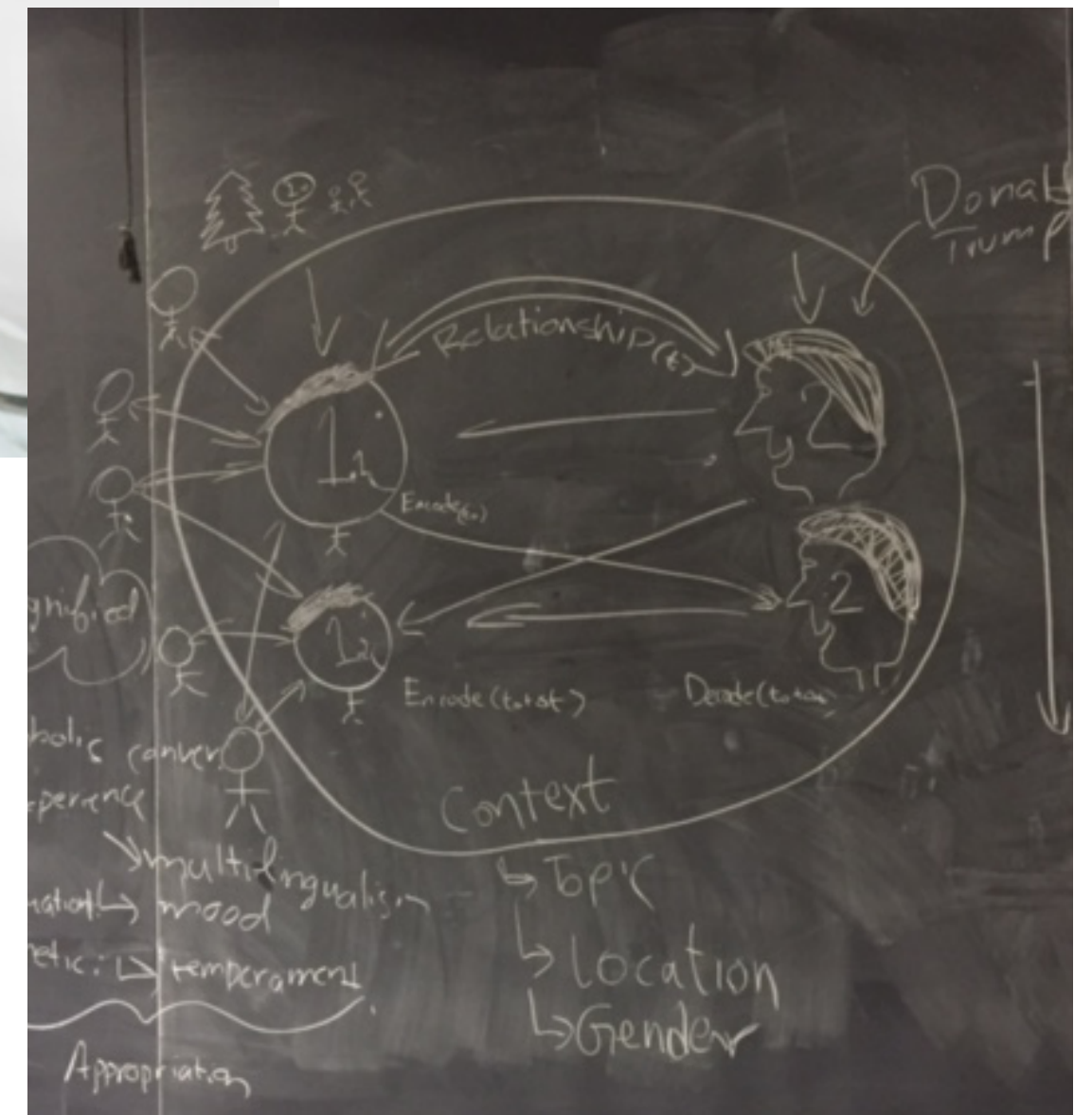


APS281: LANGUAGE AND MEANING

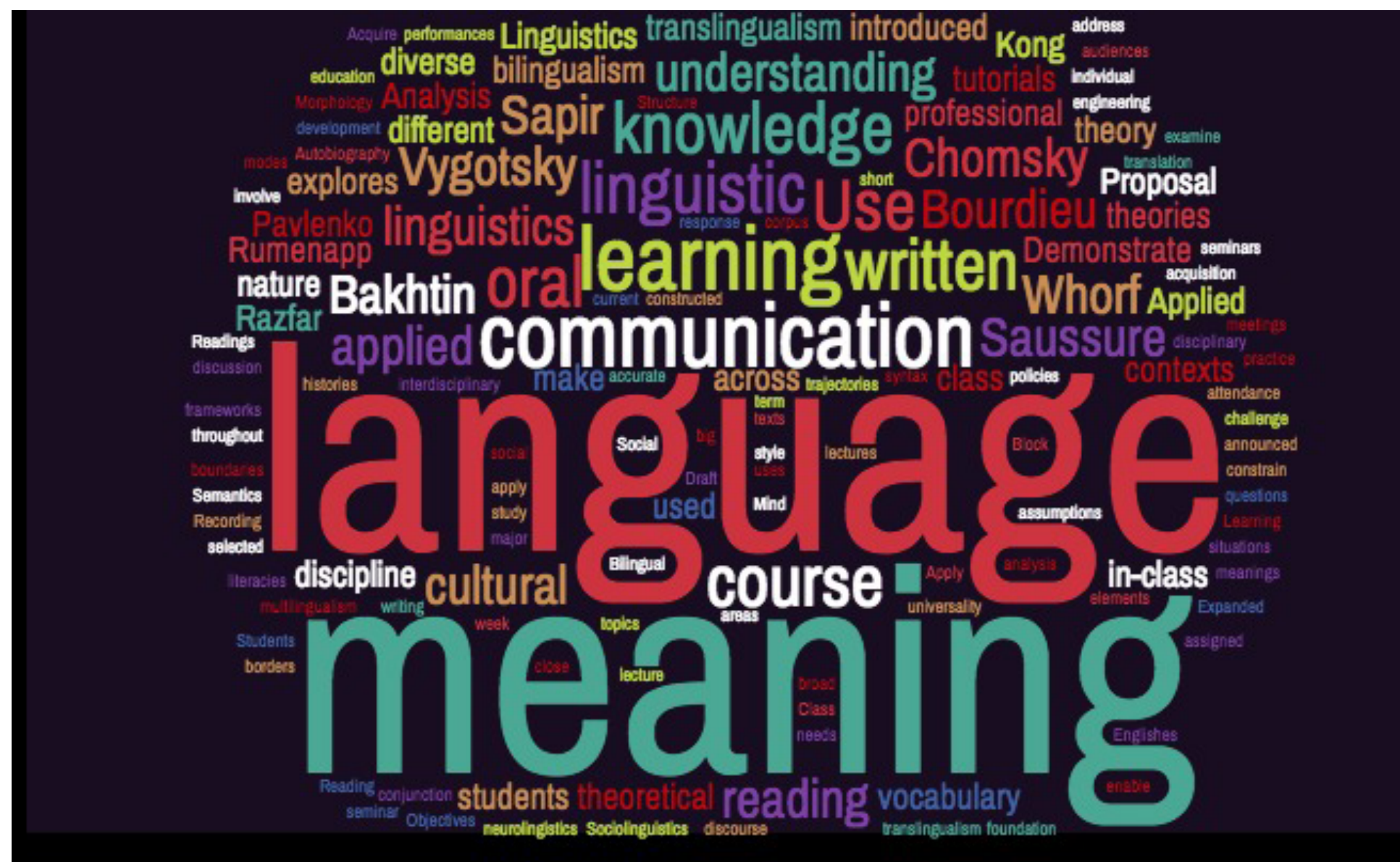
The course explores two “big” questions:

- What is language?
- How do we make meaning with language?

