NEW YORK CITY COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY
CITY TECH

COURSE SYLLABUS
Language and Thinking
ENG 1161-D516 (#53530)
Dates: 1/27/2020 to 5/22/2020
Pandemic Edition

FACULTY INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Patrick Corbett, Assistant Professor of English

Office: Namm #520
Telephone: (718) 260-5429 (office phone)
Zoom InstaMeeting: https://us04web.zoom.us/j/3484669663

Email: plcorb@gmail.com (primary—use for quick questions)
pcorbett@citytech.cuny.edu (official—use for "business")

Office Hours: You can reach me immediately for individual questions and guidance via email, Zoom (video or audio only), or WhatsApp during the times below:

Tuesdays 3:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Thursdays 3:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

I am flexible and able to connect with you at other times on a case-by-case basis. Please send me an email or WhatsApp message to schedule.

COURSE INFORMATION

Credits: 3
Course Location: OpenLab (https://openlab.citytech.cuny.edu/corbetteng1161spring2020/)
Synchronous Meeting: Tuesdays/Thursdays 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. (Optional via Zoom)
Pre-requisites: ENG 1101

    A study of communication designed to increase understanding and control of language on both the individual and social levels. Class work includes reading and discussion of elements of semantics and psycholinguistics and guided practice in effective thinking.

Synopsis: This course explores language—how it is acquired by people and how they use it to make things happen in the world. This includes: (a) the role between language use and power, (b) an individual's journey in/through language, (c) the relationship between thought and language, (d) how language is used within society, and (e) how experts and non-experts understand language differently.

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Book:	**Language, Society, & Power**
	Author(s): Mooney & Evans, Publisher: Routledge, Edition: 5th, Year Published: 2018, Price: $34.16 (Amazon) USD, Notes: 5th edition only. Digital okay. ISBN: 978-0-41-578624-9

Course Withdrawal:	**TO AVOID SERIOUS FINANCIAL AND ACADEMIC CONSEQUENCES, DO NOT STOP ATTENDING THIS CLASS UNTIL YOU OFFICIALLY WITHDRAW FROM THE COURSE.**

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Course Competencies: By the end of this course, you will confidently and skillfully demonstrate a basic understanding of the concept of "language," including what it is and how it works, and the relationship of language to various aspects of your own experience, particularly what you observe about the social and cultural world around you.

This course stresses competencies in the following areas:
- To recognize the basic structures of language.
- To know the important mutual influences of language and psychological behavior, especially concept formation and memory.
- To know the important mutual influences of language and social behavior, especially the interaction of the individual and society and the interaction of social groups.

General Education: This course fulfills a flexible common core distribution requirement in City Tech's General Education curriculum. In this course, a student will:
- Gather, interpret, and assess information from a variety of sources and points of view.

- Evaluate evidence and arguments critically or analytically.

- Produce well-reasoned written or oral arguments using evidence to support conclusions.

- Identify and apply the fundamental concepts and methods of a discipline or interdisciplinary field exploring the relationship between the individual and society, including, but not limited to, anthropology, communications, cultural studies, history, journalism, philosophy, political science, psychology, public affairs, religion, and sociology.

- Examine how an individual's place in society affects experiences, values, or choices.

- Articulate and assess ethical views and their underlying premises.

- Articulate ethical uses of data and other information resources to respond to problems and questions.

- Identify and engage with local, national, or global trends or ideologies, and analyze their impact on individual or collective decision-making.

For more information, see https://openlab.citytech.cuny.edu/genedflexiblecore/individual-and-society/.

Possible Topics: The following course topics are recommended by the college.

1. Definition of language: how it differs from animal communication and other forms of human communication.
2. Major structures of language.
3. Verbal situations: the ecology of language.
4. Words and deeds: semantics.
5. Verbal taboos in various cultures.
6. The nature of verbal conflict.
7. Language chauvinism.
8. How language reflects the world.
9. How language is necessary to thinking.
10. Ontogeny: how children acquire language.
11. How language changes.
12. The problem of one language for one world.

Capabilities: This course requires the skills and access to the technology listed below:

- Work independently and responsibly under continuous deadlines.
- Produce written Standard Business English with good page design.
- Use MS Word or Open Office to produce typed assignments.
- Use Google Drive to access course materials and upload completed assignments.
- Maintain a separate cloud account or USB storage for backing up your work.
- Regular access to stable high-speed Internet.
- Use a computer keyboard and mouse effectively.
- Conduct online research using search engines and the digital library.
- Print course materials and assignment drafts.

