

INSPIRE 3EL3 – C01
Language and the Internet
Summer Intersession 2020

Course schedule:

- **First lecture is on June 23rd and will be live from 1:00 – 2:00 PM on Zoom** (detailed information to follow on Avenue to Learn).
- Subsequent lectures (pre-recorded using Zoom) will be posted **Monday and Wednesday mornings** for students to view.
- Synchronous drop-in discussion sessions will also be offered every **Tuesday (1:00-2:00 PM) and Friday (1:00-2:00 PM)** through Zoom.

Instructor: Dr. Ariel Kim

Em@il: arielkim@mcmaster.ca

Office hour: Tuesday 2:10-3:10 PM

Location: Zoom

[COURSE DESCRIPTION]

The Internet and social media have profoundly transformed the way we interact and communicate locally and globally. As communicative mediums, they have an increasingly important impact on how we conceptualize culture and can influence language use in context. This course offers a multifaceted perspective on computer-mediated communication and explores a wide range of language in everyday social practice on digital platforms. The course will also provide students opportunities to reflect on their own use of language in the Internet and to develop new media literacy and competency.

[STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES]

Upon successful completion of the course students will:

- 1) understand language in context in digital media communication;
- 2) develop awareness of language change and variation in social media;
- 3) appreciate the influence of digital media communication on culture;
- 4) develop analytical and critical thinking skills regarding language use in the Internet.

[MATERIALS]

- ❖ No textbook required. All required readings and course materials will be provided by the instructor via Avenue to Learn.

[COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSESSMENT]

❖ Collaborative Reading and Discussion (7 x 5% each)	35%
❖ Weekly Exercises (7 x 5% each)	35%
❖ Group Project	30%

Collaborative Reading and Discussion (35%)

Frequent interaction is vital to build an online learning community. Outside of classroom discussions, students are also expected to participate in collaborative reading and engage in small-group discussions through *Perusall*. The aim is to promote a deeper understanding of the material by

- highlighting new ideas/words, interesting facts/quotes/conclusions,
- writing and sharing your notes/annotations,
- asking questions or seeking clarifications,
- introducing new ideas/resources related to the topic,
- reading, responding, and discussing the comments/questions of others.

The assigned readings will be uploaded each week to *Perusall*.

Weekly Exercises (35%)

Students will be asked to complete and submit one or more exercises each week. This activity is designed to encourage active engagement in online lectures. Therefore, students are expected to complete the exercises while listening to the lectures each week, and to submit their responses at the end of each week. No assignments will be accepted past the deadline unless special arrangements were agreed before the due date.

Group Project (30%)

The way we use language in the Internet and in social media changes quickly. By exploring how linguists study language we can better understand language use in the internet today. For this project, students will carry out a small-scale study of internet language based on research you read in class (Week 2). Students will complete several “milestones” as part of this project. I encourage students to review the Project Rubric carefully as they work toward these milestones.

- Milestone 1 (10 %): Progress report
- Milestone 2 (5%): Peer evaluations
- Milestone 3 (15%): Final project

Note:

Each week we will focus on a specific topic within the realm of language use in the Internet. As many of you will have enormous experience using digital technologies for communication your viewpoints, experiences and opinions are pivotal to understanding the current state of language in the internet. Research on learning theory has shown that people learn best by asking questions and working together (Fagen, Crouch, & Mazur, 2002), so you will be expected to come together as a class to develop your ideas and perspectives on different topics. This class is based on concepts and ideas – not memorizing content. Since education itself is based on questions and answers (& the explanations) (Bain, 2004), one of the main goals of this class is for you to question and research language use in the internet.

Bain, K. (2004). *What the best college teachers do*. Harvard University Press.

Fagen, A. P., Crouch, C. H., & Mazur, E. (2002). Peer instruction: Results from a range of classrooms. *The physics teacher*, 40(4), 206-209.

[COURSE COMMUNICATION]

1. Avenue to Learn: Announcements, lecture content, and grades will be posted to Avenue to Learn. Our course page will be our primary method of contact, please check our course page regularly to ensure you don't miss out on important information or announcements.

2. Email: Feel free to email me if you have any questions or concerns. If there are any specific supports that may be useful to your learning, please also let me know. Please ensure that all communication for this course is through your mcmaster.ca email. I will do my best to respond within 2 business days, however, if you don't hear back from me within 3 working days, feel free to re-send your email with a friendly reminder.

[POLICY ON LATE SUBMISSION]

Assignments must be submitted to Avenue by the assigned deadline. Students who file the MSAF are required to submit their work within 4 days of the assignment deadline. Assignments will not be accepted after this time without accommodation from the Faculty Office.

