Syllabus for Introduction to Haitian Creole Linguistics,
HAT 3700/LIN 4930, Fall, 2010.
Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures
University of Florida, Gainesville

Assistant Professor: Benjamin Hebblethwaite
Office location: 363 Dauer Hall
Office hours: Mon/Wed/Fri: 11:45 a.m. - 12:35 p.m.
Contact information: hebble@ufl.edu
                     Tel: 392-2016 ext. 243
Class website: http://web.clas.ufl.edu/users/hebble/

Class objectives:

The objective of this class is to help develop the student’s understanding of Haitian Creole linguistics. In the class we apply linguistic science to the Haitian Creole language. Students are introduced to the major disciplines of linguistics including syntax, morphology, phonology, semantics and lexicon. Other equally important areas of linguistics which are essential for understanding Haitian Creole include sociolinguistics, dialectology, language planning, bilingualism and multilingualism, language contact and code-switching. Haitian Creole linguistics includes discussion about West African, European and Native American languages. The class uses qualitative and quantitative empirical methods and theories in order to understand fundamental and cutting-edge issues in Haitian Creole linguistics.

The class format involves lectures, slide-presentations, audio and film segments, student presentations, and classroom discussions. The class will have no more than 6 pop-quizzes, one midterm, one final, and a 7 page final paper. The essay topic is due one month before the end of the semester; the final draft is due on the last day of class. In the case of Gordon Rule students, the essay topic is due 7 weeks before the end of the semester and paper is due 4 weeks before the end of the semester.

A packet of articles provides the background knowledge needed to follow lectures, participate in discussions, and to prepare for and perform well on the presentations, quizzes, examinations and the paper.

Students are advised to read the assigned articles carefully while noting key ideas, events and individuals. Also, the assigned readings are your primary sources for your final essay and they must be cited in your paper and included in your bibliography.

General Education Requirements Satisfied by Introduction to Haitian Creole Linguistics

1. (H) This class satisfies the description of the Humanities (H) classification by providing a foundation in the theory, methods and history used in the discipline of linguistics. The class reviews the key themes, principles and terminology of generative linguistics.
2. (N) This class satisfies the description of the International (N) classification because it focuses on the language of a country that is outside the United States. The class will help students understand how historical, geographic and socioeconomic issues impact the formation of Haitian Creole.

3. (D) This class satisfies the description of the Diversity (D) classification by examining linguistic issues that relate to the North American Haitian Diaspora. About ¼ of the class deals with linguistic values, attitudes and norms among Haitian immigrants in the United States (see the Zéphir and Hebblethwaite readings). The social roles and status of Haitian immigrants in the U.S. and how they impact language use are examined. This is especially related to language contact and code-switching. This class helps students understand the linguistic constraints faced by Haitians-Americans.

Grade distribution. You are responsible for maintaining your own records.

(1) 10 % = 2 Class presentations

10 minutes long. Graded for clarity; organization; preparation; effectiveness of your communication (are you connecting with us? are we convinced?); insight of your critique.

(2) 25 % = 1 paper (essay topic and paper). 4/8 sources must be from the class bibliography.

Due on the last day of class. See grading criteria below.
For Gordon Rule students, paper is due 1 month before the end of the semester.

(3) 10 % = No more than 6 quizzes (most are pop-quizzes).

(4) 10% = 4 Homework (HMWK).

Write a short review about the reading for the day the paper is due (1 page maximum, 1 page minimum). No more than 1 sheet of paper allowed. Times New Roman, .12 pt. font, 1 inch margins only. Your paper should be double-spaced. You are graded on your insight into the ideas found in the reading, your unique interpretations and your ability to discuss the content with an objective, critical and scholarly voice. I will also grade you on your writing style and your use of grammar, spelling and vocabulary.

(5) 15 % = Participation; attendance; punctuality, courtesy, attentiveness; respect for the learning environment; etiquette; insights (please, no phones, text-messaging, ipods, newspapers and inappropriate work, etc... if you can’t help yourself stay home or be considered absent).
(6) 30% = 2 Exams (15% each).

**Important UF webpages:**
- Library Homepage [http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/](http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/) (for all library services and collections)
- Course Reserves [https://ares.uflib.ufl.edu/](https://ares.uflib.ufl.edu/) (for hard copy and/or electronic reserves)
- Ask-A-Librarian [http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/ask/](http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/ask/) (direct email or online chat for assistance)
- IR @ UF [http://ufdcweb1.uflib.ufl.edu/ufdc/?g=ufirg](http://ufdcweb1.uflib.ufl.edu/ufdc/?g=ufirg) (to access the UF digital Institutional Repository)
- Subject Guides/Specialists [http://apps.uflib.ufl.edu/staffdir/SubjectSpecialist.aspx](http://apps.uflib.ufl.edu/staffdir/SubjectSpecialist.aspx) (by discipline and/or course)

**UF’s policy for assigning grades:**
[http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html](http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html)

**Bibliography of Required Readings for HAT 3700, Fall 2010, in the Order Read:**

6. Hebblethwaite, Benjamin. (Unpublished manuscript). Minority Language School Systems for Majority Language Speakers: French and Haitian Creole in Haiti. [*This article is not found in this packet and will be placed online*]


Removed Readings


Class Guidelines

Late or makeup work policy
Late work may be turned in:
Less than 30 minutes late: -5%
More than 30 minutes late: -10%
The last day of class is the deadline for all late work.

