English 633 (*Seminar in Rhetoric and Professional Writing: Discourse & Social Interaction*)

Fall 2022
M 4:00-5:15, CRT B12
Note that this is a hybrid course: This means that there will be one in-class meeting per week at the scheduled time, and the other portion of the course will be conducted online asynchronously. The information provided below is an overview, so please feel free to email me with questions.

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Course Description
Part theory, part methodology, this capstone seminar is an introduction to the study of discourse, or what is sometimes referred to as "situated language use." The course is intended for students (advanced undergraduate or graduate), who are interested in how discourse is deployed in real time to convey meaning at various levels. We'll focus on some of the less obvious ways meanings are conveyed and interpreted, such as by varying the form of an utterance or message and through its sequential positioning within a particular social interaction. Drawing on research from disciplines that focus on the linguistic and interactional details of language use, including Discourse Analysis (DA) and Conversation Analysis (CA), we'll explore how language and other actions (e.g., gestures) are deployed in systematic, patterned ways to achieve mutual understanding between conversational participants.

These disciplines began about 50 years ago and had a primary goal of providing detailed knowledge about spoken interaction in face-to-face contexts, both everyday conversation and the genres of institutional settings such as courtrooms, the news media, and doctor-patient interaction. However, with the advent of technology, and increased use of social media, many of the ideas developed for everyday conversation are now being adapted and applied to online or multimodal settings in the emergent subdisciplines of digital DA and CA. During the first part of the course, we'll work to achieve a basic understanding of the methods used to collect, process, and analyze discourse data and the kinds of questions that can be addressed through this kind of research, and we'll practice using some of these approaches through short data-analysis assignments. You will also develop a larger (semester) project, designed to examine an area we have covered in more depth, or to investigate your own research question(s) about social interaction using the methods and approaches we have discussed. Your project will culminate in a class presentation and paper.

Text and Other Materials
Chapters will be drawn from the following texts, and there will be additional articles on Canvas.
- Hutchby, Ian & Wooffitt, Robin. (2008). *Conversation Analysis*, 2nd edition. Polity Press.

- Heritage, John & Clayman, Steven. (2010). *Talk in Action: Interactions, Identities, and Institutions*. Wiley-Blackwell.
- Johnstone, Barbara. (2018). *Discourse Analysis*, 3rd Edition. Wiley-Blackwell.