

LING/SPAN 5388: Bilingualism--Fall 2019

1. The purpose and range of the course

A. Bilingualism and, more broadly Languages in Contact, is an important topic that interfaces with all aspects of linguistics. Accordingly, the study of bilingualism provides ways to understand linguistic structures, how language is acquired, and how languages change. Students with little prior exposure to these topics can gain an appreciation of these aspects of the study of language. Students with prior knowledge can extend their grasp of the issues in linguistics.

B. Bilingualism must also be treated as an aspect of sociolinguistics (which has key overlap with historical linguistics). Individual bilinguals present widely varying cases as do bilingual societies. The characterization and discussion of individual bilinguality and societal bilingualism will constitute an important aspect of the course. We will also give significant attention to the implications of bilinguality and bilingualism for educational theory and practice. We will be especially interested in the data reflecting Spanish-English bilingualism.

C. We will engage the data and circumstance of Spanish-English Bilingualism and Bilinguality in El Paso, an exemplary bilingual community but we will also be concerned with broader dimensions and other bilingual relationships.

D. This course is presented by Prof. Charles Elerick, Department of Languages and Linguistics.

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Office hours: Tuesday 4:40-5:50; or by appointment; Online consultation seven days a week.

3. Materials

There is no assigned text for this course. Extensive chapter notes to Hamers, Josieane F. and Michel H.A. Blanc, *Bilinguality and Bilingualism, 2nd ed.* (2000). Cambridge Univ. Press are available at the course site. Reserve copies

of the text will be available in the UTEP Library. Other material will be available digitally at the BB course site or distributed in hardcopy.

5. Grading Plan

Ten Guided Participation Exercises, 100 pts. each = 1000 points

Course grades will be assigned on the following scale:

910 – 1000 points A

810 – 900 points B

710 – 800 points C

650 – 700 points D

0 - 649 points F

6. Activity Plan for this Hybrid Course

We will have seven in-class meetings during the semester. The course activities will begin the first week of classes, Aug. 26th with a first reading and a first Collaborative exercise. The first meeting will be on Sept. 5th. The course calendar will be set at the Sept. 5th meeting.

Guided Participation Exercises and Assignments will be managed online using Collaboration Wikis and the BB Assignment utility.

In this online hybrid course students are encouraged to be in touch with the professor on a continuing and seven-day a week basis. This is different from traditional instruction which is solely classroom-based. Students are also encouraged to communicate with each other in informal learning support groups, both online and in other informal arrangements.