

Course Title: Field Methods in Linguistics
Course Number: LING 640, Fall 2012
Section & Meeting Times: Sec. 1-21726; W, 4:00pm-6:40pm, SSW-2512
Final Exam Time: There will be no final exam.

Instructor: Assistant Professor DS Bigham
Office Hours: EBA 325 :: T/Th 3:30–4:30
EBA 329 - Sociophonetics Lab :: TBD
I can also be available at other times by appointment.
E-mail: douglas.bigham@mail.sdsu.edu

Anytime my office door is open, I'm available. Also, feel free to send professionally composed e-mail (see below). I do NOT check e-mail after 5pm or on weekends. I am not responsible for e-mails unreceived or read late; if I haven't responded within 36 hours, you may send me a polite reminder.

DESCRIPTION: Principles and techniques of linguistic analysis working directly with native informants, including phonemic, grammatical, and syntactic analysis and text collection and interpretation.

TEXTBOOKS & READINGS:

Bowern, Claire. 2008. *Linguistic Fieldwork: A Practical Guide*. Publisher: Palgrave Macmillan. ISBN-10: 0230545386 ISBN-13: 978-0230545380, Cost: ~\$35 new

Mendoza-Denton, Norma. 2008. *Homegirls: Language and Cultural Practice Among Latina Youth Gangs*. Publisher: Wiley-Blackwell. ISBN-10: 063123490X ISBN-13: 978-0631234906, Cost: ~\$40 new

Additional readings and materials will be made available via handouts and on Blackboard. This course is heavily dependent on online communication and internet-based work. You are responsible for finding devices capable of displaying/printing relevant course material. "It wouldn't download/open/print/etc" is not a sufficient excuse. The Student Computing Center is located on the 2nd Floor of the Love Library.

PREREQUISITES: A passing grade in LING 521 or concurrent enrollment in LING 622.

EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES: In this course, you will...

- Become familiarized with some of the practice of gathering linguistic data from native speakers.
- Acquire a working knowledge of the relationship of linguistics to social media and internet tools.
- Develop a relationship with a linguistic informant from San Diego.
- Record a linguistic informant for various kinds of linguistic data.
- Publish your research in a forum that accords with work in the Digital Humanities.
- Engage in linguistic public outreach that connects your work and your informant to the larger San Diego Community.

EXPECTED STUDENT CONDUCT: You are expected to respect your fellow students. When fellow students are talking, you should show them the same respect and attention as you show your professor. No questions are stupid. No ideas are crazy. Not everyone learns at the same pace or in the same way.

TECHNOLOGY: Technology and "new media" play an important role in linguistic field methods in the 21st Century. That said... your cellular telephone is NOT ALLOWED in class, for any reason. If I see or hear your cell or the "vibration" of your cell, you will get an F for participation. NO EXCEPTIONS. All

other “devices” should be silenced. Headphones should remain off. If you plan on multi-tasking during class, please sit in the back of the room.

E-mail: E-mail sent to your professor and/or fellow students should be professionally composed with an opening, an explicit body, and an appropriate closing. Unprofessional and/or disrespectful e-mail will be deleted without being read.

Twitter, Facebook, Tumblr, etc.: We will discuss and use various social media outlets over the semester. When these outlets are part of an assignment, you must participate, regardless of your personal use practices. Unless otherwise noted, do not contact your professor via any non-SDSU related online social network.

ASSIGNMENTS/GRADING:

- 15% - Blog Entries
- 10% - Reading Summaries
- 5% - Team Presentation of Reading
- 15% - Data Analyses
- 20% - Project Work
- 20% - Final Project
- 15% - Participation

Grading Scale: A, B, C, D, F

100-90: A, 89-80 B, 79-70 C, 69-60 D, 59-0 F

Blog Entries (3% each) & Reading Summaries (2% each): Unless otherwise noted, the default length of a blog or summary is no shorter than 400 words. Five of each are due, as listed in the schedule. Summaries are due on Friday of the same week, blogs are due by Monday 10am of the following week. Both content and form will be considered.

Team Presentation of Reading (5%): Each team will present one chapter from the Bowen text.

Data Analyses (15%) & Project Work (20%): Data recording and analysis and other group-/project-related work will be assessed holistically. These assignments build upon each other, so missing one would place you at an extreme disadvantage.