Course Policy Statements

1. Online Course Behaviour

McMaster is committed to an inclusive and respectful community. These principles and expectations extend to online activities including electronic chat groups, video calls and other learning platforms. If you are concerned about your virtual classroom experiences, the [Equity and Inclusion Office \(EIO\)](#) is available to advise and assist students who may be experiencing any equity, accessibility, inclusion, harassment, discrimination or sexual violence concerns. You can reach the EIO at equity@mcmaster.ca. Thank you for joining us in ensuring that our McMaster online communities are spaces where no one feels excluded and everyone is able to enjoy learning together.”

2. Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities:

Students who require academic accommodation must contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. SAS can be contacted by phone 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or email sas@mcmaster.ca. If you have a disability and are registered with SAS, they will help you sort out what accommodations would be helpful to you so that you may successfully complete this course. Additionally, they will provide you with a letter for us requesting accommodation. Please feel free to contact your instructor about this so that we can work out a plan that will support your learning. For further information, consult McMaster University's Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities policy

(<https://secretariat.mcmaster.ca/app/uploads/2019/02/Academic-Accommodation-for-Religious-Indigenous-and-Spiritual-Observances-Policy-on.pdf>).

3. Academic Accommodation for Religious, Indigenous, or Spiritual Observances (RISO):

It is important that any students requiring academic accommodation based on religion, indigenous, and spiritual observances know that these requests will be respected in the classroom. Students requiring academic accommodation based on religious, indigenous, or spiritual observances should follow the procedures set out in

the RISO policy (<https://secretariat.mcmaster.ca/app/uploads/2019/02/Academic-Accommodation-for-Religious-Indigenous-and-Spiritual-Observances-Policy-on.pdf>).

Students requiring a RISO accommodation should submit their request to their Faculty Office normally within 10 working days of the beginning of term in which they anticipate a need for accommodation or to the Registrar's Office prior to their examinations. Students should also contact their instructor as soon as possible to make alternative arrangements for classes, assignments, and/or tests.

4. Assignment Deadlines and Missed/Late Work

Assignment Deadlines & Missed/Late Work: Students are expected to hand in all assignments on the specified due dates. Penalty for late assignments will be 10% for the first 4 days past the deadlines. No assignments will be accepted past the deadline unless special arrangements were made before the due date. Given that some course assignments require electronic submission, you should familiarize yourself with the Avenue to Learn Assignment in advance of the deadlines, and ask for assistance as necessary. Problems with electronic submission WILL NOT be accepted as an excuse for lateness.

5. MSAF Statement McMaster Student Absence Form (MSAF):

McMaster Student Absence Form (MSAF) If you are absent from the university for a minor medical reason, lasting fewer than 3 calendar days, you may report your absence, once per term, without documentation, using the McMaster Student Absence Form. Absences for a longer duration or for other reasons must be reported to your Faculty/Program office, with documentation, and relief from term work may not necessarily be granted.

When using the MSAF, report your absence to intersession@mcmaster.ca. You must then contact your instructor immediately (normally within 2 working days) by email at saltms@mcmaster.ca to learn what relief may be granted for the work you have missed, and relevant details such as revised deadlines, or time and location of a make-up evaluation. Please note that the MSAF may not be used for term work worth 25% or more, nor can it be used for the final examination. Please note: students who use the MSAF, but who do not contact the instructor within the 2 working days' period, may not be granted any relief.

6. McMaster Policy on Academic Integrity

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity. Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behaviour can result in serious consequences—e.g., the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: “Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty”), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university. It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty, please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy: (<https://secretariat.mcmaster.ca/app/uploads/Academic-Integrity-Policy-1-1.pdf>).

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty: 1) Plagiarism—e.g., the submission of work that is not one's own or for which other credit has been obtained; 2) Improper collaboration in group work; 3) Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

7. Sharing and Posting Course Material

Students who have access to authorized recorded lectures in a course may use these recordings only for personal or group study and *should not reproduce, share or upload the recording to any publicly accessible web environment*. Similarly, notes, slides, evaluations and tests are for personal use and should not be shared with others outside of a course.

8. Acknowledgement of Course Policies

Your registration and continuous participation (e.g. on A2L, in the classroom, etc.) to the various learning activities of INSPIRE 3EL3 – CO3 will be considered to be an implicit acknowledgement of the course policies outlined above, or of any other that may be announced during lecture and/or on A2L. It is your responsibility to read this course outline, to familiarize yourself with the course policies and to act accordingly. Lack of awareness of the course policies cannot be invoked at any point during this course for failure to meet them. It is your responsibility to ask for clarification on any policies that you do not understand. The instructor reserves the right to modify elements of the course and will notify students accordingly (in class and post any changes to the course A2L).

9. Extreme Circumstances

The lecture schedule is only a guideline and may be modified during the course of the class. The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes.