

**ANT 393:
SPEECH PLAY AND VERBAL ART
SAC 4.116
T 2-5**

Instructor Information:

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SAC 4.154
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Description: This course explores the sociocultural and linguistic foundations and uses of speech play and verbal art. We will explore a variety of kinds of speech play and verbal art (from jokes, to songs, to stories, to puns, to poetry). Issues to be discussed will revolve around the social uses of speech play and verbal art (what is being commented on and what is being done through such poetic uses of language), questions of translation, aesthetics, and changes in the uses and aesthetic judgments of speech play and verbal art. Far from a marginal pursuit of anthropology, this class will place a concern with speech play and verbal art at the center of questions about identity, power and inequality, and language ideologies. Speech play and verbal art become central to understanding the language, culture, society, and individual nexus.

Requirements: Each student will be responsible for leading discussions during the course of the semester (the actual number of times will be dependent on the number of students in the course). We will decide such matters during the first meeting. Come prepared to each class for discussion. The student(s) leading discussion for a given week will produce a handout summarizing the main arguments of each reading for the class. The handout will also include discussion questions for each reading. Students not presenting that week will also come with discussion questions (written) and they will be collected at the beginning of the class.

A final paper, on a topic to be agreed upon with the instructor, is due April 29th. The paper should be between 15-25 pages. Each student will give a presentation on the topic of their research during the last week of the semester. The order will be decided prior to that week.

The structure of this course can be modified at the discretion of the instructor.

Leading Discussions: 30%
In Class Presentation: 20%
Final Paper: 40%
Participation: 10%

Readings are available either on-line through the library (those readings are indicated via on-line) or through Blackboard (so indicated via pdf). Books can be had at whatever the usual places are (some of the books are also eBooks in the library).

Required Texts:

- Basso, Keith. (1979). *Portraits of the Whiteman. Linguistic Play and Cultural Symbols among the Western Apache*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP.
- Evers, Larry and Felipe Molina. (1987). *Yaqui Deer Songs/ Maso Bwikan: A Native American Poetry*. Tucson: University of Arizona.
- Sherzer, Joel. (2002). *Speech Play and Verbal Art*. Austin: University of Texas Press.
- Webster, Anthony. (2009). *Explorations in Navajo Poetry and Poetics*. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press.

Special Issues to be Read for Class:

Journal of Folklore Research. 50(1-3). 2013. *Ethnopoetics, Narrative Inequality, and Voice: The Legacy of Dell Hymes*. Edited by Paul Kroskrity and Anthony Webster.

Schedule:

Jan. 14 Week one: introductions

Jan. 21: Week two: orientations

Jakobson, Roman.

1960. "Concluding Statement: Linguistics and Poetics." In *Style in Language*. (Ed. Thomas Sebeok). Cambridge, MA: MIT Press. 350-373. (pdf)

Bauman, Richard.

1975. "Verbal Art as Performance." *American Anthropologist*. 77(2): 290-311. **(On-Line)**

Friedrich, Paul.

1979. "Poetic Language and the Imagination: A Reformulation of the Sapir Hypothesis." In *Language, Context, and the Imagination*. Stanford: Stanford UP. 441-512. (pdf)

Hopper, Paul.

1987. "Emergent Grammar." *Berkeley Linguistics Society*. 13: 139-157. **(On-Line)**

Jan. 28: Week three: speech play and verbal art

Sherzer, Joel.

2002. *Speech Play and Verbal Art*. Austin: University of Texas Press.

Feb. 4: Week four: Hymesian ethnopoetics (a sampler)

Hymes, Dell.

1979. "How to Talk Like a Bear in Takelma." *IJAL*. 45(2): 101-106. **(On-Line)**
1981. "Reading Clackamas Texts." In *Traditional Literatures of the American Indian*. (ed. Karl Kroeber). Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press. 117-159.
1987. "Tonkawa Poetics: John Rush Buffalo's 'Coyote and Eagle's Daughter.'" In *Native American Discourse: Poetics and Rhetoric*. (eds. Joel Sherzer and Anthony Woodbury). Cambridge: Cambridge UP. 17-61.
1992. "Use all there is to use." In *On the Translation of Native American Literatures*. (ed. Brian Swann). Washington DC: Smithsonian. 83-124.

