uc3m | Universidad Carlos III de Madrid

Social discourse analysis

REQUIREMENTS (SUBJECTS THAT ARE ASSUMED TO BE KNOWN)

Nothing

OBJECTIVES

At the end of the module, students will:

- Know and understand the theory and the main ideas of various approaches to discourse analysis
- Understand the methodology of various approaches to discourse analysis: What is analysed? How?
- Understand the relevance and limits of various forms of discourse analysis to study the social and political world
- Analyse social and political reality from a critical perspective
- Understand the relationship between language and social structure
- Understand how power relations shape social discourses

DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS: PROGRAMME

Part I: Discourse analysis in the social sciences (7 weeks)
(This part of the module will be taught in English)

1. Theoretical and epistemological foundations

- The linguistic turn and interpretive social science.
- The idea of social construction of reality.
- Discourse, power and ideology.

2.   Approaches to discourses analysis: theory and methodology

-         Content analysis: quantitative and qualitative
-         Frame Analysis and Critical Policy Studies
-         Critical Discourse Analysis

Part II: Analysing the language of social discourses: language varieties, discourses and power (7 weeks)

1. The socio-historical construction of languages and language varieties: implications for discourse.

2. Dominant language varieties, prestige discourses and social structure

- The standard language
- Special languages
- Literary language.

3. Subordinate language varieties, stigmatized discourses and social structure

- Diatopic variation, diastratic variation and submission
- Linguistic insecurity
- Acculturation through language and discourse.

LEARNING ACTIVITIES AND METHODOLOGY

Active learning will be encouraged to ensure that students familiarize themselves with the concepts and tools studied and understand their strengths and limits. In particular, the seminars will be used to critically discuss important readings and a range of examples of discourse. Individual or group projects and various other activities will be used to teach the methodology of discourse analysis.

The general aim of the module is to foster students' capacity for critical thinking.

ASSESSMENT SYSTEM

Class participation, presentations and other assignments: 50% of the final grade
Final exam: 50% of the final grade

Students have to pass the final exam in order to pass the module

% end-of-term-examination:	50
% of continuous assessment (assigments, laboratory, practicals…):	50

BASIC BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- Wodak, R. and Meyer, M. Methods for Critical Discourse Analysis, 2nd ed., London: Sage, 2009

ADDITIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- Connolly, W. The Terms of Political Discourse, 3rd ed., Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 1993

- De Vreese, C.H., Peter, J., Semetko, H.A., Framing Politics at the Launch of the Euro: A Cross-National Comparative Study of Frames in the News,, Political Communication, 18 (2): 107-122,, 2001
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