



Interlanguage and cross-cultural pragmatics (7.5 HECs)

ENIP75 | Fall 2019

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Office Hours: by appointment

Course Description

This course is intended to provide an overview and an understanding of how language and especially English is used in communicative situations, with a stress on face-to-face interaction. The course spans three areas:

- a) An introduction to fundamental theoretical concepts of pragmatics, such as communicative competence, pragmatic competence (sociopragmatic and pragmalinguistic), speech act theory, illocutionary force, and face.
- b) Communicative situations entailing learner (NNS-NS) interaction (interlanguage pragmatics).
- c) Cross-cultural interaction both in social contexts and the workplace (cross-cultural pragmatics), with a focus on power dynamics and issues attached to the use of English in a global perspective.

Note that the course is very reading intensive, and the schedule is rather tight. Please plan accordingly.

Learning Outcomes

At the end of the course, students are expected to be able to:

- ✓ Demonstrate knowledge of the most important concepts related to the study of pragmatics in general, and to inter-language and cross-cultural pragmatics in specific.
- ✓ Apply these concepts to the analysis of communicative issues in an area of personal interest.
- ✓ Comment, present and discuss concepts of interlanguage/cross-cultural pragmatics in relation to learning and communicating in English.

Grading

The course adopts the 7-grade SU scale. Degree projects could be linked to this course previous approval.

To receive a final grade, students must complete all the course requirements and assignments. To receive a passing grade (A to E), students must complete all the course requirements *and* demonstrate that they achieved all the learning outcomes at least at the minimum level (see grading criteria p. 4).

Required reading (selected sections, page numbers will be given during the course):

Textbook:

Boxer, D. (2002). [Applying Sociolinguistics. Domains and face-to-face interaction. Philadelphia, PA, USA: John Benjamins Publishing Company.](#) (E-book on SUB)

A list of additional readings will be provided to the students and posted on Mondo.

Students should submit a list of five additional readings (research articles or book chapters) on their topic of interest for approval towards the mid-term.

Course requirements

Students are required to:

- Attend at least 80% of the seminars. Missed seminars *must* be made up by submitting a written summary of *all* the required reading for the seminar (max 3 pages).
- Complete all the assigned Mondo posts (instructions in the seminar slides and in class)
- Complete all the course assignments (see below).

Course Assignments and final examination

To receive a passing grade, students must complete the following assignments *at least* with an E:

- A mid-term assignment (30% of grade).** Analysis of a communication scenario through pragmatic theory. The scenario must represent an instance of interaction between two or more interlocutors, and should serve to illustrate an aspect of language use in context discussed in the course. This assignment includes a short presentation in class (5 min) Specific instructions with requirements will be given in a separate document on Mondo and presented in class.
- A final examination essay (70% of the grade).** As a final examination, students will be required to submit a short essay using the literature presented in the course and additional secondary sources of their own finding. Specific instructions with requirements will be given in a separate document on Mondo and presented in class. Students have two options for the final essay:
 - a) Analysis of communication through a pragmatic approach. In this case, students will use a specific theory or topic learned in the course to describe and explain a real-world instance of communication in a social, educational, or professional setting.
 - b) Research overview on a topic in pragmatics. If students are interested in a specific topic or theory investigated by pragmatic research (i.e. Apologies, greetings, face) but cannot think of a specific situation, they can instead write a literature review on this topic.

Course format

The course will take place in seminar form, entailing discussions and in-class tasks. Students are expected to come to seminars prepared (i.e. having completed the assigned reading and homework). On each seminar we will start with a discussion of some of the questions that students have posted on the Mondo forums prior to the seminar.

Schedule

Seminar 1: Introduction to Pragmatics

- What is Pragmatics?
- Language in context: the study of discourse
- Grice's implicatures and principle of cooperation
- Speech Act theory
- Communicative competence

Homework: read Intro to the ebook (Boxer), read Shaw (1992) (see reading list). Prepare two-three questions for discussion, post on Mondo, in Forums

Seminar 2: Pragmatic Failure

- Felicity conditions (Searle)
- Pragmatic failure
- Power, Distance, Ranking of Imposition

Homework: read ebook ch. 3 and Blum-Kulka (in Van Dijk, given in class). Post on Mondo an example of pragmatic failure you have experienced. Prepare questions for discussion.