Feb 11: Week five: structurings

Tedlock, Dennis.

1983. "The Poetics of Verisimilitude." In *The Spoken Word and the Work of Interpretation*. Philadelphia: Pennsylvania UP. 159-177. (pdf)

Sherzer, Joel.

1982. "Poetic Structuring of Kuna discourse: The line." *Language in Society*. 11: 371-390. **(on-line)**

Woodbury, Anthony.

1985. "The Function of Rhetorical Structure: A Study of Central Alaskan Yupik Eskimo Discourse." *Language in Society*. 14: 153-190. **(On-Line)**

Wiget, Andrew.

1987. "Telling the Tale: A performance analysis of a Hopi Coyote Story." In *Recovering the Word*. (eds. Brian Swann and Arnold Krupat). Berkeley: California UP. 297-338. (pdf)

Law, Danny.

2007. "Poetic style in colonial Ch'olti' Mayan." *Latin American Indian Literatures Journal*. 23(2): 142-168. **(On-Line)**

Feb. 18: Week six: translation

Becker, Alton.

1984. "The Linguistics of Particularity: Interpreting superordination in a Javanese text." *Berkeley Linguistics Society*. 425-436. **(on-line)**

Leavitt, John.

2006. "Thick Translation: Three Soundings." In *Language, Culture and the Individual*. (eds. O'Neil, Catherine; Mary Scoggin, and Kevin Tuite). Meunchen: Lincom. 79-108. (pdf)

Anderson, Myrdene.

2005. "The Saami Yoik: Translating Hum, Chant, or/and Song." In *Song and Significance*. (ed. Dinda Gorrée). Amsterdam: Rodopi. 213-234. (pdf)

Anderson, Jeffrey.

2006. "The Poetics of Tropes and Dreams in Arapaho Ghost Dance Songs." In *New Perspectives on Native North America*. (eds. Sergei Kan and Pauline Turner Strong). Lincoln: Nebraska UP. 122-161. (pdf)

Webster, Anthony.

- nd. "Everything got kinda strange after awhile: Some reflections on translating Navajo poetry that should not be translated." (pdf)

Feb 25: Week seven: after Hymes (two presenters)

Ethnopoetics, Narrative Inequality, and Voice: The Legacy of Dell Hymes. Special Issue. *Journal of Folklore Research*. 50(1-3). **(on-line)**

Mar. 4: Week eight: sound

Briggs, Charles.

1996. "The Meaning of Nonsense, the Poetics of Embodiment, and the Production of Power in Warao Healing." In *The Performance of Healing*. (eds. Laderman, Carol and Roseman, Marina.). New York: Routledge. 185-232. (pdf)

Bunte, Pamela.

2002. "Verbal Artistry in Southern Paiute Narratives: Reduplication as a Stylistic Process." *Journal of Linguistic Anthropology*. 12(1): 3-33. **(on-line)**

Feld, Steven.

1996. "Waterfalls of Song." In *Senses of Place*. (eds. Feld, Steven and Basso, Keith). Santa Fe: School of American Research. 91-135. (pdf)

Nuckolls, Janis.

1992. "Sound Symbolic Involvement." *Journal of Linguistic Anthropology*. 2(1):51-80. **(on-line)**

Rumsey, Alan.

2001. "Tom Yaya Kange: A Metrical Narrative Genre from the New Guinea Highlands." *Journal of Linguistic Anthropology*. 11(2): 193-239. **(on-line)**

Mar. 11: Spring Break (no class)

Mar. 18: Week ten: Navajo poetry

Webster, Anthony.

2009. *Explorations in Navajo Poetry and Poetics*. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press.

Mar. 25: Week eleven: prophecy, gods, poetics

Leavitt, John.

1997. "Poetics, Prophecy, and Inspiration." In *Poetry and Prophecy: The Anthropology of Inspiration*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press. 1-60. (pdf)

1997. "The Language of the Gods: Craft and Inspiration in Central Himalayan Ritual Discourse." In *Poetry and Prophecy: The Anthropology of Inspiration*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press. 129-168. (pdf)

Balzer, Marjorie.

1997. "The Poetry of Sakha (Siberian Yakut) Shamanism." In *Poetry and Prophecy: The Anthropology of Inspiration*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press. 93-127. (pdf)

Mould, Tom.

