

LING 3480: Language & Authority

Spring 2011

Monday/Wednesday 1:25–2:45

MBH 113

Instructor: Aaron Kaplan

Office: LNCO 2305

Office Hours: Monday 10:00–11:00, Tuesday 12:00–1:00 **Email:** aaron.kaplan@utah.edu

This course examines the role language plays in the creation and maintenance of authority in societies, and also the role notions of authority play in the shaping of attitudes toward and policies about language. We will approach these topics from a variety of views; the course is divided into six modules as follows:

- Official Language: Prescription & Standardization
- Language & Thought
- Multilingualism
- Signed Languages
- Pidgins & Creoles
- Language Death

At the end of each module, an essay will be due. Five of the six essays are required—you may choose not to write one of them, except that you must complete the first and last essays. The last essay is due on the day of the exam (**Thursday, May 5, 2011 by 3:00 pm**); there is no other final exam for the course.

Readings for the course are available on WebCT (<http://webct.utah.edu/>). It is recommended that you read the material for each module in the order they're given on WebCT because that is the order in which we will cover the material.

It will be very hard to to pass the course without coming to class: many of the essay topics draw on material discussed in class that does not appear in the reading. Also, classes are discussion-based, and participation will factor into final grades.

Academic Honesty, Access

Cheating will not be tolerated. While you are encouraged to discuss course material with each other, your write-up must be done independently. If you have questions about what is allowed, please ask the instructor. See this website for more information about academic integrity: <http://www.regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-400.html>

The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations.