

Department of Anthropology
ANTH 2245F
ANTHROPOLOGICAL APPROACHES TO LANGUAGE
Fall 2017

Class time: Mondays 1:30-4:30 pm
Classroom: Weldon Library Room 258

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Teaching Assistants:

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Note: This syllabus may be adjusted as required throughout the term. All students are responsible for attending class for information in this regard.

Course Prerequisites: ANTH 1020E or ANTH 1025F/G or ANTH 1027A/B or LING 2288A/B

"Unless you either have the prerequisites for this course or have written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from the course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites."

I. Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes

Anthropology 2245F is an introduction to the general field of linguistic anthropology. The foundation of an anthropological approach to language is the idea that language use and linguistic variation are central to understandings of others and ourselves. Language and culture are bound together because it is through language that our values and our ways of behaving and thinking are passed on, negotiated and changed.

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- describe linguistic structures, patterns and practices using appropriate scholarly terminology
- define language and articulate its relationship to thought

- critically examine sociocultural contexts in which particular varieties of language are used in social action
- demonstrate how linguistic practices are linked to social meaning and categories such as race, gender, ethnicity and class
- identify language ideologies at work in examples of discourse
- critically reflect on their own linguistic practices

II. Required Books

Blum, Susan (2017) *Making Sense of Language*. **Third Edition**. New York, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

***Be sure to get the third edition as most of the chapters are different from the first two editions!**

Other materials will be made available through the OWL course website. Login at <http://owl.uwo.ca>

III. Course Requirements

In order to achieve the course objectives, students will do weekly readings and participate in discussions, complete quizzes on the readings, listen to lectures, watch films and write reflection papers, complete homework assignments, and write a final exam. The assignments are designed to give students opportunities to think about what they are learning and apply new concepts and approaches to their analyses of language and culture. Learning will be evaluated through quizzes, written essays, online comments, and an exam.

Contributions to online discussions online: 5%

Students can contribute to online discussions in two ways:

- **five** short contributions over the course of the semester in different weeks (5 x 1% = 5%)
- **one** longer contribution

In these contributions, students should **critically reflect on their own experiences learning and using language(s)**.

A **Voice Thread** will be enabled in the Discussions tab on the course web site for each week. When you first open Discussions, go to the top left corner of the black screen "VT Home" and right click to "open link in a new tab/new window". This will make it much friendlier to navigate. Then select the week's slide to open the thread. Click on the plus sign in the bottom centre of the screen and choose whether you want to create your comment as text (ABC icon), as voice only (microphone or telephone icon) or as video (video camera icon). You can use the Voice Thread tool to write your text or make your recordings directly; you do not need to upload any files. There is an option to re-record as many times as you like until you are satisfied with your submission.

To count toward the mark for this assignment, the **five short** contributions must be substantive and meaningful, demonstrating an engagement with the issues and materials from the course *in a personal way*. Reference to the contributions of others is encouraged but simple repetition of their ideas is not allowed. Students may make as many contributions as they like, and are encouraged to do so, but at least five must meet the requirements to receive the full mark. Week 1 does not count. Short contributions must be **at least 200 words of text or 90 seconds of talk** each and be made in **different weeks**. They must also be made **no later than one week after** the material has been presented in order to count toward the total of 5 graded contributions.

For the **one long** contribution, students must also demonstrate an engagement with the issues and materials from the course *in a personal way*. The difference is that you will be expected to incorporate material from **at least three different weeks** in your contribution and show how these topics are interrelated using your personal experiences with language to illustrate. You can post long contributions in any week after Week 3, following the instructions for Voice Thread in the paragraph above. They must be at least **800-1000 words of text or about 7 minutes of talk (6 min. minimum - 8 min. maximum)**. If you are making an audio or video contribution, make sure to work from a structured outline of points you will make so that you are concise and coherent. Rambling on will lower your mark.

Short contributions will be given a score of 0, 1 or 2.

- 2 = insightful, makes reference to class materials, connects to personal experiences
- 1 = minimal effort with little evidence of reflection; does not mention course material
- 0 = missing or inappropriate contribution

Long contributions will be marked out of 5

- 5 = insightful, refers to class materials, connects to personal experiences, coherent, well-structured
- 4 = insightful, refers to class materials, connects to personal experiences, too long or too short
- 3 = refers to class materials, connects to personal experiences, lacks coherence or does not integrate topics well, minimal reflection
- 2 = minimal effort with little evidence of reflection; does not mention course material
- 1 = minimal effort with little evidence of reflection; does not mention course material; too long or too short
- 0 = missing or inappropriate contribution

Quizzes: 10%

There will be an open-book, online quiz each week starting after Week 1. The purpose of the quizzes is to encourage you to do the readings so that you will be prepared for class discussions and to help you learn the material before the exam. The quiz questions will be taken from the set of Reading Questions at the beginning of each chapter in the text book. **Quizzes will be open from Wednesday to Monday at 1 p.m. prior to the class.** No make-up quizzes will be given but the lowest quiz grade will be dropped, for a total of 10 quizzes counting toward your final mark. Each quiz will be given a score out of 10 and your final mark will be an average of the top 10 quiz scores.

