

BILINGUALISM: LCD 706, Fall 2002

Bilingualism is not a phenomenon of language; it is a characteristic of its use. It is not a feature of the code but of the message. It does not belong to the domain of "langue" but of "parole". (Mackey, 1962)

OBJECTIVES ("COURSE INFORMATION")

LCD 706 (sec. E6R3, code 1035) meets in Rathaus 201, Thursdays, 6:30-9:20 p.m.

An introduction to bilingualism, this course focuses on sociolinguistic and psycholinguistic investigations of the topic. We will first address the organization of bilingual communities, examining the societal factors known to affect maintenance or loss of bilingualism. We will also explore the discourse functions of code-switching and analyze some of the linguistic constraints on code-switched utterances. We will survey issues related to the acquisition and representation of two languages. We will conclude the semester by discussing the education of children who speak more than one language, particularly in the United States. Throughout the semester, you will become familiarized with a variety of research methods used in studies of bilinguals and you will have the opportunity to conduct original research.

INSTRUCTOR ("STAFF INFORMATION")

Dr. Eva M. Fernández

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Phone: 718-997-2867, -2992

Office hours: Thursdays, 5:00-6:00 p.m., or by appointment

READINGS ("COURSE MATERIAL")

The required text, *The Bilingualism Reader* (Li Wei, ed., 2000, London, UK: Routledge), is available at the Queens College Bookstore (<http://www.queens.bkstr.com>, 718-997-3573; \$22.50 used, \$28.50 new).

Additional required and suggested readings will be placed on reserve at the Queens College Library. Check the course website for the most up-to-date list.

REQUIREMENTS ("ASSIGNMENTS")

This course will be taught as a seminar, rather than a lecture course, focusing on your in-class participation and out-of-class reading and research.

- You will be responsible for staying up to date on all the **assigned readings**, in order to be able to participate fully in class. You are reminded to use the Library's resources (<http://www.qc.edu/Library>) to find additional reading material for the topics you are most interested in, since required readings cannot possibly cover *everything*.
- Your attendance to all class meetings is essential. While poor participation or poor attendance never results in a lower grade, regular **participation** in in-class discussions will improve your grade (calculated based on the following three items).
- You will write two **papers**, described in more detail on the website. Each paper contributes **35%** to your final grade. The papers should provide you with the opportunity to integrate the material you will be reading for this class with first-hand observations of the bilingual community you live in, the bilingual students you teach, the bilingual individuals you are acquainted with. The due dates for the papers are listed in the week-by-week schedule (on the back of this sheet as well as on the class website). **No extensions (and no grades of INC) will be granted—save for extreme circumstances.**
- You will prepare a 10-minute **oral presentation** based on one of the two papers you will write for this class. Your presentation contributes **20%** to your final grade. Student presentations will take place on the last two days of class (see week-by-week schedule); we will schedule the presentations thematically. Be sure to let me know if you have audio-visual requirements for your presentation. (A screen and a data projector will be available both days.)

- You are required to participate in an **online discussion**, where questions related to the material presented in class will be posted. This will contribute **10%** to your final grade. You should check the discussion board regularly (e.g., at least once a week), and contribute to each question posted.
- In the interest of fairness, "extra credit" work will not be accepted in this class. If you encounter difficulties with the course material and/or with the assignments, you are encouraged to come to my office hours, or to schedule an appointment with me.

WEEK-BY-WEEK SCHEDULE (“LECTURES”)

Week	Date	Topic	Reading	Assignments Due
1.	09/05	BILINGUALISM: AN INTRODUCTION	Ch 1 (recommended: pp. 3-25, 475-486)	
2.	09/12	LANGUAGE CHOICE	Ch 2	
3.	09/19		Ch 3, 4	First assmt: QCOonline
4.	09/26	CODE-SWITCHING AND COMMUNICATIVE COMPETENCE	Ch 5	
5.	10/03		Ch 6	
6.	10/10	GENERATING CODE-SWITCHED UTTERANCES	Ch 9	
7.	10/17		Ch 10	
8.	10/24		Ch 18	
9.	10/31	ACQUISITION AND REPRESENTATION OF TWO LANGUAGES	Ch 12, 13	Midterm paper
10.	11/07		Ch 14, 15	
11.	11/14		Ch 16, 17	Abstract for final paper
12.	11/21	BILINGUAL EDUCATION	Lyons (on e-reserve)	
11/28 NO CLASS: THANKSGIVING BREAK				
13.	12/05	STUDENT PRESENTATIONS		
14.	12/12			Final paper

THIS WEEK-BY-WEEK SCHEDULE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE. Check the class website for the latest version.

ACCESSING THE CLASS WEBSITE

Please see the attached handout for information on the online component of this class. It explains how to access the class website, in the QC Online system.

REMEMBER: E-mail exchanges between you and me are confidential, but material you post on the class website as well as papers you submit for this class are public documents.

05-Sep-02