

21F.024 Linguistic Studies of Bilingualism (CI-H)

Spring 2004

Instructor: Suzanne Flynn

Lecture: TR11-12.30 (66-144)

Class Requirements:

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

BOOK TO BUY AT THE COOP:

Grosjean, François. 1982. *Life with Two Languages: An Introduction to Bilingualism*. Cambridge, Ma., Harvard University Press.

Additional readings will be made available on the web and in class from time to time during the semester.

WEEKLY READINGS:

-Weekly assigned readings. Students must do all the assigned readings before class. This class will be run as a seminar in which everyone participates and contributes his/her ideas, conjectures, hypotheses and/or observations. This will not be a standard lecture class in which the instructor lectures to the class and the class takes notes.

WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS:

-There will be short weekly assignments that are due on the day specified on the syllabus. These assignments will ask you to consider what you have read for the class and to react to (rather than summarize) what you have read. In addition, written work may at times take the quite different form of problem sets. Late work is unacceptable since your assignments are designed to feed directly into discussions and other class activities.

LEAD A SEMINAR DISCUSSION

-Each student must lead a class discussion at least once during the semester.

FINAL PROJECT

Choose one of the following: (The details for each of these projects will be discussed in class).

- a. In-depth case study of a bilingual individual either one who learned two languages simultaneously or who learned a new language after the acquisition of the first language.
- b. Critical review of a bilingual education program.
- c. Design and conduct a survey or study investigating some linguistic or psychological aspect of bilingualism.
- d. Critically evaluate the "English Only" Movement. Evaluate its history, support, premises and implications with respect to one domain e.g., bilingual education.
- e. Topic of your choice approved by instructor

ATTENDANCE:

- All students are expected to attend all class meetings.
- Unexcused absences, late assignments and lack of preparation for class will significantly effect your final grade.

FINAL GRADE:

- 1/3 class participation
- 1/3 weekly assignments
- 1/3 final project

Related Readings and Resources:

Throughout the semester I will let you know about resources, articles, books, activities, etc., that are relevant to the themes of this class. I also encourage you to share anything that you think might be of interest also to the group.

1. Bialystok, E. 2001. Bilingualism in Development: Language, literacy, and Cognition. Cambridge: CUP.
2. Nation, I.S. Nation. 2001. Learning Vocabulary in Another Language. Cambridge: CUP.
3. Alatis, James E. and Ai-Hui Tan (eds.). Georgetown University RoundTable on Languages and Linguistics 1999: Language in our time. Georgetown: GUP.
4. Schmid, Carol L. 2001. The Politics of Language: conflict, Identity, and cultural Pluralism in comparative Perspective. OP: Oxford.

5. Nicol, Janet L (ed). One Mind, Two Languages: Bilingual Language Processing. Oxford: Blackwell Publishers.

CALENDAR OF TOPICS (subject to some modification) Week 1: Introduction: what is the study of bilingualism? Basic Linguistic assumptions Week 2: Poverty of stimulus Universal Grammar and Generative Linguistics Week 3: The bilingual person Coordinate v. sequential bilingualism Week 4: Bilingualism and intelligence The child bilingual Week 5: Case studies Week 6: Codeswitching v. semilingualism Language choice Week 7: Language Loss Week 8: Aphasic studies of bilinguals Brain imaging Week 9: Diglossia Week 10: Bilingual Education Week 11: Language Policy Week 12: English Only Weeks 13 – 14: Projects