

**AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT
FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
ENGLISH DEPARTMENT**

English 247: Discourse Analysis

Course Content and Goals

This course examines human discourse as a means of achieving better understanding of what language is and how it works. The course focuses on the study of discourse in both its written and spoken forms and discusses various approaches to the analysis of discourse, including speech act theory, pragmatics, interactional sociolinguistics, the ethnography of communication, and conversational analysis. Issues in gender and discourse will also be explored.

The purpose of the course is three-fold: to introduce students to the main concepts in discourse and discourse analysis, to acquaint students with different approaches to discourse analysis, and to provide students with an opportunity to collect, transcribe, and analyze real discourse data using the methods, approaches and techniques introduced in the course.

Resources Available to Students

Materials and activities from several academic journals and textbooks, including the following references, will be provided as a course packet.

Coulthard, M. 1985. *Introduction to Discourse Analysis*. London: Longman.

Edwards, J. & M. Lampert (Eds.) 1993. *Talking Data: Transcription and Coding in Discourse Research*. New Jersey: Lawrence Erlbaum.

Larsen-Freeman, D. 1980. *Discourse Analysis in Second Language Research*. Rowley, Massachusetts: Newbury House Publishers.

McCarthy, M. 1991. *Discourse Analysis for Language Teachers*. Cambridge University Press.

Nunan, D. 1993. *Introducing Discourse Analysis*. London: Penguin English.

Schiffrin, D. 1994. *Approaches to Discourse*. Oxford: Blackwell.

Wodak, R. (Ed.) 1997. *Gender and Discourse*. London: Sage Publications.

Grading Criteria

- Quiz I (15%)
- Quiz II (15%)
- Assigned Projects and Activities (15%): Data collection report; transcription assignment; research article summary and critique
- Discourse Analysis Project (20%): Collection, transcription, analysis, and discussion of real discourse data
- Final Exam (25%)
- Class Participation (10%)

Schedule

Week	Topics	Assignments
1	Introduction to Course	
2	Definitions of Discourse	
3	Linguistic Elements in Discourse; “Making Sense” of Discourse	
4	Data Collection Report Presentations	Due: Data Collection Report
5	Spoken and Written Discourse; Transcription Techniques	
6	Discourse Analysis and Grammar, Vocabulary, and Phonology	Quiz I
7	Pragmatics	
8	Speech Acts; Speech Act Theory	Due: Transcription assignment
9	Conversational Analysis	
10	Interactional Sociolinguistics	
11	The Ethnography of Communication	Quiz II
12	Gender and Discourse	
13	Research Article Critique Presentations	Due: Research Article Critique
14	Gender and Discourse (continued)	
15	Discourse Analysis Project Presentations	Due: Discourse Analysis Project

Course Policies

Attendance

Students are expected to be punctual, to attend all sessions, and to participate in all in-class discussion and activities. Those who miss **SEVEN** or more classes will be dropped automatically from the class. Needless to say, there is no makeup for in-class work, and students will be held accountable for any material covered during their absence.

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to uphold AUB's Code of Student Conduct (see Student Handbook Appendix). Both cheating and plagiarism are violations of the University's academic conduct regulations and are subject to disciplinary action, which might lead to a Dean's warning, suspension, or even expulsion from the university.