

University of Arkansas – Fort Smith

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General Syllabus

FORL 2503 Language and Society

Credit Hours: 3 **Lecture Hours:** 3 **Laboratory hours:** 0

Prerequisite: ENGL 1203 Composition I or ENGL 1233 Honors Composition

Effective: Summer I 2014

I. Course Information

A. Catalog Description

Study of the basic characteristics of language and of its use and variations in society.

B. Additional Information

This course surveys topics in the study of language related to its use in society, including how it is used differentially according to the gender, age, ethnicity, and nationality of the speaker, and depending on the context, genre, level of formality and medium of communication.

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject Matter

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate comprehension of differences in language depending on social variables.
2. Demonstrate comprehension of differences in language depending on contextual variables.
3. Demonstrate comprehension and awareness of personal language use and how it affects their relationship with others.

B. University Learning Outcomes

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

Global and Cultural Perspectives

Students will be able to reflect upon cultural and linguistic differences and their implications for interacting with people from cultures other than their own.

Communication Skills

Students will communicate proficiently. Students will be able to communicate, both in written and oral format, on topics related to language awareness and use.

Analytical Skills

Students will use analytical/critical thinking skills to draw conclusions and/or solve problems. They will be able to access and evaluate appropriate information through written and electronic means, as well as to think critically to reach viable solutions to a problem and be able to justify those solutions.

Technological Skills

Students will use computerized tools to efficiently access, communicate, analyze, and evaluate electronic information. They will use technology as a learning tool to communicate and to conduct research on cultural topics.

III. Major Course Topics

- A. The nature of language: structure and origins
- B. Language, culture, and ethnicity
- C. Language and medium of communication
- D. Professional language (jargon)
- E. Language and politics
- F. Language and gender
- G. Standard and non-standard language