

**AFS 4935/SSA 4930**  
**African Languages & Worldview**  
Sections: 2281/0709  
**FALL 2016**  
Tue 11:45-1:40 & Thur 12:50-1:40  
**MAT 0116**

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**Instructor:** Charles Bwenge

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**Office Hours:** Tue & Thur 10 -11:00 & by appointment

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**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 mini 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 two (2) short discussion 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 (2)	30%
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TOTAL	100%
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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](mailto:tleedy@africa.ufl.edu)

### **Proposed Schedule**

#### **Week 1 (8/ 23 & 25)**

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

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 (8/ 30 & 9/1)**

- 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 (Chpt 2: The classification of African Languages)**

#### **Week 3 (9/ 6 & 8)**

- Linguistic relativity (an overview)

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

**READING QUIZ-2 (Chpt 2: Language and Culture)**

#### **Week 4 (9/13 & 15))**

- 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 (Introduction)**

#### **Week 5 (9/20 & 22)**

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

**Week 6** (9/27 & 29)

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

**Week 7** (10/4 & 6)

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

**Week 8** (10/11 & 13)

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

**Week 9** (10/18 & 20)

- Disability terminology
- **READING QUIZ-4 (Why Discourse Analysis? Disability & Language)**
- **DP-1 due**
- INTERVIEWS-3 @ Disability terminology

**Week 10** (10/25 & 27)

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

**Week 11** (11/1 & 3)

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

**Week 12** (11/8 & 10)

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

**Week 13** (11/15 & 17)

- Fables, Proverbs, & Riddles

**Week 14** (11/22)

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

**Week 15 & Week 16** (11/29 & 12/1, 6)

- Conclusion & **DP-2 due**.