

LINGUISTICS 482W – DISCOURSE ANALYSIS

Course Syllabus
Department of Linguistics - Simon Fraser University – Fall Semester 2012

INSTRUCTOR: **DR. MAITE TABOADA**

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Class: Mondays 2:30-4:20, Wednesdays 2:30-3:20 – RCB 5118

Course Web Page: <http://www.sfu.ca/~mtaboada/ling482/ling482.html>
(Check frequently for new material and announcements)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides an introduction to the analysis of discourse and dialogue. 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. Dialogue is defined as an instance of language that involves interaction between two or more people.

The course will provide an overview of the phenomena included in the study of discourse and dialogue, from linguistic, psycholinguistic and computational points of view. Students will

Assignments and final papers will involve analyses of texts from different perspectives. The emphasis is on the identification of patterns and labelling of text structures. The ultimate goal of the assignments is to be able to write a descriptive account of the analysis, and to explain how discourse analysis contributes to a better understanding of language phenomena.

The course will use writing as a means of learning. Writing will consist of informal and formal assignments, some of them in-class and in group (in-class short essays, reports, reading logs, peer evaluation, etc.). There will also be a final paper, for which a preliminary draft and an in-class presentation are required.

Note that this is neither a remedial course nor one suitable for students seeking ESL writing instruction. The course will foster the ability to write; it will not teach basic writing skills. An excellent command of the English language is expected.

COURSE EXPECTATIONS

<http://www.lib.sfu.ca/help/tutorials/plagiarism-tutorial>

A grade of "FD" may be assigned as a penalty for academic dishonesty.

Tutors, editors, or any other types of outside help are not allowed. Exceptions are the assistance provided through the Student Learning Commons (see below, under Resources).

10. Please note that students requiring accommodations as a result of a **disability** must contact the Center for Students with Disabilities (778-782-3112 or csdo@sfu.ca).
11. All student requests for accommodation for **religious practices** must be made in writing by the end of the first week of classes or no later than one week after a student adds a course.

E-MAIL POLICY

You are welcome to submit questions and comments via e-mail. Please keep the following in mind when sending your message.

1. I cannot always respond to messages late in the evening or on weekends. If you send a message late on Friday or during the weekend, I might not reply until the following week.
2. I can only respond to questions that can be answered in a sentence or two. Questions requiring longer replies should be asked in class or during office hours.
3. Please proof-read your e-mail message to make sure that your question is clear. In addition, I would appreciate questions that are expressed in an appropriately polite manner.
4. Please always sign your name and the course number. Make sure the Subject line contains the name of the course ("Ling 482"). Anonymous messages will not be answered. Further, if your message does not clearly address the content of the course, or the Subject line is simply "hi", there is a good chance that it will be automatically classified as spam, and discarded before I actually get to see it.
5. Because of the large number of e-mail messages that I receive, it may be several days before I am able to reply to your message. It is often easier and faster to ask a question in class or during office hours. I may also provide answers in class, instead of replying to individual e-mail messages.

COURSE GRADE

The final grade will be calculated according to the percentages below.

The participation grade includes attending class regularly and participating actively. Other in-class activities (written questions about the reading, reading logs, reports, group work) will also count towards your participation grade.

There will be 3 or 4 assignments, a presentation in class and a final paper. More detail on each of these will be provided throughout the semester.

<u>COMPONENT</u>	<u>WEIGHT</u>
Participation	10%
Assignments	35%
Class presentation	15%
Final paper	40%

Percentage scores on assignments and other course components will be based on objective criteria. Final letter course grades will be computed from percentage scores on all the course components. The following table provides a rough estimate of grade breakdowns for the final grade. Due attention will be given to the verbal descriptions listed below. There is no university-wide standard scale. An instructor adopts a grade scale appropriate to the level and content of the course.

96-100%	A+	Extraordinary performance	66-70%	C+	Satisfactory performance
91-95%	A	Excellent performance	61-65%	C	Marginal performance
86-90%	A-		56-60%	C-	
81-85%	B+	Good performance	50-55%	D	Unsatisfactory performance (fail)
76-80%	B		< 50%	F	
71-75%	B-				

GRADE APPEALS

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CONTEXT

Textbook, Unit 7 (Parts A, B, C and D)

Re-read: Eggins, Suzanne. (2004). *An Introduction to Systemic Functional Linguistics*. London: Continuum. Chapters 3 and 4. Genre: Context of culture in text and Register: Context of situation in text (pp. 54-112).

MEDIATED DISCOURSE ANALYSIS

Textbook, Unit 8 (Parts A, B, C and D)

MULTIMODALITY

Textbook, Unit 9 (Parts A, B, C and D)

CORPUS-ASSISTED DISCOURSE ANALYSIS

Textbook, Unit 10 (Parts A, B, C and D)