English 4571 – Studies in the English Language
Language and Media: English on the Big, Small, and Smaller Screens
Fall 2013

Instructor: Dr. Lauren Squires
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Class time: Tuesday & Thursday 11:10-12:30
Location: Denney Hall 214
Office hours: Tuesday/Thursday 2-3:30
and by appointment (email me)

1. Course Description
The uses of language in media reveal the complicated interplays of language and social identity. This course will explore the English language in various popular media, bringing critical analysis to bear on language in media texts. The first part of the course will examine linguistic issues in the mass media, like movies, TV, newspapers, music, and sports broadcasting. The second part of the course will cover interpersonal and "new" media such as cell phones, email, instant messaging, Facebook, Twitter, and texting. In our investigations, we will pay careful attention to media forms and formats, linguistic forms, and social factors.

2. Required Texts
Required articles will be on the class Carmen site under “Required Readings.”


3. Course Requirements
The course is worth 100 points distributed as follows:

In-class Participation – 10
Media Presentation - 15
Reading Quizzes – 25 (6 @ 5 points each)
Short Paper 1 (Mass Media) – 25
Short Paper 2 (Digital Media) - 25

Points will transfer to letter grades as follows:
A 94 and above
A- 90
B+ 87
B 83
B- 80
C+ 77
C 73
C- 70
D+ 67
D 60
4. Course Requirement Descriptions

Attendance. You may miss two unexcused classes without penalty; beyond that, each absence will deduct two points from your final grade. I will take attendance each class. Five unexcused absences will result in failure of the course.

In-class Participation. This class will be heavily focused on in-class participation, including large-group discussions and small activities. There will be lecture, but as the overarching goal of the course is to practice our analytical skills around language in the media, we will do just that – practice! These aren’t giveaway points. Please come to class ready to engage with the material, with me, and with each other.

Media Presentation. The class is loosely organized around four analytical themes: language variation, discourse, register/genre/style, and digital media. Each student will be responsible for a “show and tell” presentation that considers a media artifact from the perspective of one of these themes. Your entire presentation will last 5-10 minutes.

Reading Quizzes. You will have 6 reading quizzes over the course of the semester, worth 5 points each for a total of 25 points. (This means that you can miss one entirely without losing points.) These are not designed to be punitive, but rather to ensure that you are doing the reading and thinking it through. Quizzes will be administered through Carmen and you will take them at home, on your own time. Thus, they are effectively “open book.” There will be a 3-day period in which each quiz will be available online.

Paper 1. Your first paper (5-6 pages) will analyze language in the mass media.

Paper 2. Your second paper (5-6 pages) will analyze language in digital media.

5. Other Class Policies and Resources

My core expectation is that you CARE about this class:

Communication
  Let me know how the class is going; let me know what you need to succeed.
Attendance
  Come to class! Don’t text message in class!
Responsibility
  Do the work on time and to the best of your ability.
Engagement
  Participate; make friends; respect me and each other; challenge yourself.

Classroom Community. This class will be interactive and collaborative, and everyone should feel welcome and safe. Be respectful of and generous to your classmates. Please tell me if anything is keeping you from benefiting fully from the class.
Technology. Take a break from your screens! You will be dismissed from class if I see you using a cell phone or laptop or tablet or whatever for anything other than course work. If you plan to use a laptop to take notes for class, kindly inform me the first week.

Course Work. I simply will not accept late work unless I clear it in advance for a good reason.

Academic Honesty. Plagiarism is the unauthorized use of the words or ideas of another person. It is a serious academic offense that can result in referral to the Committee on Academic Misconduct. Please remember that at no point during the writing process should the work of others be presented as your own. It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term "academic misconduct" includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct.

Class Cancellation. In the event that an emergency arises and I must cancel class last-minute, I will contact you by email as soon as possible, and inform the English department main office.

Accommodations. The Office for Disability Services provides services to any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability. Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; OSU Office for Disability Services Web Site.

The OSU Writing Center. Free, professional writing tutoring and consultation. You may set up an appointment by calling 688-4291 or by dropping by the center at 475 Mendenhall Laboratories. If you are interested in on-line writing advice, visit the OWL (On-Line Writing Lab) at www.cstw.osu.edu. You can also visit the Younkin Success Center in Building 052 at 1640 Neil Ave. You can walk in without an appointment.

Counseling and Consultation Services. A wide range of resources for undergraduate students. For more information call 292-5766.

Student Advocacy Center. Empowers students to overcome obstacles to their growth both inside and outside the classroom, and to help them maximize their educational experience while pursuing their degrees at The Ohio State University. The SAC is open
Monday-Friday from 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM. You can visit them in person at 1120 Lincoln Tower, call at (614) 292-1111, email advocacy@osu.edu, or visit their website: http://studentlife.osu.edu/advocacy/

**Walter E. Dennis Learning Center.** Provides learning support in study skills, time management, goal-setting, etc. Offers workshops and individual consultations. Open Monday-Friday, 8 AM-5 PM. Located at 250 Younkin Success Center, 1640 Neil Ave. Phone: 614-688-4011. Email: wedlc@osu.edu. Website: http://dennislearningcenter.osu.edu