- INTERVIEWS-3 @ Disability terminology

Week 11 (March 14, 16, & 18)

- The concept of time and telling time
- INTERVIEWS-3 @ disability terminology (cont...)

Week 12 (March 21, 23, & 25)

- **Oral presentations-3** @ Disability terminology

Week 13 (March 28, 30, & April 1)

- The concept of time and telling time: African time (cont...)

Week 14 (April 4, 6, & 8)

- Fables, Proverbs, & Riddles

Week 15 (April 11, 13, & 15)

- Fables, Proverbs, & Riddles (cont...)

Week 16 (April 18 & 20)

- Conclusion & **DP-3** due.

