

Professor Natasha Warner
Office: Douglass 320
Office Hours: W, F 11-12 & by apt.
Email: nwarner@u.arizona.edu

Lecture Class: W/F 1:00-1:50
Monday Class: (time depends on section)
Lecture Location: Social Science 100

INDV 101 - MIND, SELF AND LANGUAGE

This is a Tier 1 Core Course, which means it will be highly interdisciplinary and have a significant writing requirement. This requirement is met in 3 ways: 1) exams (essay type questions), 2) homework, and 3) a 6 page paper that is due October 24th.

This course will explore the nature of human beings, focusing on language. It includes topics such as how language is produced and understood, the brain and language, the structures of language, what people think about language, how language changes over time, and how individuals and groups use language. We will discuss questions like:

"Why are there so many kinds of English?"
"Why do kids say things the way they do?"
"How come I can't just talk to my computer in plain English?"
"Will we be able to in the future?"
"Does the U.S. have a national language? Should we?"

Most people have strong opinions about many language issues, and there are many other aspects of how language works that people tend not to be aware of. See the separate "class calendar" document for a list of specific topics and a schedule.

Text: There is no text to buy. There are, however, many readings on the class website. You are responsible for doing all the web readings. We will not announce them in class; you must access the web every week and do the readings.

Class Format: Lectures, films, discussions. Students are encouraged to participate. If you have something to say, raise your hand, then speak loudly so the class can hear what you have to say.

Office Hours: There are many TA office hours in addition to my own office hours. Office hours provide you a chance for more direct instruction than lecture does. **Please** visit our office hours. You may go to office hours held by the professor, your own TA, or any other TA. A schedule of office hours is posted on the course website.

Note: The lectures and the readings do not cover exactly the same material. The readings supplement the class. You will be responsible on tests for the material from both the readings and lectures. If you are absent, make sure to get the notes from another student.

Class Decorum: Treat everyone with courtesy. Arrive on time. If you enter class late, do so quietly, and sit in the back of the room. You may have to sit on the floor if you are late. Do not disturb other students.

Because this is a huge class, please try to arrive on time and be prepared to climb over students to get to seats. It is also rude to perpetually arrive late.

TURN OFF ALL CELL PHONES AND BEEPERS.

Obviously, with such a large class, unnecessary noise will make it difficult for those who want to hear the lecture to do so. Do not leave to answer or make phone calls unless you have an emergency situation (e.g. childcare or eldercare). It is disturbing to the people around you and makes it hard for others to learn.

Do not read the paper, read books for other classes, do crossword puzzles, watch DVDs on your laptop, etc. during class. If the TAs or I see you doing one these things, we will either take the non-class material away from you (you can pick it up at the end of class) or ask you to leave for the rest of that class session.

The TAs watch for frequent offenders of classroom rules. This may affect your grade (if at the end you are on the borderline).

Attendance: Attendance will have a direct impact on your grade through your ability to successfully complete homework and exams. Attendance will be taken in the Monday lab classes (and is a PART of that grade - you will also be graded on the quantity and quality of your contributions to classroom discussions. If you come every Monday, but never speak, you won't receive full credit for the Monday class grade.

Assignments: All assignments are due on the date specified on the class calendar. They are due at the BEGINNING of class, usually at your section. Once the TA picks up the homework at the beginning of class, any homework turned in after that is late. If you have a university sports or academic activity or will be absent on a due date for any reason, then turn the homework in early at the Linguistics Department's office (Douglass 200E). Ask the receptionist to mark the time and date on it when you turn it in (required for it to count as on time). Assignments are also considered late if you are absent the day they are due and do not turn them in in advance, regardless of your reason for being absent. All late homework assignments will be penalized 10% of the value of the assignment (=1 letter grade) per day, including weekend days. If the assignment comes in after the beginning of class on the day it is due, that counts as one day late. The next day counts as two days late. Finally: neither I nor the TA's pre-read homework assignments, but we are very happy to answer specific questions.

Evaluation:

Homework: 15%

Monday Class Grade: 5%

Abstract: 5%

Position Paper: 20 % (Resubmission can replace half (10%) of this grade)

Pop Quizzes 5%

Monday Tests: 25% (including the one during finals week)

Grades will be given in percentages. Final grades will be based on the following scale:
A = 90-100% B= 80-89% C = 70-79% D = 60-69% E = below 60%

See the class calendar document for a list of all deadlines and test dates.

Test grading policy. There will be 4 homework assignments and 4 Tests. 3 tests are during Monday sections, and one is during finals week. For the tests, we will take the average of the top 3 grades for the total (this includes the final). That is, the lowest test score will be dropped. There are no makeup tests without a hospital or police/accident report, except for athletic/academic event excused absences (see below). All makeup exams are at my discretion. The only cases in which we will give an early final exam are 1) military deployment (see below), 2) surgery which your doctor says must take place at finals time, or 3) impending birth of a baby.

ACADEMIC THEFT

Academic theft or copying will not be tolerated. Students will receive failing grades on any plagiarized assignments (homework, papers, abstracts, tests), and both plagiarism and other forms of cheating will be reported to the Dean of Students' Office. If any part of the work is plagiarized, it will receive a failing grade. This is a matter of ethics which we and the University feel very strongly about.

What constitutes plagiarism: Plagiarism is representing someone else's work as your own. We will discuss exactly what constitutes plagiarism and how to avoid it later in the semester.

Working together on homework: You are welcome to discuss the homework in groups. You should not write it up together, and your homework should not be the same as someone else's. If we find homework assignments that resemble each other too strongly, we will either warn you or fail the work, depending on the degree of similarity between them.

Military Personnel

If you are deployed away from Tucson during the semester, we will make every effort to help you complete the course or make other arrangements. Please see me if this situation arises, and we'll work out the details.

DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER

Students with disabilities who require accommodations to fully participate in course activities or meet course requirements must register with the Disability Resource Center. If you qualify for services through DRC, bring your letter of accommodations to me or your TA early in the semester.

Student athletes

If you will miss classes because you are on a university athletic team or academic activity, bring me a list of the dates you will miss for athletic/academic events, or have your coach send me this list, by the end of next week (second week of classes). If you

will miss the due date of an assignment or a due date for the paper, you must turn the assignment or paper in early (no extensions). If you will miss the date of a Monday test, you may take the test either within 2 weekdays before or 3 weekdays after the scheduled test date. You must arrange for this in advance.

Deadlines

We will enforce deadlines strictly, with the exceptions noted above (e.g. documentation from a hospital, military deployment, makeup exams for athletic/academic excused absences, etc.). **All** extensions, for any reason, require written documentation from the appropriate authority. Because we are very strict about deadlines, we drop the lowest test score, and we penalize late homework 10% of the possible grade per day late. Thus, if you are routinely trying hard, attending class, doing your best work, etc., and you turn one assignment in late because a legitimate reason prevented you from getting to class on time that day, it won't hurt your overall course grade very much. If you miss one test for a reason which does not qualify you for a makeup exam, you should study harder for the other three tests, and the one you miss will be the one dropped.