COURSE STRUCTURE

On March 12, 2020, the face-to-face delivery of this course was suspended by CUNY due to the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic. On March 19, 2020, it was subject to an emergency shift to distance education. The online "home" of the course is a freely accessible OpenLab course page, supplemented with a Google Drive document archive and individual Drive folders shared between instructor and each student. Synchronous meetings are held for 60 minutes each Tuesday and Thursday from 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. **These meetings are optional**. They serve as an opportunity for those students who need face-to-face interaction to ask questions, see examples related to course concepts, and hear instructions regarding assignments. The presentation of this course is a combination of Zoom meetings, OpenLab posts, short preparatory quizzes, assignments, a midterm, and final that demonstrate and evaluate course concepts in a variety of ways.

This is a hands-on course. Your active participation and preparation are crucial to your success as a student, your preparation as a professional, and the intellectual dynamic of this class. To get what you need out of this course and to earn a high grade, you should expect to spend an average of 3 to 6 hours per week (approx. 60-75 hours for the semester) on class readings, assignments, and projects.

THINGS TO KNOW

Our Relationship:	I am your college professor. I prefer to be called Patrick. You can also call me Professor, Professor Corbett, or Professor Patrick if these are more comfortable for you. Please do not refer to me as Doctor or Mister as we do not use these conventions at this college.
Instructor Duties:	As your professor, I commit to communicating openly and frequently with you about this course. I will maintain a professional and safe learning environment that adheres to the policies of the College. You can expect a reply to your inquiry, be it via e-mail, through online discussions, voicemail, or in person, within 24 hours. If you have a problem with this class, my evaluation of your performance, or any other aspect of our professional relationship, please reach out to me to discuss your concerns.

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Student Responsibilities:	Familiarize yourself with CUNY and City Tech policies and procedures. Many of the important policies and procedures are in the Academic Catalog on the City Tech website, located here: http://www.citytech.cuny.edu/academics/academic-catalog.aspx. You must accept responsibility for the consequences of your words, your actions, as well as any classes and/or work that you miss.
Course Materials:	Please add the Google Drive and OpenLab apps to your computing device to facilitate document sharing. All course assignments and materials I provide will go into a shared Google Drive folder called "Course Documents Archive." Assignments and presentation materials will be linked to via OpenLab. You will be able to access and print copies of course materials at any time from Drive or OpenLab r. You will also have an individual folder that only you and I will have access to. You will upload your completed assignments to this individual folder for my review. **Your shared folder and OpenLab posts are the only way I accept course materials for evaluation. I will let you know which to use.**
Class participation:	Students who participate in the intellectual life of a course learn more, earn better grades, and are better prepared to enter the professional workforce. If you are not actively participating in this class then you are not getting out of college what you need to be successful. Don't waste the chance to practice many of the skills necessary for your career as a degreed professional.
Attendance:	Your attendance is no longer recorded and reported to the College (how can we?) But, this course is designed as a hands-on experience (meaning that we meet to prepare for working outside of class) not keeping up with course materials will impair your ability to complete future assignments. Not keeping up with the work is the number one reason students fail this class.
Late arrival:	You are welcome to join our Zoom meetings at any time. There are no late arrivals. Your attendance will be noted, but not reported.
Submitting Work:	**(tl;dr) If you want a grade, put your clearly labeled assignment in your neatly organized Google Drive folder or respond in OpenLab as appropriate. Do not email me your work. Do not use Google Docs. Do not share your work with me using the share function.** All work must be uploaded to your Google Drive folder by noon on the day specified on the assignment sheet. Submit assignments as document files (.doc, .rtf, .or docx). Do not use Google Docs to compose your assignments—I greatly prefer assignments composed in Microsoft Office or one of its free clones. MS Office is available to you for free in the CUNY eMALL. Please name your file with

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the assignment name, and your last name. For example, *Assignment 3_PropagandaAssignment_Wu*.

Be sure to organize your Drive folder and exercise effective document control so that I can find and evaluate the correct version of your work. Do not leave extra or poorly named files in your Drive folder. You want me to be able to find the right version of what you want me to evaluate.

City Tech Email:
You can email me at my Gmail address, however, official course communications from the College will be delivered to your student email only. Student e-mail can be accessed at:
http://cis.citytech.cuny.edu/Student/it_student_email.aspx.

For the sake of my sanity, I do not accept coursework that is submitted by email.

Class Cancellation:
If I am unable to hold a synchronous meeting, I will notify you by email..

GRADING

Expectations:
Even though we are moving online and becoming more flexible, this class is still a lot of work and you need to keep up with it.

To earn the best grade possible, be sure that you thoroughly understand what the assignment is asking you to do, how to break down the work, and that you give yourself enough time to complete each part of the assignment and to go over it and revise when you are finished. To do this, you will need to read the assignment more than once, ask questions, think critically about what is being asked of you, develop a workflow that addresses the problem, and persistently engage the work until your work product is satisfactory.

