

EN 6623/4623 Language and Culture



INSTRUCTOR: Lyn Wright Fogle (ewf30@msstate.edu)
TIME: TR 12:30-1:45

Does language shape the way we think? How does culture influence what concepts a language encodes? What happens when a society loses a language, and how do we communicate across cultures or form new, hybrid identities and languages through contact? This course will explore relationships between culture and language to better understand the social and contextual dimensions of language use and learning. We will begin our journey with in-depth consideration of relationships between language and thought and current research on linguistic relativity. We will then discuss societal level processes of language shift and maintenance, language contact, language policy, and multilingualism. We will also draw from investigations of everyday interactions that reveal intersections of language and race, gender, and sexuality as well as language socialization in families and classrooms through the lens of time and space. Students in this course will complete 3-4 mini-fieldwork assignments over the course of the semester that will provide a foundation for a final research project based on an area of the student's interest.

Pre-requisite: EN4403/6403 (or AN1103) - please contact instructor (Lyn Fogle, ewf30@msstate.edu) to waive the pre-req.

This course is cross-listed as AN 4623/6623