Final Project (20%): You and your team will meet with Prof. Bigham to determine what kind of final project you will create. We will outline goals and a grading scheme for your project. Finished projects will be presented on the last day of class.

Participation (preparedness and discussion): 15% - All materials should have been read before the date listed on the syllabus so that you may fully engage in class discussion. We will be using a roster of different websites for additional discussion. Participation is determined by (a) in-class & online discussion, (b) completion of work, (c) additional engagement of materials.

HOMEWORK: Because of the nature of this class, no late work will be accepted. We will be using e-mail to turn in assignments; no hardcopies will be produced. See reference key for phonetic symbol substitutes.

ATTENDANCE: Come to class. Come to class on time. If you arrive late, do not interrupt the class or professor upon entering. Since participation counts for a large portion of your grade, it is STRONGLY suggested that you attend class and participate vigorously in the discussions—in class, online, and during my office hours. If you miss class, **do not e-mail me** to explain or ask for notes. If you need to miss class, you can come to my office hours and explain the situation in advance of your absence. People who miss class should be prepared to get the notes from classmates. People who repeatedly miss class or come late may be excluded from grading curve benefits.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: Do not cheat. If you work with a partner on an assignment, indicate this at the top of your homework AND make sure you each turn in your own UNIQUE copy of the homework. In essays, failing to cite another person's words or ideas is cheating. Don't cheat. Don't even do anything that might get you suspected of cheating. Be honest. If you cheat, you will be given a grade of "F" for the course and will be referred to Student Affairs. If you have questions about the definition or specifics of "cheating" or "plagiarism" you may contact me, the Linguistics Dept. Chair, a member of the Student Discipline Office at (619) 594-3069.

For further details regarding conduct, please refer to <http://csrr.sdsu.edu/>

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: For students with disabilities, I am available during my office hours to discuss any appropriate academic accommodations that might be necessary. Before course accommodations are made, a student may be required to obtain and/or provide documentation from the Office of Student Disability Services.

(for more information see: <http://www.sa.sdsu.edu/sds/index.html> or call 619-594-6473)

WEEKLY SCHEDULE:

*Dates listed on the syllabus are subject to change

CB = Claire Bowen – Linguistic fieldwork: A practical guide;

NMD = Norma Mendoza-Denton – Homegirls: Language and cultural practice among Latina youth gangs;

KGT = Marc Okrand – Klingon for the Galactic Traveler;

HO = Handout or PDF on Blackboard –or– other online resource

WEEK ONE – W, 29 Aug – Introduction

Readings: CB Ch. 1 – Introduction
CB Ch. 14 – Fieldwork Results

Topics: Google Docs // Dropbox // Zotero

HW: Get set up on the online; fiddle with tools

HW: Find at least one SDSDP-esque site and share it with the class

WEEK TWO – W, 5 Sept – Getting Started

Readings: CB Ch. 2 – Technology in the Field
CB Ch. 3 – Starting to Work on a Language;
KGT – The Fiction of Klingon Conformity
HO – Grammar Girl: "How to Write A Comment"
<http://grammar.quickanddirtytips.com/how-to-write-a-blog-comment.aspx>

Topics: Explanation of the SDSDP // Audience // Blogging // RSS // Pros & Cons of Facebook & Twitter

HW-SUMMARY: KGT summary: applications to the SDSDP

HW-PROJECT: Meet with group re: brainstorming

HW-BLOG: One-A: How I Got Into Linguistics & Why I'm Still There...

WEEK THREE – W, 12 Sept – Project Design

Readings: CB Ch. 10 – Consultants & Field Locations [presented by Team Blue];
CB Ch. 11 – Ethical Field Research

Topics: IRB Training // Rights & Creative Commons // Public Outreach // Wikipedia

HW-PROJECT: IRB Certification

HW-PROJECT: Meet with group re: Finding your SDP Enclave

WEEK FOUR – W, 19 Sept – Phonetics & Data Organization

Readings: CB Ch. 4 – Data Organization & Archiving
CB Ch. 5 – Phonetics & Phonology [presented by Team Yellow]
KGT – Avoiding Gaffes

Topics: Praat // Excel // Metadata // Font Embedding

HW-DATA: Complete phonetics exercise (see SDP website for lab hours)
[record, run Praat, use Excel, write up findings, convert to PDF, meta-tag the files]

HW-BLOG: One-B: My Awkward Language Learning Situation...

