ENG341 Language and conflict – from aggressive to peaceful communication

Fall 2017

Course description

This course takes up *language and conflict* as a topic in discourse analysis. The following subtopics will be discussed: (1) mixing words and other things as a reason for conflict; (2) framing – how we talk differently about the same thing; (3) how words can influence our emotions; (4) how we mix descriptions, inferences and evaluations; (5) euphemisms, dysphemisms and political correctness; (6) how we misinterpret other people´s linguistic behavior; (7) how conflicts revolve around the definition of words; (8) how linguistics can be used for peace education. Meaning and understanding will be the central concern in the course.

Obligatory reading:

Janicki, Karol. 2010. "Lay people's language problems". 2010. *International Journal of Applied Linguistics*. Volume 20. (1). 73-94. (available electronically)
Janicki, Karol. 2015. *Language and conflict. Selected issues.* London: Palgrave Macmillan Education.
Tannen, Deborah. 1999. *The argument culture*. London: Virago.

Recommended reading: see *Suggestions for further reading* at the end of each chapter in Janicki 2015.