It explores these questions through the broad, interdisciplinary lens of Applied Linguistics. Students explore the nature of language across linguistic, discipline and cultural boundaries and how language is used to make meaning. Starting with a contrast between theoretical linguistics and applied linguistics leads students to question their own assumptions about what language is, how language is used and how meaning is made. Students are challenged to become aware of the language they use and of the relationship and boundaries between language, thought, communication and meaning. They read a critical history of the development of the Sapir-Whorf Hypothesis, theories on the evolution of language to challenge their ideas of language as a static, discrete set of elements. They examine the diverse structures and patterns of languages when they look at language through the lens of syntax, morphemes, and phonemes. They look at meaning from the perspective of semantics and semiotics. With each new perspective students must reconsider and revise how they answer the course questions.



CONCEPTS:



ACTIVITIES:

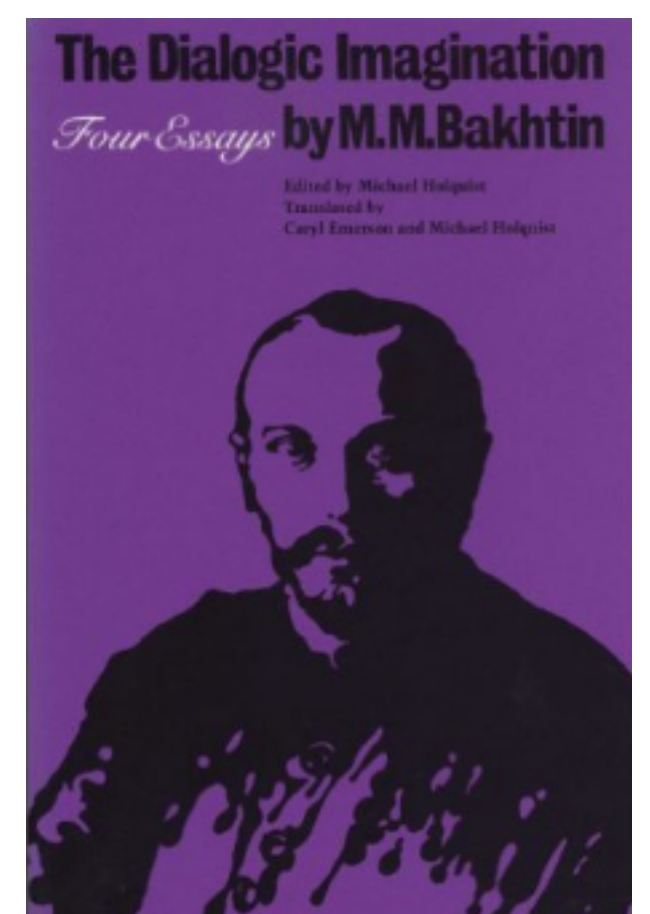
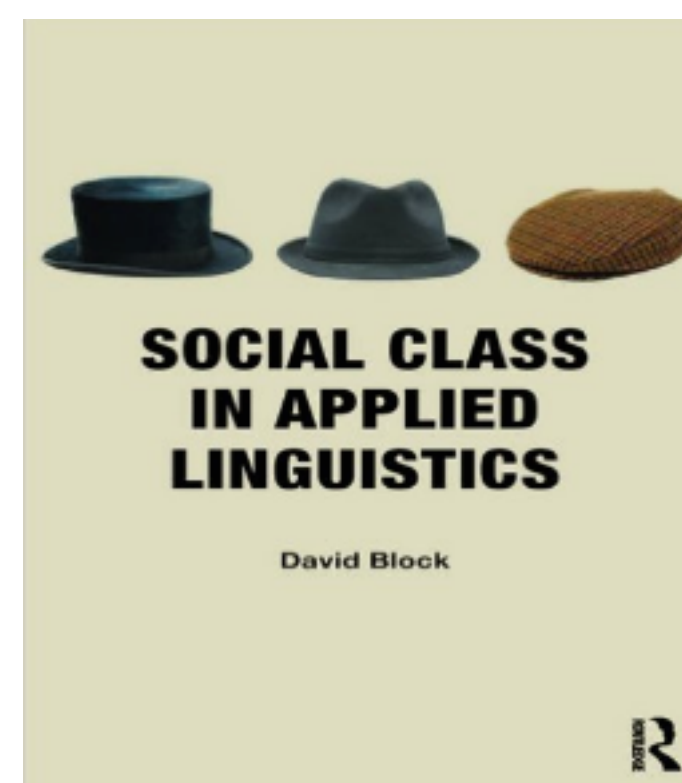
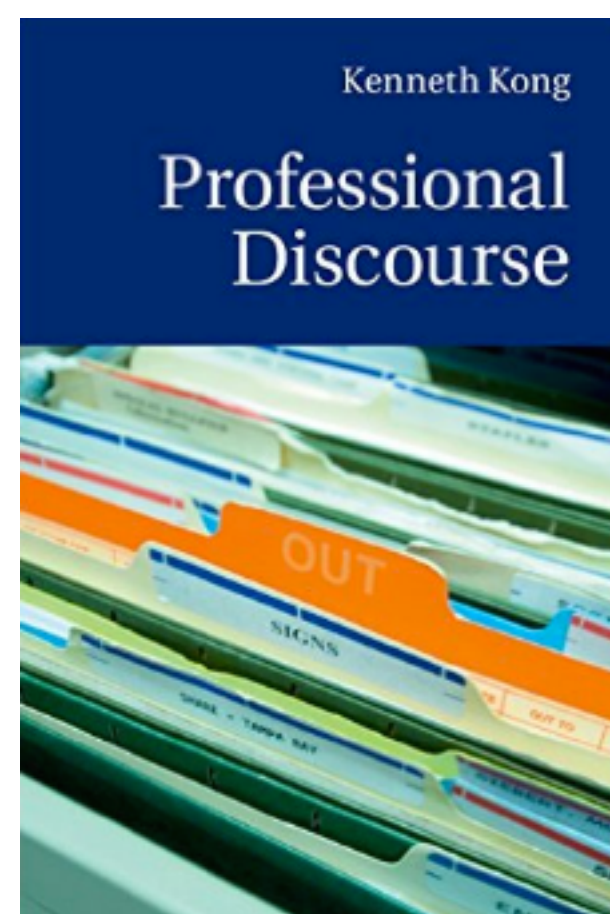
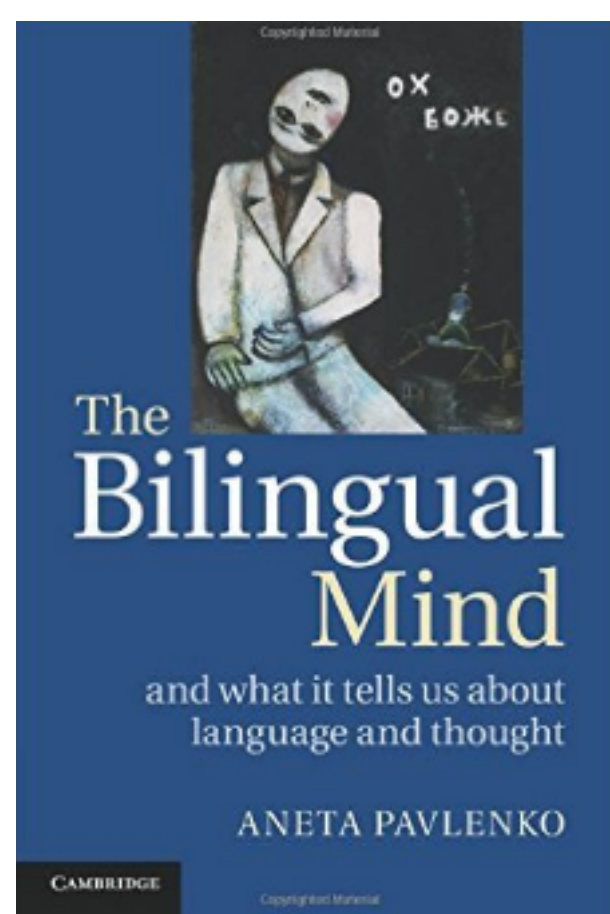
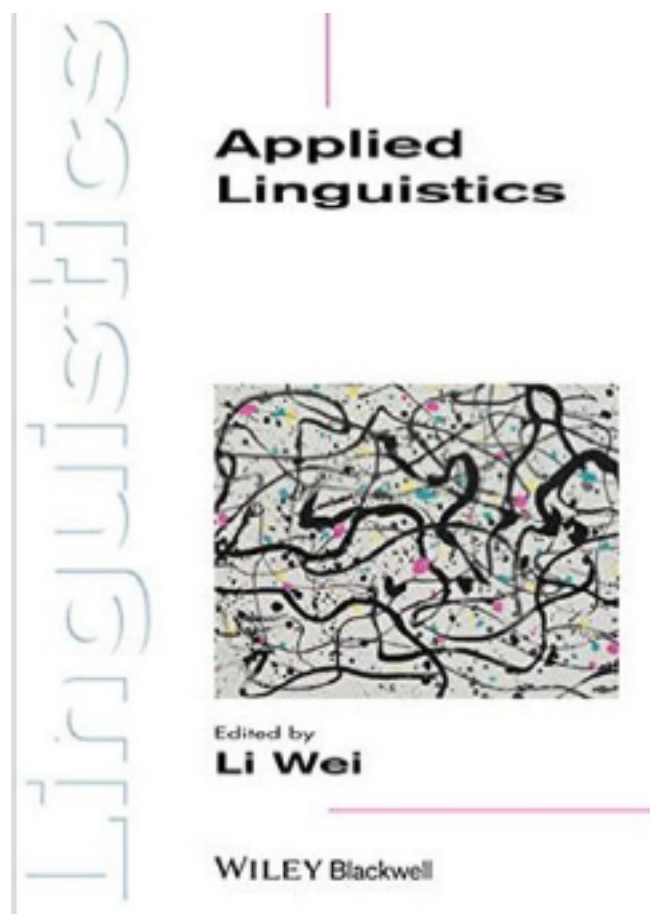