2002. "Prophetic Riddling: A Dialogue of Genres in Choctaw Performance." *Journal of American Folklore*. 115(457/458): 395-421. **(on-line)**

Dorbin, Lise.

2012. "Ethnopoetic Analysis as a Resource for Endangered-Language Linguistics: The Social Production of an Arapesh Text." *Anthropological Linguistics*. 54(1): 1-32. **(on-line)**

April 1: Week twelve: portraits of White Men, speaking with names

Basso, Keith.

1979. *Portraits of the Whiteman. Linguistic Play and Cultural Symbols among the Western Apache*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

1988. 'Speaking with names': Language and Landscape Among the Western Apache. *Cultural Anthropology*. 3(2): 99-130. **(on-line)**

April 8: Week thirteen: power (or something like it)

Paredes, Américo.

1977. "On ethnographic work among minority groups: a folklorist's perspective." *New Scholar*. 6: 1-32 **(on-line)**

Briggs, Charles and Bauman, Richard.

1992. "Genre, Intertextuality, and Social Power." *Journal of Linguistic Anthropology*. 2(2): 131-172. **(on-line)**

Hill, Jane.

1995. "The Voices of Don Gabriel: Responsibility and Self in a Modern Mexicano Narrative." In *The Dialogic Emergence of Culture*. (eds. Dennis Tedlock and Bruce Mannheim). Urbana: University of Illinois Press. 97-147. (pdf)

Graham, Laura.

2002. "How Should an Indian Speak?" In *Indigenous Movements, Self-Representations, and the State in Latin America*. (eds. Warren, Kay and Jackson, Jean). Austin: Texas UP. 181-228. (pdf)

Sherzer, Joel.

1994. "The Kuna and Columbus: Encounters and Confrontations of Discourse." *American Anthropologist*. 96: 902-924. **(on-line)**

April 15: Week fourteen: Yaqui Deer songs

Larry Evers and Felipe Molina.

1987. *Yaqui Deer Songs*. Arizona: University of Arizona Press.

<http://wordsandplace.arizona.edu/seywailo.html>

April 22: Week fifteen: continuity and change

Armstrong-Fumero, Fernando.

2009. "Old Jokes and New Multiculturalisms: Continuity and Change in Vernacular Discourse on the Yucatec Maya Language." *American Anthropologist*. 111(3): 360-372. **(on-line)**

Falconi, Elizabeth.

2013. "Storytelling, Language Shift, and Revitalization in a Transborder Community: 'Tell it in Zapotec!'" *American Anthropologist*. 115(4): 622-636. **(on-line)**

Peterson, Leighton and Anthony Webster.

2013. "Speech Play and Language Ideologies in Navajo Terminology Development." *Pragmatics*. 23(1): 95-118. **(on-line)**

Suslak, Daniel.

2010. "Battered Spanish, Eloquent Mixe: Form and Function of Mixe Difrasisimos." *Anthropological Linguistics*. 52(1): 80-103. **(on-line)**

Woodbury, Anthony.

1998. "Documenting rhetorical, aesthetic, and expressive loss in language shift." In *Endangered Languages*. (Eds. Grenoble, Lenore and Whaley, Lindsay). Cambridge: Cambridge UP. 234-258. (pdf)

April 29: Week sixteen: presentations

FINAL PAPER DUE

Special Needs

Students with disabilities who require special accommodations need to get a letter that documents the disability from the Services for Students with Disabilities area of the Office of the Dean of Students (471-6259 voice or 471-4641 TTY for users who are deaf or hard of hearing). This letter should be presented to me at the beginning of the semester and accommodations needed should be discussed at that time. See following website for more information: <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/ssd/providing.php>

Emergency Evacuation Policy

Occupants of buildings on the UT Austin campus are required to evacuate and assemble outside when a fire alarm is activated or an announcement is made. Please be aware of the following policies regarding evacuation: Familiarize yourself with all exit doors of the classroom and the building.

Remember that the nearest exit door may not be the one you used when you entered the building. If you require assistance to evacuate, inform me in writing during the first week of class. In the event of an evacuation, follow my instructions or those of class instructors. Do not re-enter a building unless you're given instructions by the Austin Fire Department, the UT Austin Police Department, or the Fire Prevention Services office.