Seminar 3: Pragmatics in social contexts

- Discussion of readings
- Interlanguage and cross-cultural pragmatics: aims and differences
- Phatic communication'
- Face-threatening acts
- Greetings, politeness, requests and other social speech acts: the NNS traps

Homework: Read, ebook ch. 4, see Reading List. Prepare three questions for discussion, post on Mondo, in Forums.

Seminar 4: Interlanguage Pragmatics

- Discussion of readings
- Pragmatics in educational settings
- NS/NNS interaction: issues of power, gender, and rank of imposition

Homework: See Reading List. Also, start thinking about a communicative situation that you could analyze, do some independent research, post on Mondo your ideas. Respond to another student with some feedback. Prepare scenario and analysis.

Seminar 5: Scenarios **Mid-term assignment due on Mondo**

- In small groups, students will represent a scenario of pragmatic failure. This short representation (max 5 minutes) will exemplify various issues tied to the use of language in context.
- **Submit your mid-term assignment (see instructions on Mondo) by 12pm.**

Homework: Read ebook ch. 6 and Reading List. Prepare three questions for discussion, post on Mondo

Seminar 6: Pragmatics in professional contexts

- Cross-cultural pragmatics
- Communication at work: power and distance
- Multicultural workplaces and business transactions: the role of ELF

Homework: read ch7 ebook and Reading List

Schedule

Seminar 7: Doing research in IP and CP

- Discussion of readings
- Methods for studying IP and CP: from scenarios to conversation analysis
- Issues in the study of interlanguage and cross-cultural pragmatics: the dominance of English?

Homework: finish your course paper and bring a draft to class

Seminar 8: Workshop and tutorial

- Workshop of final papers
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Deadline Final assignment: Thursday, Oct 31, 2019, midnight

Resubmission date: Thursday, December 5, 2019, midnight

Grading criteria

Grade breakdown

Mid-term: 30% of grade	Final Essay: 70% of grade	Final grade: max 100%
A = 25-30%	A = 65 to 70%	A = 90-100%
B = 20-24%	B = 60 to 64%	B = 80-89%
C = 15-19%	C = 55 to 59%	C = 70-79%
D = 10-14%	D = 50 to 54%	D = 60-69%
E = 5-9%	E = 45 to 49%	E = 50-59%
Fx/F = 4% or less	Fx/F = < 45%	Fx/F = 49% or less

Grading criteria:

Mid-term	Final
<p>A. Excellent work The assignment demonstrates an advanced understanding of the pragmatics concepts presented in the course and an advanced ability to use this knowledge to analyze an instance of communication.</p>	<p>A. Excellent work. The final text shows an advanced understanding of pragmatics concepts, and the ability to apply these concepts for independent work. The final text expands on the coursework by integrating secondary sources in the area of the student's interest; it is well organized, clear, well written, and original.</p>
<p>B. Very good work</p>	<p>B. Very good work. Meets the criteria for C plus some for A.</p>
<p>C. Good work The assignments demonstrates a good understanding of the pragmatics concepts presented in the course and the ability to apply this knowledge to the analysis of an instance of communication.</p>	<p>C. Good work. The final text shows a good understanding of the main pragmatic theories and concepts, and the ability to apply the content learned in the course to compose a personal text on a topic of interest. The text is relatively well written and the overall organization clear.</p>
<p>D. Adequate. Meets the criteria for E plus some for C.</p>	<p>D. Adequate. Meets the criteria for E plus some for C.</p>
<p>E. Minimally adequate. The assignment demonstrates a basic understanding of the pragmatics concepts presented in the course and a limited but adequate ability to apply this knowledge to the analysis of an instance of communication.</p>	<p>E. Minimally adequate. The final text shows a limited understanding of the course content, and a limited ability to use this knowledge to do independent analysis/research work. The text presents some issues of clarity and organization.</p>
<p>F Insufficient. The above requirements are not met</p>	<p>F Insufficient. The above requirements are not met</p>

NB:

- If a student does not complete all of the requirements and assignments, no grade will be given.
- If the work submitted is close to a passing grade (E) but not sufficient, the student will receive an FX and will be asked to resubmit