Lectures+ Discussions+ Writing, Reflection, Analysis

1. Define language and meaning
2. Draw their thought to language process
3. Use Field, Tenor and Mode to construct final essay guidelines
4. Record and analyze language use

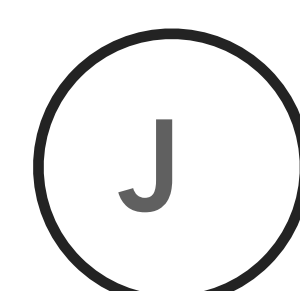
USING LANGUAGE & MAKING MEANING:

Connecting theory students begin to analyze what they do when they speak or write



DELIVERABLES:

Students develop their understanding of the concepts and build an answer to the initial questions through a series of written and oral assignments.



Weekly Reading Responses-NOT summaries

+



Language Autobiography

+



Record and do a discourse analysis of own language use



Research Essay examining the relationship of language and meaning in a context of the student's choosing, i.e.



Instructor challenges, questions, suggests



Analysis of a language learning incident through the lens of language learning theory



Design and lead a seminar discussion based on one concept from a reading

The purpose of slang and its usage within an academic environment

The categorization of music as communication or language through the analysis of 'Symphonie Fantastique'

Analysis of Videogames through the lens of Applied Linguistics

FEEDBACK:

"At the beginning of the term I didn't understand why it seemed like we were learning about applied linguistics when we were supposed to be learning about language and meaning. I can see the connection now..."



"Thank you for a great time in the course, it has made me more aware of the people around me, and also has helped deepen my understanding of the importance of music through writing this essay."

"I believe this course not only brings me a new understanding of language, it also helps to improve my oral and writing English skills."