INDEPENDENT STUDY OF SPEECH – HONORS

Summer 2017 Assignment:

Welcome to Independent Study of Speech, a senior level honors course that takes a survey through the field of communication studies! I am excited to guide you through this year's exploration of language, cultural identity, and the relationship that they hold with one another. In order to cover the vast array of material that we have set for this year, it is necessary for you to enter the 2017-2018 school year with a firm understanding of the foundational components of sociolinguistics and rhetoric. The following summer assignments will help prepare you with these skills.

Assignment One – Language As A Tool – Due Monday, July 31:

Watch the 2016 film *Arrival* (PG-13). You may find this film at any major store that sells videos. I will also have a copy that you can check out, if need be. After viewing the film, write a four page essay that responds to the following prompt: **How does the language that we are most familiar with serve as a functional tool for us in everyday life?** Consider the following questions to guide you through the essay – they are not required, but they might help set you in the right direction:

- Is there any true way to share meaning within communication?
- Are some speech acts more impactful or meaningful than others? Is this true across all cultures?
- Is it possible to truly master more than one language? If so, can they be used interchangeably as "tools"?
- Does language control thought, or does thought control language?
    - Consider real life individuals such as Genie or Victor, who did not develop language.

Assignment Two – The Evolution Of Rhetoric Within Society – Due On The First Day Of The School:

Read Chapter One of <u>Rhetoric In Popular Culture</u> (4th edition) by Dr. Barry Brummett. You will be able to find a copy of this text in my classroom or you may access a digital copy of it on my website. In this chapter, Dr. Brummett gives a cursory glance of the history of rhetoric and the evolution of language within our sociological histories. These are *very* important components of this course. As you read the chapter, **complete each of the exercises that you come across** – there will be five. There is no minimum or maximum number of sentences required for each activity, just be thoughtful and diligent with them.

A Couple Of Reminders, Tips, And Requirements:

- Please type your responses. Set the font to **Calibri in size 12.** Your margins should be set to 1-inch on each side, and your spacing should be set to double-space the assignment. I am doing this to warm you guys up to writing using APA citation styles – the standard citation format for communication studies.
- Don't cheat. I'm not quite sure how you would manage to cheat on some of these prompts, but I know that you're creative. I am a master detective and I will find out if you are copying from one another or from an online source of some sort.

- DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO DO THESE ASSIGNMENTS. Seriously, that is only signing yourself up to suffer and do poorly in the class.
    - With that in mind, I would wait a little bit to do the Brummett assignment. Hint: You might have an assessment on that material in the first week of school.
- If you are a bad writer, don't freak out. I am here to help you get better. I can't promise that you will leave my class loving writing assignments, but I can promise you that you will leave feeling more confident. Your first couple of papers might be bleeding red ink, but we'll make improvement throughout the school year! ☺ ☺ ☺
- Do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. You can email me at mdonaldson@chinaspringisd.net or you can call me at 254 – 640 – 5785. I am more than willing to set up office hours throughout the summer to meet you at CSHS and help you on the assignments.

I cannot wait to get started on this journey with you all. Let me know if you need anything.

Have fun. Be safe. Make good choices.

Michael Allen Donaldson
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