

Fall 2003

Prof. Jane Zuengler

EN 905: Critical Perspectives in Applied Linguistics and SLA

Mondays 1:00-3:30 p.m.
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Office hours: TR 2:00-3:00 (or by appt)

Seminar description:

Starting with such topics as World Englishes/linguistic imperialism, critical discourse analysis, and methods and metaphors for second language acquisition, we will primarily orient ourselves to locating and understanding issues and points of controversy in the literature in each of the areas. We recognize that complexity, disagreement, and in some cases, heated debate are common in any intellectual endeavor to understand phenomena in the world, and in our case, language. Through reading, discussion, and presentations, we will consider some current issues and controversies in a variety of subareas within applied linguistics and second language acquisition, identifying where possible the historical backgrounds of the issues, and determining where we individually situate ourselves vis-à-vis the points of difference. It is hoped that through such attention to issues, students will come to have a more complexified, nuanced view of some areas of the field as well as preparation for identifying and situating themselves vis-à-vis the inevitable issues or controversies existing within their specific area of research and theoretical interest. Toward achieving the latter, students will be asked to select a research area of their interest to focus on for concentrated reading, presentations to the seminar, and the writing of an issue-oriented review of literature.

Requirements:

- 40% (1) A critical, annotated bibliography of work in an area of your choice; your bibliography will foreground issues in this area. (2) A presentation to the seminar (30-45 min.) on your bibliographic reading. **Bibliography due Week 8 (Oct. 27).** Presentations given Weeks 7, 8, 9 (Oct. 20, Oct. 27, Nov. 3).
- 40% (1) A data-based research project *or* a paper synthesizes and critically reviews literature, foregrounding issues, in a relevant area of your choice. (2) A seminar presentation (about 45 min.), within Weeks 13-15, of your project or critical review of literature. The project/critical review is to be written up and will be due **Dec. 15.**
- 20% With another student(s), lead a critical discussion based on our reading; determine points or activities for discussion which enable us to understand, analyze, and critique where possible the issues in what we have read.

(In addition, regular attendance and participation in discussions are expected.)
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Required texts: (available at the University Bookstore)

- 1) McCarthy, M. (2001). *Issues in Applied Linguistics*. Cambridge University Press.
- 2) Seidlhofer, B. (Ed.) (2003). *Controversies in Applied Linguistics*. Oxford University Press.

Calendar:

Week 1 **Introduction; Starting to Consider Issues in Studying Language**
9/8

Rdg: McCarthy, Chapters 1 & 2

Week 2 **Some Issues in Modelling Languages and in Language Acquisition**
9/15

Rdg: McCarthy, Chapters 3 & 4

Discussion led by:

Week 3 **Considering Several Issues in Language as Discourse and in Applied Linguistics as a Practice**
9/22

Rdg: McCarthy, Chapters 5 & 6

Discussion led by:

Week 4 **Issues in the Spread of English; in Corpus Linguistics**
9/29

Rdg: Seidlhofer, Sections 1 & 2

Discussion led by:

Week 5 **Some Debates within Second Language Acquisition**
10/6

Rdg: Seidlhofer, Section 4

Discussion led by:

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Week 6 **Issues in Critical Discourse Analysis; in Characterizing Applied Linguistics** 10/13

Rdg: Seidlhofer, Sections 3 & 5

Discussion led by:

Week 7 **Presentations of your Bibliographic Focuses**
10/20

Week 8 **Presentations of your Bibliographic Focuses, cont'd**
10/27

Bibliographies due 10/27.

Week 9 **Presentations of your Bibliographic Focuses, cont'd**
11/3

Week 10 **Discussion of Applied Linguistics Controversies/Issues You Find in
11/10 Hardcopy Journals or Online**

Week 11 **Discussion of Applied Linguistics Controversies/Issues You Find in
11/17 Hardcopy Journals or Online, cont'd**

Week 12 **Individual Conferences – No Class**

Week 13 **Presentations of Projects/Critical Reviews**
12/1 (about 45 min. each)

Week 14 **Presentations of Projects/Critical Reviews, cont'd**
12/8

Week 15 **Presentations of Projects/Critical Reviews, cont'd**
12/15

Papers due 12/15.