Final project information

The final project for this course gives you a chance to bust a language myth of your choice! Essentially, your assignment is to write (one subsection of) a case-study discussion like those we have seen in the Kaplan textbook. You will report on a published research study that addresses your chosen myth: summarize some of the key findings, decode and interpret at least one data graphic, and discuss whether or not the myth you have chosen is 'busted'.

- You can work on a new myth, or take a new perspective on a myth discussed by Kaplan
- You can do the final project on your own, or in a group of 2
- Requirements on the research paper that you discuss for this project:
  - It cannot be one that Kaplan *discusses* herself in the textbook, although it may be one that you find through her "Further reading" sections at the ends of chapters
  - There are certain requirements for content that you need to cover in the your paper and your presentation (see below) — make sure you choose an article that will allow you to fulfill these requirements
  - It must be a *published* paper with a bibliographic citation (online journals are acceptable, but it can't just be a manuscript posted on the author's web site)

The final project consists of three parts:

- A **proposal** (15% of project grade) — due **M Nov 8** at **9pm** via Sakai "Assignments"
- A **paper** (50% of project grade) — due **F Dec 3** at **4pm** (the beginning of the final-exam period) via Sakai "Assignments"
- A short **presentation** (35% of project grade) — during the final-exam period (**F Dec 3, 4–7pm**); **slides** are due **F Dec 3** at **2pm** via Sakai "Assignments" | *remote attendance ok*

Workshop time is provided on certain class days. You may spend your workshop time in the classroom, on the Zoom livestream link, in the library, or working on your own or with a partner.

- Workshop time for proposals on M Oct 18 and W Oct 20
- Workshop time for papers and presentations on M Nov 29 and W Dec 1

1. Proposal

- Submit as a Sakai "Assignment" by **9pm** on **M Nov 8**
  - You are welcome to meet with me for informal feedback on your topic ideas
  - You are welcome to submit early; feedback will be provided soon after submission
- Include the following information in a way that makes it easy for me to find:
  - The myth you are investigating (it's fine to formulate a new one we haven't discussed)
  - The big-picture question ('Do women talk more than men?') and specific measurable question(s) ('In problem-solving conversations, how many talk turns do men and women take, and who takes more?') that your article is addressing
  - The full citation information for your article — use the Unified Style Sheet for Linguistics (http://www.linguisticsociety.org/sites/default/files/style-sheet_0.pdf)
  - A simple web link or DOI for your article (it's fine to link to the abstract)
  - The data graphic(s) that you plan to focus on in your presentation (i.e., "Figure 3 on p 42")

2. Paper

You can look to Kaplan's case-study sections for examples of the kind of discussion we are aiming for in this assignment. Use the following structure, with section titles approximately as below:

- *1. Introduction:* Begin with your 'myth' and the big-picture question and specific measurable question(s) that you have identified
- *2. Case-study summary:* Explain at least one experiment or research study from the paper you have chosen
  - Report on what the research participants were like, how many there were, etc.
  - Summarize the experiment design: materials, task performed by participants, any other relevant information
  - Results: Explain what was found; as part of this discussion, reproduce at least one relevant **data graphic** (with page-number citation!) and **decode and interpret** it as you have done for class presentations
  - If you choose to include more than one experiment from the same paper, you do not necessarily have to include a data graphic for each one, as long as at least one data graphic is included and thoroughly interpreted
- *3. General discussion:* Discuss the implications of the results for the case-study's own research question, and then take a step back to consider whether the myth you identified has been conclusively 'busted' by the research findings you are reporting on

3. Presentation

- Your presentation will be based on your paper — share your results with the class!
- You will have approximately 4 minutes to present your 'myth-busting' data graphic
  - You may need to choose a subset of the information that you have discussed in your paper
  - The decoding and interpretation of your data graphic(s) is the key part of your presentation
  - Myth and research questions are also key points for the presentation as time permits

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Detailed **grading criteria** for the proposal, paper, and presentation will be provided separately.