

# DISCOURSE ANALYSIS

Spring 2024

**Instructor:** Chen-Yu Chester Hsieh

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**Class time:** Thursday, 12:10~15:10

**Office:** HSS-B505

**Office hours:** Thursday, 10:30~11:30, 15:30~16:30; by appointment

## Course Description

Life is made up by various types and forms of discourse, from daily conversation, short videos, and social media posts to textbooks, lectures and PowerPoint slides. The ability to comprehend and generate discourse appropriately has influence over our daily routines, academic studies, career development and even interpersonal relationships. Analyzing discourse thus allows us to delve into the essence of language, interaction and society. In this course, which will be conducted primarily in English, we will study the major principles, methods and applications of discourse analysis (DA) in linguistics and applied linguistics and explore basic concepts of DA, features of different types of discourse, tools for DA research, and links of DA to various other domains and disciplines, such as vocabulary, grammar, cognition, pragmatics, and society. Throughout this course, we will learn how to collect data, observe patterns, and analyze phenomena like a discourse analyst.

By the end of this course, students should be able to

- (1) describe what discourse and discourse analysis are;
- (2) identify the connections between discourse and other domains of language and life;
- (3) utilize the methods discussed in class to analyze discourse data; and
- (4) conduct a research project based on the principles and methodology of discourse analysis.

## Textbooks and Readings

1. Johnstone, B. (2008). *Discourse Analysis*. (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition). Malden, MA: Blackwell.
2. Paltridge, B. (2012). *Discourse Analysis: An Introduction*. New York, NY: Continuum.
3. Schneider, K. P., & Barron, A. (Eds.). (2014). *Pragmatics of Discourse*. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.
4. Strauss, S. & Feiz, P. (2013). *Discourse Analysis: Putting Our World into Words*. New York, NY: Routledge.
5. Other selected articles

## Grading

### 1. Attendance and participation 15%

Students are expected to attend punctually, and participate actively in, each class meeting. Only three absences are allowed throughout the semester.

## 2. Data analysis exercises 40%

Students will work in or after class on a set of discourse data and analyze it based on the principles and methods introduced in the course. A short written response needs to be submitted each time to present their analysis.

## 3. Group presentation 15%

Each group will choose one of the topics listed in the schedule and has to summarize and present the content of the assigned reading to the entire class.

## 4. Final project 25%

For the final project, which can be conducted individually or in groups, students have to conduct a systematic analysis of texts and/or talks based on the topics and approaches discussed in this course. They are required to make an oral presentation and submit a short written report by the end of the semester.

## 5. Self-evaluation 5%

Students will be filling out a self-evaluation survey at the end of this semester. They will be asked to answer a number of questions related to their own performance in this class and give themselves a score.

### **Tentative Schedule**

Week	Date	Topic(s)	Activities and Assignments
W1	02/22	Course Orientation	
W2	02/29	What Is Discourse Analysis and Why Does It Matter? (J-Ch1)	
W3	03/07	Discourse and Language (St-Ch2)	
W4	03/14	Types of Discourse (St-Ch3)	
W5	03/21	Discourse and Cognition (St-Ch5)	Data Analysis Exercise 1
W6	03/28	Discourse and Pragmatics (St-Ch7)	
W7	04/04	Tomb Sweeping Festival / Children's Day (No Class)	
W8	04/11	Discourse and Society (P-Ch2)	
W9	04/18	Doing Discourse Analysis (P-Ch11) Final Project Discussion 1	Data Analysis Exercise 2
W10	04/25	Corpus-based Discourse Analysis (Sc-Ch8)	Group 1 Presentation
W11	05/02	Conversation Analysis (St-Ch6)	Group 2 Presentation
W12	05/09	Multimodal Discourse Analysis (Sc-Ch9)	Data Analysis Exercise 3 Group 3 Presentation
W13	05/16	Critical Discourse Analysis (St-Ch9)	Group 4 Presentation

W14	05/24	Final Project Discussion 2	Data Analysis Exercise 4
W15	05/30	Final Presentation 1	
W16	06/06	Final Presentation 2	Self-evaluation Written Report

### **About Cheating and Plagiarism**

1. Cheating and plagiarism are not allowed under any circumstances. Students will be facing serious consequences if caught cheating or plagiarizing.
2. If you are using the words, data and/or ideas from other sources, you need to identify where the materials come from and whether they are being quoted verbatim.
3. If you are not sure whether you may be plagiarizing, you can ask the teacher directly or check out this webpage for more information: <https://www.onlinecolleges.net/for-students/avoid-plagiarism/>.
4. Although the final results are important, integrity and true learning matter even more. If you have any difficulty about the quizzes or assignments, always feel free to bring it up to the teacher.

### **About the Use of Generative AI**

1. Reasonable and responsible use of Generative AI such as ChatGPT is allowed or even encouraged in this class.
2. Generative AI can be used for brainstorming, language editing, or even as the topic for research. However, it should not be utilized to carry out the main analysis or to draw conclusions, let alone to create an entire document all by itself.
3. If any Generative AI is used during the process of completing an assignment or a report, it should be disclosed and identified in the document in a footnote or endnote. Failing to do so will lead to serious consequences for the author(s), if discovered.
4. If you are not sure whether if you are using Generative AI for this class appropriately, the best way is to ask the teacher directly.