

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
Department of Modern Languages and Literatures
Course: Seminar on Language and Migration



Course:	Language and Migration-Hispanic Topics
Level:	4000
Class:	Twice a week (3 hrs. altogether)
Language of instruction:	Spanish
Instructor:	TBA e-mail:
Office Hours:	Scheduled time and by appointment

Course Aims

This course is a seminar on language and migration with special emphasis on Hispanic migration. It examines the interrelation between language contact, and language diversity across cultural, political and geographic boundaries, showing how language flows through global social networks, constructing and reconstructing ethnic identities. The course aims to:

- Enable students, as a community of practice, to understand migration and its interrelation with language maintenance, language change and language shift.
- Understand and analyze the importance of language as a national identity and ethnic marker.
- Demonstrate the formation of linguistic imagined communities.
- Study heritage languages in global cultures.
- Reflect on the tension of language maintenance and language shift over generations of migrants.
- Illustrate the linguistic impact on the language of the receiving and sending countries.

Learning outcomes

It is expected that, upon completion of this course, students will have the ability to accomplish the following:

- Understand common trends in internal and international migration and its consequences on language contact.
- Gain insight into the linguistic consequences of human migration flows
- Be able to evaluate how migration affects or influences language, language attitudes, and literacy practices of migrants' hometowns and receiving towns (i.e. transnational practices and their impact "here and there").

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- Grasp how language policies and planning are a reaction language diversity and the idea of belonging to the nation-state.
- Possess knowledge of how migrants' social networks, economic and linguistic enclaves impact on the sociolinguistic competence of immigrants.
- Appreciate how immigrants' identities are reconstructed and how languages are intertwined in this process.

Additional readings and other sources

A list of additional readings is available on the WebCT site for this course. These materials are presented as a reference list and web-links.

As and when relevant topics appear in media sources such as the newspaper articles these will be provided to the class for discussion during the seminar.

Required material

Text: Articles will be posted in WebCT

Equipment: Access to WebCT

Evaluation Breakdown		
Article Presentation		
Handout	5%	
Presentation	10%	15%
Participation		10%
4 Critical Reaction short essays (6% each)		24%
Field trip, observations and field notes		15%
Bibliographical Research Paper		
Outline	4%	
Outline Peer review	5%	
Annotated bibliography	7%	
Presentation	5%	
Final paper	15%	
		36%
Total		100%

Course requirements: This class meets twice a week and operates as a

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seminar; therefore, class preparation and student participation are mandatory. Students must read the assigned readings *prior* to the class meeting in which they will be covered. Active student participation is essential (i.e. generate questions and comments) to success in this course.

The instructor will serve as a facilitator rather than as a lecturer.

Participation: Participation is required in order to create an active and vibrant environment in which everyone can benefit from the viewpoints of others.

Article presentation: Students are required to prepare oral presentations on the assigned articles should be prepared to cover an entire class. These presentations may be done individually or in pairs (according to class enrollment). The use of PowerPoint presentations, videos, and any material that encourages participation and a better understanding of the readings are welcome. All oral presentations must be accompanied by a handout that will be evaluated as part of each student's overall grade.

Critical reaction short essays: Students must write four (4) critical reaction essays, chosen from the different assigned readings. These essays must be: (1) one-page long, (2) single space, (3) in Times Roman 12 pts. font, and should reflect the student's insights and critical thinking. These short essays may consist of questions or criticisms about the reading, links with other readings or courses, discussion of possible further research, personal opinions (justified), or other reflections.

***Each critical reaction short essay is due in the session in which the topic is covered.**

Bibliographical research paper: Students must write a 8-10 page paper on a topic related to language and migration. The choice of topic is up to each student with the instructor's approval. The essay should reflect a thorough review of the relevant literature.

Each student must submit an **annotated bibliography** of five (5) articles and/or

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book chapters drawn from scholarly journals and book chapters upon which their research and writing will be based prior to presenting the research paper.

*Students are required to make an appointment with the instructor to discuss their research paper topics.

**A peer and the instructor must review the outline of the final paper. This outline must be submitted with the final paper.

**The final version of the research paper must abide by standard conventions for academic writing and must be typewritten in APA (6th edition) format, using Times New Roman, 12-point font, and double spacing of the text.

University and Department Policies

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a major academic offense (see [Scholastic Offense Policy](#) in the *Western Academic Calendar*). Plagiarism is the inclusion of someone else's **verbatim** or **paraphrased** text in one's own written work without immediate reference. Verbatim text must be surrounded by quotation marks or indented if it is longer than four lines. A reference must follow right after borrowed material (usually the author's name and page number). Without immediate reference to borrowed material, a list of sources at the end of a written assignment does not protect a writer against a possible charge of plagiarism. This also applies to work facilitated or written for students by third parties. The University of Western Ontario uses a plagiarism-checking site called Turnitin.com.

Absenteeism:

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department.

- [Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness](#)
- [Downloadable Student Medical Certificate \(SMC\)](#)

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Ethics

Respect for human dignity requires that research involving humans be conducted in a manner that is sensitive to the inherent worth of all human beings and the respect and consideration that they are due. At UWO, any project involving humans needs ethical approval.

For more information, visit the **downloadable Ethical Conduct Research Involving Humans Summary** at <http://www.pre.ethics.gc.ca/eng/policy-politique/tcps-eptc/>