Attendance policy
Students are expected to attend class daily. Students may take 3 unexcused absences. If you are late, you are considered absent. Athletes must be excused by the athletics department. Unexcused absences and tardiness result in a lowering of the participation grade. Missing class can seriously affect a student’s ability to perform in other categories of the syllabus (such as missed quizzes or the no late w.

If a student is absent, he or she is expected to contact the instructor within 24 hours with the reason for his or her absence. Medical treatment or a personal or a family
crisis are grounds for an excused absence, *a note including a contact phone number is required.*

**Examinations**

Class quizzes and exams are based upon readings, lecturers and presentations. Students are expected to review their notes and readings prior to these evaluations.

**Paper – (Read carefully!)**

Students are expected to write a research paper, *7 pages in length + bibliography.* The paper must use *12 Times New Roman font and be double spaced with 1 inch columns on all sides.*

The 1 page proposal is due 4 weeks before the end of the semester. **Include at least 5 refereed sources (i.e. books or articles; UF online database books and articles are OK; but NOT the open access WWW),** 4 of your 8 sources must also be from the required readings in this class. The required readings must serve as guidance and form a foundation for your paper topic.

Citations must be accompanied by appropriate bibliographical references. Your paper will be graded based on the basis of the originality of the ideas, on the clarity and concision of the writing and editing and the adherence to the requirements given above and below in the reference and bibliography guideline. You want to show that you have carefully read the books and found additional sources, which you have read and synthesized, and added you own unique interpretation of events, individuals, ideas and phenomena. Aim to write a scholarly paper where you strive to produce an objective and accurate analysis of your topic. Avoid advancing personal ideological preferences and try to take an empirical approach where the facts are considered. Write an outline as you piece together your research in Haitian Creole linguistics. Organize and link the parts together.

**Reference and Bibliography Guidelines**

In the text:

(a) Zéphir (1997: 223) advocates the instruction of Haitian Creole in the United States’ secondary education system.

(b) Misclassifying Creole-speakers as African Americans fails to properly account for linguistic and cultural differences (Zéphir 1997: 223).

In the bibliography:


a. Book:

   Author. Year of publication. *Title of book.* City of publisher: Publisher.
See the bibliography for further examples.

**Academic Honesty Guidelines**

Academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community. An academic honesty offense is defined as the act of lying, cheating, or stealing academic information so that one gains academic advantage. Any individual who becomes aware of a violation of the Honor Code is bound by honor to take corrective action.

Violations of the Academic Honesty Guidelines include but are not limited to:

**Cheating.** The improper taking or tendering of any information or material which shall be used to determine academic credit. Taking of information includes copying graded homework assignments from another student; working with another individual(s) on graded assignments or homework; looking or attempting to look at notes, a text, or another student's paper during an exam.

**Plagiarism.** The attempt to represent the work of another as the product of one's own thought, whether the other's work is oral or written (including electronic), published or unpublished. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, quoting oral or written materials without citation on written materials or in oral presentations; submitting work produced by an on-line translation service or the translation feature of an on-line dictionary as your own.

**Misrepresentation.** Any act or omission with intent to deceive a teacher for academic advantage. Misrepresentation includes lying to a teacher to increase your grade; lying or misrepresenting facts when confronted with an allegation of academic honesty.  

**Bribery, Conspiracy, Fabrication.** For details see below.

**The UF Honor Code states:**

"We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity."

On all work submitted for credit the following pledge is either required or implied:

"On my honor I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment."

Violations of this policy will result in disciplinary action according to the judicial process.

For more details go to: [http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/academic.htm](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/academic.htm)

**Students with disabilities**

Students with disabilities must register with the Dean of Students office. Contact the Assistant Dean of Students/Director of the Disability Resources Program at:

P202 Peabody Hall  
Gainesville, FL 32611-5055
Phone (352) 392-1261 (V), 392-3008 (TDD)
For stress, emotional and psychological support, please contact the Counseling Center at:
301 Peabody Hall
Phone (352) 392-1575
Or: www.counsel.ufl.edu
If you need this syllabus in an alternate format, please speak to Ben.

**Syllabus for Introduction to Haitian Creole Linguistics**
Department of Romance Languages and Literatures
University of Florida, Gainesville
Lecturer: Benjamin Hebblethwaite

| HMWK = 1 PAGE |
| COMMENTARY ON THE READING FOR THE DAY IT IS DUE. |

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Monday, October 18
Hebblethwaite, Benjamin. 2009.

Wednesday, October 20
Hebblethwaite, Benjamin. 2009.

Friday, October 22
Hebblethwaite, Benjamin. 2009; Lefebvre, Claire. 1998.

Monday, October 25
Degraff, Michel. 2007.

Wednesday, October 27
Degraff, Michel. 2007.

Friday, October 29
Degraff, Michel. 2007.

GORDON RULE PAPER TOPIC

Monday, November 1

Wednesday, November 3

Friday, November 5
Degraff, Michel. 1997. HMWK.

Monday, November 8
Johnson. 1972.

Wednesday, November 10
Hebblethwaite. 2010.

Friday, November 12
Hebblethwaite. 2010.

Monday, November 15
VETERANS’ DAY (NO CLASS)

Wednesday, November 17
Hebblethwaite. 2010. HMWK.

Friday, November 19
Hebblethwaite. 2010. GORDON RULE ESSAY DUE

Monday, November 22

Wednesday, November 24

Friday, November 26
THANKSGIVING ~ NO CLASS

Monday, November 29
Paper presentations 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7.

Wednesday, December 1
8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15.

Friday, December 3
16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26.
Monday, December 6
Review
Wednesday, December 8
FINAL EXAM: Essay Due