

LING 222-0 Language, Politics, and Identity

Class: MWF, 11:00-11:50 a.m.
Room: TECH MG 28

Instructor: Dr. Elisabeth Elliott, Slavic Dept.
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and by appointment

- **Overview**

In LING 222 Language, Politics, and Identity students will examine and analyze political and identity issues in terms of the languages and dialects of the Balkans (particularly: Albanian, Bosnian, Bulgarian, Croatian, Macedonian, Roman, and Serbian). Topics to be covered include: linguistic nationalism, language laws, rights of minority languages, language discrimination, language and religion, alphabet issues, language and dialect as ethnic identity, standard language, and others. This course will introduce the student to some of the key issues that have plagued the Balkans in the past and continue to shape its future. This course fulfills an Area V, Values, Distribution Requirement.

- **Textbooks, Readings**

1. *A Concise Historical Atlas of the Balkans*. By Hupchick, Dennis P. and Harold E. Cox. NY: St. Martin's Press. Available from Norris Book Store.
2. Reading Packet available from Quartet Copies 818 Clark, 847-328-0720

- **Requirements**

Quizzes.....	10%
Ling biography.....	10%
Précis.....	10%
Presentation of précis.....	10%
Participation/Attendance.....	10%
Midterm exam.....	25%
Short Essay.....	25%

- **Class policies**

1. **Readings/Quizzes**

The readings in the reading packet are comprised of articles and short chapters from various sources. In the *Concise Historical Atlas of the Balkans* you will find one-page maps along with a one-page summary of the significant historical, political, and geographical facts related to each map. Assigned readings must be completed prior to the class meeting for which they are scheduled. Reading materials carefully and on time will facilitate your understanding of the lecture and your class participation; these are important parts of your grade. Keeping current with reading is also the most important factor in doing well on the quizzes and tests. In order to ensure that students do the reading, 8-timed quizzes will be given on Blackboard throughout the quarter. Each quiz will consist of 4-6 simple questions about the readings for the next class meeting. Quizzes will be announced one class period ahead of time in-class and will cover the materials of the next class period. Quizzes will be available on Blackboard starting one hour after the class in which the quiz was announced and will remain available until one hour before the beginning of the next class period (for example, if on Monday's class it is announced that there will be a quiz on Wednesday's readings, then the quiz will

be available starting at 4:30 p.m. on Monday and ending at 1:00 p.m. of the following Wednesday). No make up quizzes will be given for any reason (illness, technological problems, forgetfulness, not having access to a computer, etc.), but your two lowest quiz grades will be dropped.

2. Participation/Attendance

Throughout the quarter there will be periodic in-class group/discussion work that students are expected to participate in, which comprises the ten per cent of your participation grade for the course, including the days when précis presentations will be given. Such work will be based on and draws from the readings and issues covered in class, thus, keeping up with the readings and coming to class is crucial. On these days attendance will be taken. Such assignments cannot be made up. Please note, if you do miss any class you are *entirely* responsible for acquiring the lecture notes, do all the readings/assignments, find out about any upcoming assignments/deadlines, etc., from someone in class.

3. Midterm Exam

The midterm exam constitutes twenty-five per cent of your total grade. It will be comprehensive covering the material and concepts from the first half of the course. The format for the midterm is short identifications and short essays. The midterm exam will be given at the beginning of the fifth week of classes.

4. Linguistic Biography

You are required to write a two page biography in terms of linguistic and ethnic identity of someone in the class based on interviews that you conduct with that person outside of class. Your write-up of the interview should be typed and double-spaced. The instructor's linguistic autobiography as well as suggested questions for your interview will be posted on Blackboard. This will be due at the beginning of the fourth week of classes.

5. Short Précis and Presentation

You are required to identify 3 sources (articles, interviews, television or radio broadcasts, web sites, etc.—**note: only one source may be an actual website**, though other sources may be from the Internet) that you will use for your longer essay. Write a short précis (one-to-two pages double-spaced and typed) on one of the sources. You should provide the full citations for all three sources, that is for the one you are presenting and the other two sources that will be used in your longer essay. Your grade on the précis will be based on the following factors: (1) demonstration of your general understanding of the piece you've chosen; (2) presentation of a coherent summary and assessment of the piece's main claims and arguments both in the written précis and the oral presentation; and (3) general considerations of style, coherence, and grammar. In your presentation you should also include a brief discussion of the broader picture of topic in terms of what you will cover in your short essay. You must include a copy of the original source with your précis. (Note: If the original source is a book, do not include a copy of the book, rather select approximately 10-15 key pages and hand in a photocopy of this, with the full citation of the source). Presentations will begin at the end of the sixth week. Your written précis and a copy of your source for the précis will be due on the day that you will give your presentation. When you give your presentation and when your précis is due will be randomly determined in advance.

6. Short Essay

You are also required to write a short essay (6-8 pages double-spaced and typed). You may write on linguistic political issues, linguistic identity issues, or language planning issues for another geopolitical region of the world (e.g., Scandinavia, India, Africa, Middle East, Asia, etc.), or you may choose to write on these issues for another Balkan language or major dialect not covered in class (i.e., Greek, Turkish, or Romanian or their respective dialects). Your paper should include/refer to the three sources you identified for the short précis. Paper topics must be approved by the professor, prior to the due date of your short précis. Your grade on the paper will be based on the following factors: (1) demonstration of your general understanding of the issues presented in your paper; (2) presentation of a coherent summary and assessment of the sources selected and the arguments presented therein; and (3) general considerations of style, coherence, and grammar. This essay must include a bibliography. The short essay is due during Reading Week on Tues. 1 June by 4 p.m. in the Slavic Dept.

