

LINGUISTICS 480/812 – APPROACHES TO DISCOURSE
Course Syllabus

Department of Linguistics - Simon Fraser University - Spring Semester 2002

INSTRUCTOR: **MAITE TABOADA**

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides an introduction to discourse analysis and the different approaches used in the analysis of discourse. Discourse here is defined as the study of the organization of language above the sentence level, but also as any manifestation of language in context.

We will start with a general overview of the phenomena included in the study of discourse, and then proceed on to how a number of schools have approached those problems. The main textbook will be supplemented with additional book chapters and articles.

We will examine examples of both spoken and written discourse. Students will be encouraged to collect and analyze their own data for the assignments.

REQUIRED TEXT

Schiffrin, D. (1994) *Approaches to Discourse*. Malden, Mass.: Blackwell.

OTHER READINGS

Listed in the Topics section.

PREREQUISITES

12 credit hours of upper-division linguistics courses.

COMPONENTS OF THE COURSE

The course consists of lectures (which will also contain some practice), assignments and a final paper. You are supposed to read the corresponding material in either the textbook or the additional readings *before* coming to class, so that you'll be prepared to discuss it. Material to be covered follows the schedule below and will also be announced in class.

Late assignments will not be accepted without prior permission. You are expected to have a good command of the English language. Assignments and papers should be spell-checked and proofread, and they should be written in a clear and appropriate style.

From the SFU calendar: "All members of the University community share the responsibility for the academic standards and reputation of the University. Academic honesty is a cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge. Academic honesty is a condition of continued membership in the university community." Please review the following policy, examples of academic dishonesty and penalties:

http://www.reg.sfu.ca/Calendar/General_Regs.html#897900

<http://www.sfu.ca/policies/teaching/index.htm>

OFFICE HOURS AND E-MAIL POLICIES

Office hours are listed above. I can also meet students by appointment. I can reply to simple questions via e-mail, but if you have a complex question, or require an elaborate answer, please come see me during office hours. In e-mail messages, please identify yourself and mention the course number.

COURSE GRADE

There will be 5 assignments, one of which will be marked throughout the course as class participation. The final paper represents 40% of the course grade. Students will also present their proposed work for the final paper to the class, which will amount to 20% of the final grade.

| <u>ASSIGNMENT</u> | <u>WEIGHT</u> |
|---|---------------|
| Assignment 1 (class participation, throughout the course) | 5% |
| Assignment 2 | 5% |
| Assignment 3 | 10% |
| Assignment 4 | 10% |
| Assignment 5 | 10% |
| Class presentation | 20% |
| Final paper | 40% |

The following table provides a rough estimate of grade breakdowns for the final grade. Due attention will be given to the verbal descriptions in the SFU calendar.

| | | | | | | | |
|---------|----|--------|----|--------|----|--------|---|
| 96-100% | A+ | 82-89% | B+ | 65-69% | C+ | 50-54% | D |
| 92-95% | A | 75-81% | B | 60-64% | C | 0-49% | F |
| 90-91% | A- | 70-75% | B- | 55-59% | C- | | |

TOPICS AND READING OUTLINE

This is a tentative schedule of topics and readings. The schedule might change if we spend more or less time on certain topics, and according to the interests of the students.

1. INTRODUCTION

Schiffirin, Chapters 1-2.

2. DISCOURSE DATA

Schiffirin, Appendix 1.

Du Bois, J., S. Schuetze-Coburn, S. Cumming and D. Paolino (1993) Outline of discourse transcription. In J. Edwards and M. Lampert (eds.) *Talking data: Transcription and coding in discourse research*. Hillsdale, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum. 45-89.

Hatch, E. and A. Lazaraton (1991) *The research manual: Design and statistics for applied linguistics*. Boston: Heinle & Heinle. Chapter 5. Coding and displaying frequency data. 129-158.

3. APPROACHES TO DISCOURSE**3.1 Speech act theory**

Schiffirin, Chapter 3.

Schmitz, B. and J. Quantz (1995) Dialogue acts in automatic dialogue interpreting. In *Proceedings of the 6th*

3.2 Interactional sociolinguistics

Schiffrin, Chapter 4.

