

University of Arkansas - Fort Smith
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General Syllabus

ENGL 2503 Language and Society

Credit Hours: 3 Lecture Hours: 3 Laboratory or other types of Hours: 0

Prerequisite(s): ENGL 1203 Composition I or ENGL 1233 Honors Composition
Effective Catalog: 2019-2020

I. Course Information

A. Catalog Description

Study of the basic characteristics of language and 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. Identify features of language and possible variations
2. Recognize social and contextual factors that influence variations in language form and language use
3. Report on observed variations in language form and language use
4. Interpret observations based on knowledge of social and contextual factors that influence language form and use
5. Examine language form and use in a specific area related to class topics

B. University Learning Outcomes

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

Analytical Skills

Critical Thinking Skills

Students will identify problems/issues and develop solutions/analysis. Students will identify a problems/issues related to language and society and reflect on

potential solutions/consequences related to these problems/issues through writing and oral assignments.

Communication Skills (written and oral)

Students will communicate proficiently. Students will communicate both orally and in writing throughout the class on topics related to language and society.

Ethical Decision Making

Students will model ethical decision-making processes. Students will develop in this area by identifying and discussing various ethical issues related to the topics of the class.

Global and Cultural Perspectives

Students will reflect upon cultural differences and their implications for interacting with people from cultures other than their own. Students will develop in this area by discussing, either orally or in writing, global and cultural perspectives related to course 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. Language in the professions (e.g. education, law/criminal justice, business, health care, STEM)
- E. Language and politics
- F. Language and gender
- G. Standard and non-standard language