WEEK FIVE – W, 26 Sept – MorphoSyntax & Web Design

Readings: CB Ch. 6 – MorphoSyntax
CB Ch. 7 – More MorphoSyntax [presented by Team Gray]

Topics: Website design

HW-PROJECT: Record your SDP Enclave member(s) in the Sociophonetics Lab

HW-DATA: Analyze SDP Enclave's phonetics & morphosyntax

HW-BLOG: Two: What "The San Diego Community" Means To Me...

WEEK SIX – W, 3 Oct – Words & Images

Readings: CB Ch. 8 – Lexical & Semantic Data [presented by Team Tan]
CB Ch. 9 – Discourse, Pragmatics, & Narrative Data
KGT – Argot: Specialized Vocabulary

Topics: Graphics & Infographics // Video // Community Media // Image Editing & Blogging

HW-DATA: Record at least two SDP Enclave "Narratives"

HW-DATA: Analyze SDP Enclave's narrative for form and lexicon

HW-PROJECT: Determine a way to represent your SDP Enclave; meet with Prof. Bigham to discuss (45 minutes)

HW-BLOG: Three-A: My Neighborhood (with images!)

WEEK SEVEN – W, 10 Oct – Preserving & Presenting

Readings: CB Ch. 12 – Grant Writing
CB Ch. 13 – Working with Existing Materials [presented by Team Pink]

Topics: Archiving // Accessibility // Format Differences (PDF Embedding) // Data Mining

HW-DATA: Share data across teams; investigate across all extant 640 data;
devise two new research questions about SDP Community

HW-PROJECT: Find an applicable grant; write grant narrative and budget (based on your project)

WEEK EIGHT – W, 17 Oct – Location

Readings: NMD Ch. 1 – La Migra
NMD Ch. 2 – Beginning Fieldwork
HO: Twitter GIS map (TBD)

Topics: Maps & GIS // Geotagging a subject (image, file, etc)

IN-CLASS: • Group Updates

HW-BLOG: Three-B: My Day Out (map & images!)

WEEK NINE – W, 24 Oct – Linking

Readings: NMD Ch. 3 – Norte and Sur: Government, School, and Research Perspectives
NMD Ch. 4 – Hemispheric Localism: Language, Racialized Nationalism, & Politicization of Youth

Topics: Effective Linking

IN-CLASS: • Group Updates

HW-BLOG: Four: Link-Blogging...

HW-SUMMARY: NMD 3, 4 summary

WEEK TEN – W, 31 Oct – Bringing It All Together

Readings: NMD Ch. 5 – Gendered Performances & the Avoidance of Social Injury
NMD Ch. 6 – Memorializing Practices Linking Language, Materiality, and Embodiment

IN-CLASS: • Group Updates

HW-SUMMARY: NMD 5, 6 summary

HW-PROJECT: Create basic online Team “profile” with images, text/fonts, project description, and links to each member’s own page, the class website, and any relevant SD or Enclave sites

WEEK ELEVEN – W, 7 Nov – Eleventh Hour

Readings: NMD Ch. 7 – Icons and Exemplars: Ethnographic Approaches in Variationist Sociolx.
NMD Ch. 8 – Variation in a Community of Practice

IN-CLASS: • Group Updates

HW-SUMMARY: NMD 7, 8 summary

WEEK TWELVE – W, 14 Nov – Twelfth Night

Readings: NMD Ch. 9 – Discourse Markers and Teenage Speech
NMD Ch. 10 – Conclusion

HW-SUMMARY: NMD 9, 10 summary

HW-PROJECT: Project Draft DUE!!!

HW-BLOG: Five-A: Review of *Homegirls*...

WEEK THIRTEEN – W, 21 Nov – Thanksgiving (NO CLASS)

HW-BLOG: Five-B: Thanksgiving...

WEEK FOURTEEN – W, 28 Nov – No Physical Class

HW-PROJECT: Make a Group Update VLOG; post vlog; comment on classmates’ vlogs

WEEK FIFTEEN – W, 5 Dec – Last Class Day

• Project Presentations

Final Exam Date: Wednesday, Dec 12, 4pm-6pm :: THERE WILL BE NO FINAL FOR LING 640