The University of Texas at San Antonio  
Department of Bicultural Bilingual Studies

BBL 5023 Cultural Adaptation in Bilingual Societies

Note: This Syllabus is provided for informational purposes regarding the anticipated course content and schedule of this course. It is based upon the most recent information available on the date of its issuance and is as accurate and complete as possible. We reserve the right to make any changes deemed necessary and/or appropriate. We will make our best efforts to communicate any changes in the syllabus in a timely manner. Students are responsible for being aware of these changes.

Catalog description: The study of the dynamic relations between culture, language, and the social environment. Explanations for the range of cultural, historical, psychological, and political-economic adaptations in diverse systems are explored.

Course description: This seminar is designed to provide students with an understanding of the significant relationships between culture and language in sociocultural context with emphasis on community and individual adaptation. The paradigm of adaptation will guide the study of how ethnolinguistic groups in the United States and elsewhere have experienced change and revitalization within their culture and language. The course content emphasizes the situation of Mexican Americans in the Southwest and the political, cultural and psychosocial strategies this cultural group has used to adapt to the multicultural and multilingual region.

Course objectives: Through an interactive process that involves readings, lectures, discussions, assignments, and media presentations students will be able to:

- Become familiar with the socio-historical dimensions of culture contact in the Southwest and other cross-cultural settings,
- Identify and examine problematic issues of ethnic group contact, including societal integration and exclusion, culture and language change, and psychosocial adaptation,
- Analyze and explain processes of contact and adaptation from an interdisciplinary theoretical perspective, e.g., theories and concepts of acculturation, assimilation, cultural production, identity, and behavior,
- Apply the above perspectives to the development of pragmatic recommendations that address issues of cultural adaptation in communities, schools, families, and other institutions.

Required texts:


Other photocopied material on Reserve at UTSA Library or on WebCT.

**Requirements for successful completion of course:** Each student is responsible for assigned readings, material covered in lectures, attending class and being active participants, collaborating on group assignments/presentations, assignments, exam, response papers, and research paper. For each assigned reading (chapter or article), students should write one discussion question dealing with some aspect of its relevance and relation to the general themes of the course. These questions will be used in class discussion and serve to document participation.