7. Late Work/Attendance

All written assignments will be accepted late, but will be marked down one full letter grade for each day late (A to B; A- to B-; B+ to C+; etc.).

No late work or makeup exams will be given without **documented** evidence of a medical or family emergency (such as

a doctor's note or death certificate). Any questions or special arrangements related to illness or other unforeseen problems should be taken up directly with the professor.

- **Experimental Requirement**

This course has an experimental requirement. Students may fulfill this requirement by either participating in two experiments of one hour each, or by attending two video showings of one hour each. The experiment will be part of ongoing research in the department and will illustrate features of language structure and use that are relevant to topics covered in the core linguistics curriculum. Similarly, the videos will be on topics covered in the core linguistics curriculum. Failure to fulfill this experimental requirement will result in the lowering of the final grade by 1/3 of a grade (e.g., from B+ to B). The video schedule will be posted on the course's Blackboard. Tickets for this requirement should be turned into any of the TAs for this course; if there are no TAs then turn tickets into the professor. **See additional sheet attached at the end of this syllabus that provides more details on this component of the course and the procedures to make sure that you receive credit for this component.**

- **Class Schedule (Tentative)** *The instructor reserves the right to make any changes to this syllabus and schedule.*

AT = reading from *Concise Historical Atlas of the Balkans* book

RP = reading from reading packet

Week 1

Mon., 29 March

Introduction, Syllabus

Wed., 31 March *Ethnicity and Nationalism*

Readings: Schermerhorn (RP)
Nash (RP)
Eriksen (RP)
Edwards (RP)

MAPS in AT: Maps 1 and 2

Fri., 2 April *Ethnicity and Nationalism*

Readings: Krejci and Vitzslav (RP)
Barbour (RP)
Safran (RP)

MAPS in AT: Maps 2, 4, and 5

Week 2

Mon., 5 April *Myths about Language*

Readings: Trudgill (RP)
Harlow (RP)
Lodge (RP)

Wed., 7 April *Myths about Language*

Readings: Giles (RP)
Wolfram (RP)
Esling (RP)

Fri., 9 April *Introduction to the Balkans (historical, geographical, linguistic overviews)*
Historical and linguistic overview

REVIEW MAPS in AT: Maps 1, 2, 4 and 5

MAPS in AT: Maps 6, 11, 19, 22, 23, 25, 27, and 28 (closely compare 27 and 28)

Week 3

Mon., 12 April *Introduction to the Balkans* (continued)
Readings: Friedman "Linguistics, Nationalism, and Literary Languages" (RP)

Wed., 14 April *Croatian and Serbian and Serbo-Croatian*
Readings: Simpson (RP)

MAPS in AT: Maps 33, 36, 49, 50

Video: *The Yugoslav Wars 1991-1995 (Part I)*

Fri., 16 April *Croatian and Serbian and Serbo-Croatian* (continued)
Readings: Greenberg (RP)

Video: *The Yugoslav Wars 1991-1995 (Part I)* (continued)

Week 4

Mon., 19 April *Croatian and Serbian and Serbo-Croatian* (continued) **Ling Bio Due**
Readings: Pranjkoic (RP)
 Bugarski (RP)

Linguistic Biography Due on Mon., 19 April

Wed., 21 April *Macedonian*
Readings: Vidoeski (RP)

MAPS in AT: Map 30 and Review Map 33

Fri., 23 April *Macedonian* (continued)
Readings: Kramer (RP)
 Friedman "Language Policy and Language Behaviour in Macedonia" (RP)

Week 5

Mon., 26 April **Midterm exam**

Wed., 28 April *Bulgarian*
Readings: Rudin and Eminov (RP)

MAPS in AT: Maps 39 and 48

Fri., 30 April *Bulgarian* (continued)
 Guentcheva (RP)

Week 6

Mon., 3 May *Albanian*
 Byron (RP)
 Gessen (RP)

MAPS in AT: Review Map 50

Wed., 5 May *Albanian* (continued)
 Trix (RP)
 Trudgill (RP)

MAPS in AT: Map 41

Fri., 7 May Précis presentations

Week 7

Mon., 10 May Précis presentations\

Wed., 12 May Précis presentations

Fri., 14 May Précis presentations

Week 8

Mon., 17 May Précis presentations\

Wed., 19 May Précis presentations

Fri., 21 May Précis presentations

Week 9

Mon., 24 May *Romani*
Introduction

Wed., 26 May *Romani* (continued)

Readings: Friedman "Romani Standardization and Status in the Republic of Macedonia" (RP)
Acton (RP)

Fri., 28 May Discussion; Review

Week 10

Mon., 31 May, Memorial Day, No classes

Tues., 1 June, Short Essay due by 4 p.m. (anything after 4 p.m. will be late).

Reading Period, 1-4 June; No regular classes

Week 11 Finals Week