Journal Assignment

As part of your final grade, you must keep a journal of news entries about some aspect of language policy in Europe. The journal must have a coherent theme, which may be either centered on a country or a policy, and may not be the same as your final paper. For instance, one possible theme might be "Language policy in Portugal." Another might be "Language policy and education." You should have a topic picked out by the end of the second week of classes. Your journal must contain no fewer than FIVE entries.

You can find news articles through a variety of sources. The best place to start would be to join the LGPOLICY-LIST listserv, which provides a variety of language policy stories every day. You can join by going to http://linguistlist.org/lists/get-list-detail.cfm?List=101. Another idea is to set up Google News alerts: http://www.google.com/alerts?pz=1&ned=us&hl=en&t=1. Those of you who speak the language of the country you are looking at may wish to visit the local Google site to set up a news alert. Finally, you can go to Lexis Nexis (found through the IUB Libraries site) to look through the news archives there.

A good journal entry will look like this:

"Europe must deliver a common immigration policy, MEPs say"
Sofia Echo via LGPOLICY-LIST, April 23, 2009

This article discusses a report on the importance of migrants to Europe's future, and why a pan-European policy is crucial. The report says that migrants are an integral part of the EU and that the EU must be a welcoming environment for them. One important way of doing this is to teach them the language of the host country as a way of integrating them into the local society. Another way of welcoming the migrants is by allowing them to vote in local elections. The article also mentions that it is important to reform the laws of migration, making legal migration into and within the EU easier and more organized in order to avoid risky entries (such as arriving by raft) and brain drain. They propose doing this by establishing new types of visas for the whole EU rather than individual countries and by establishing minimum periods of residence in one country before being allowed to move freely to other EU nations. I thought this article was really interesting, as it shows that the EU is thinking creatively about how to deal with both legal and illegal migration. I thought that the idea of teaching migrants the language of the host society was good, but I would have liked to see more details about how that was going to be funded.

Notice that the entry contains a summary of the article in the first sentence, a mention of how language policy is important, the details of the article that I thought were important or interesting, and some commentary on the article and specifically on the language aspect. This entry is over 220 words; I consider this a very long journal entry. An average of 150 words should be enough.

Wiki assignment

One project you may wish to work on instead of the journal is a Wiki assignment. For this assignment, you must create a Wikipedia page about some part of language policy in some country in Western Europe. It should be about 1000 words, and must not already exist in English or some other language. A good, but slightly long, example is the page on Language legislation in Belgium: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Language_legislation_in_Belgium. Your topic for the Wiki and your final paper may not be the same.

Final paper

As 25% of your grade, you must write a final paper. It may be a critical analysis of one country's language policy, either as a whole or just one part, e.g. "The Language Policy of Malta" or "Plain Language efforts in Denmark." Another option will be to focus on a topic of importance to several nations, possibly including the United States. This might be a comparison of two or more countries' policy with regards to a shared minority, an assessment of the language policy of a supranational organization such as the EU or the Council of Europe, or an issue (e.g. language and religion) taken up in a variety of nations.

The term paper will be due in four stages:

Stage 1: Proposal
Your term paper proposal is a short document, no more than one page long. It should be a specific suggestion about what you plan to study. For instance, if my topic is "The language rights of the Deaf in France," I might say that I plan to study what rights Deaf people have in French schools and courts by law, and how those rights are implemented and respected. I give a brief introduction on the background of the topic, and then say what the focus of my paper will be, e.g. whether the Deaf have the right to use sign language and whether that has an effect on how they learn French.

Stage 2: Annotated bibliography
Your annotated bibliography should contain at least four sources that are not mandatory readings for this course. Each bibliography entry should contain the bibliographic reference itself, along with a one or two sentence summary of the article. For example:

Ford, C. C. (1993). Which nation? Language, identity and republican politics in post-revolutionary France. *History of European Ideas, 17*(1), 31-46.

This article discusses the evolution of French language policy toward minority languages in the years following the Revolution. It shows that a lot of the policies aimed at stamping out minority languages were designed to minimize the influence of the Church on the developing secular society.

Stage 3: Outline

The outline for the final paper should be a skeleton of what you actually plan to write. It should contain the main points in your introduction, the main sections and arguments of the body of the paper, and the things you want to address in your conclusion. It should be in the sequence you plan to write the paper in, so be sure that everything is clear. This is also the last chance for me to catch any problems with your organization, which will help me help you write an A-grade paper.

Stage 4: Paper

Format:
5-7 pages
Double-spaced
Double-sided (if it is not double-sided, you automatically lose 5 points)
Times New Roman, 12 point font

Make sure that you follow all the guidelines, and you should be fine.