Methods:
I evaluate your work many different ways, including holistic rubrics, analytical rubrics, non-rubric responses, credit for completion, and oral feedback. Graded evaluations in this course are on a points system. You will receive points for each assignment you complete and post to your Google Drive folder. The number of points you receive are based on how well your work meets the criteria articulated on the assignment sheet. All assignments will have grading criteria available to you. Your final grade is the percentage value of the number of points you earn divided by the number of points possible. That percentage is converted into a letter grade using the College standard grading scale.

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Late Work: All assignments are due by noon on the date specified on the assignment sheet. Late assignments receive less feedback from me but will not suffer a reduction in grade. No assignments will be accepted after the final course deadline.

Grading Scale: Generally speaking, the equivalent of the grade of C will be awarded to work that is "average." You can earn a C by showing up to our class meetings, doing the course work, and fulfilling all of the course objectives. That does not get you an A, that get's you a C. The grade of B is awarded for work demonstrating qualities that appreciably exceed what might be expected of "average." You do the work well and demonstrate an understanding of what you are doing at a conceptual level. An A is an honor grade, signifying consistent quality and effort that is often "outstanding." When you earn an A, you demonstrate that you not only understand the work, but you bring a level of focus and attention to detail that impresses me.

Grade	% Attained
A	93-100
A-	90-92.9
B+	87-89.9
B	83-86.9
B-	80-82.9
C+	77-79.9
C	70-76.9
D	60-69.9
F	59.9-0

ASSIGNMENTS

The workload of this course is appropriate for a 1000-level specialized course in the study of language. You can expect to devote way more time than you want or think you need to outside work for this class. While three hours a week will often be enough time to be successful in this course for most students, you will almost certainly need more to do the work well, particularly when completing larger assignments.

This is what you will be doing for this course:
- Carefully reading materials from the textbook and other sources every week.
- Contributing substantively to our class activities and discussions.
- Complete written assignments related to course topics and projects.
- Write a final exam.

For each written and graded assignment, you will receive a detailed specification sheet, at least one week in advance. For projects, you will receive an overview and then a detailed specification sheets for each step in the project. The specifications will explain the parameters of each assignment and how it will be evaluated.

Assignment categories:

Course Work	Approximate Percentage of Grade
Midterm Exam	10%
Assignments	50%
Final Exam	30%
In-Class Writing	10%
Total	100%

Extra Credit: Opportunities for extra credit in this class occasionally appear. Unless you are active in the course, you won't be in a position to earn them.

New York City College of Technology Policy on Academic Integrity: Students and all others who work with information, ideas, texts, images, music, inventions, and other intellectual property owe their audience and sources accuracy and honesty in using, crediting, and citing sources. As a community of intellectual and professional workers, the college recognizes its responsibility for providing instruction in information literacy and academic integrity, offering models of good practice, and responding vigilantly and appropriately to infractions of academic integrity. Accordingly, academic dishonesty is prohibited in The City University of New York and at New York City College of Technology and is punishable by penalties, including failing grades, suspension, and expulsion. The complete text of the college policy on Academic Integrity may be found in the catalog.

STUDENT ASSISTANCE

Office Hours: I am available to you via Zoom, WhatsApp, and email. In fact, I'm an awesome resource for you on the subjects of language, thinking, and general academic assistance. You can email me to make an appointment (first-come, first-served). I cannot stress enough the importance of using my office hours as part of a successful learning strategy. They are the place where we can work one-on-one when you need it the most.

Technical Assistance: If your technology problem is not directly related to the content of the course or access via the tools I recommend, I may not be able to help you. Please come to me with problems, however, and I will point you in the right direction for answers. Help is available at the Student Computer Help Desk on the first floor of the Namm Building. Consultants are available by phone at (718) 260-4900 or in L-114. You can receive help online (if you are connected) here: http://cis.citytech.cuny.edu/Student/it_student.aspx.

These services are available during the following times:
- Monday through Friday: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

If you encounter a problem, seek help immediately. Do not wait until the last minute.

Learning Center: Please consult with me when you have questions about how to do a particular assignment, or how to develop your ideas. The learning center has limited services available. If you feel you need access to them, please let me know.

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Accessibility Statement:	City Tech is committed to supporting the educational goals of enrolled students with disabilities in the areas of enrollment, academic advisement, tutoring, assistive technologies, and testing accommodations. If you have or think you may have a disability, you may be eligible for reasonable accommodations or academic adjustments as provided under applicable federal, state, and/or city laws. You may also request services for temporary conditions or medical issues under certain circumstances. If you have questions about your eligibility and/or would like to seek accommodation services and/or academic adjustments, please contact the Student Accessibility Center (SAC) at 300 Jay Street. Room L-237; telephone: 718-260-5143; www: http://www.citytech.cuny.edu/accessibility/.