Homework Assignments: 40%

There are two homework assignments due throughout the semester (2 x 20% = 40%). Instructions for each assignment will be posted on the OWL website. Assignments should be submitted in class on the due date. See Course Policies below for instructions on how to submit late assignments. Electronic versions of assignments must also be uploaded to OWL by 1:30 p.m. on the due date so they can be checked by Turnitin.com for plagiarism. Do not send your assignments by e-mail. **Only the paper copy will be marked. If you do not submit a paper copy, you will not receive a grade.** Each assignment must be 1,000 words (+/- 50 words) and must include a word count at the end. Your writing style will influence your grade.

Video Reaction Papers: 20%

There will be several videos shown in class to complement the readings. From these videos, you must write **two** reaction papers of 500-600 words. They are worth **10%** each. This is an exercise in critical thinking and connecting class material to the world around you. Therefore, the reaction

paper must link the video content to something in your own life which is either different or similar. Note the following:

- Making additional connections to one or two class readings can improve your grade but the focus of the reaction paper should be on your own insights and critiques.
- Reaction papers are due one week after the video is shown and they should be submitted at the beginning of the next class. Electronic versions of video reaction papers must also be uploaded to OWL by 1:30 p.m. on the due date so they can be checked by Turnitin.com for plagiarism. Do not send your assignments by e-mail. **Only the paper copy will be marked. If you do not submit a paper copy, you will not receive a grade.**
- **No late papers will be accepted after the Wednesday grace period.** If you miss a deadline, you can write about another video.
- At least one video reaction paper must be written on a film shown in Weeks 1 to Week 7. Another paper must be written on a film shown in Weeks 8 to Week 13. This is to ensure that your assignments are distributed evenly throughout the semester.

Final Exam: 25%

- The final exam will include a variety of question types, which may include multiple choice, short answer and essay.
- The exam will be based on the material presented in class, videos and the assigned readings. Particular attention will be placed on theoretical developments and key terminology.
- You should be able to give examples from course materials to support your answers.
- The exam will take place on the date and time assigned by the registrar, to be announced later.

IV. Grading Structure

Online contributions	5%
Quizzes	10%
Homework	40%
Video Reactions	20%
Final Exam	25%

Your progress can be checked through the Gradebook on OWL.

V. Grading Philosophy

Your best chance to do well in this course is to

- (a) attend regularly
- (b) participate fully
- (c) think really hard about the material, even if you find it confusing or difficult
- (d) do the work, regardless of how bored/frustrated you are with it.

If you are doing all these things and you are still concerned about your grade, then please come to office hours for suggestions and assistance. If you are not doing all these things, you should expect a lower grade.

VI. Course Policies

Written Assignments

- All written assignments completed outside of class must be formatted for 8.5 – 11" paper, double-spaced, and use 12 point font.
- The title page must include your **first and last name, the course number, the professor's name** and a **relevant title** (e.g. not "Homework 1"). *Writing a descriptive title actually helps you clarify what your essay is about.*
- Number all pages after the title page.

- Remember to include the word count at the end of your document.
- Cite references according to the Author-Date version of the Chicago Manual of Style. There is a Guide to Citing References document with examples of how to do this posted on OWL in the Course Materials tab.
- **Paper copies** of all assignments should be **submitted in class** on the day they are due. If you are unable to do this, you must submit your assignment to the **Anthropology drop box outside the main office in SSC 3326 by 4:30 p.m. Wednesday** in the week the assignment is due. This grace period eliminates the need to ask for extensions and ensures that we have enough time to mark the assignments and return them to you within one week. **Assignments sent by e-mail will not be accepted. Homework assignments submitted after Wednesday will not be accepted without recommendations for accommodation from Academic Counselling. Video reaction papers will not be accepted after Wednesday.**
- **Electronic versions** of assignments must also be uploaded to OWL by 1:30 p.m. on the due date so they can be checked by Turnitin.com for plagiarism. Do not send your assignments by e-mail. **Only the paper copy will be marked. If you do not submit a paper copy, you will not receive a grade.**
- As an essay-designated course, all writing assignments (2 homework assignments and 2 video reaction papers) must be submitted in order to pass this course.

Plagiarism and Scholastic Offences

Students must write their assignments in their own words. Plagiarism is a major scholastic offence. Students should read Western's policies regarding scholastic offences, which can be found here: http://anthropology.uwo.ca/undergraduate/course_information/academic_policies.html .

Missed Deadlines and Accessibility

Occasionally illness or other personal issues make it impossible to meet deadlines. All students should familiarize themselves with Western's current academic policies regarding medical accommodation and accessibility. These policies are described in full at: http://anthropology.uwo.ca/undergraduate/course_information/academic_policies.html .

Some assignments have flexible due dates (i.e. video reaction papers and online discussion contributions). If you miss one opportunity for any reason, you can make up for it at another time. You do not need to provide documentation, nor will accommodations be made. It is advisable to organize your workload so that you do not leave everything to the end in case you need to choose another week unexpectedly.

Electronic devices

- During regular classes, the only allowable electronic device is a laptop computer and it should be used solely for the purpose of taking notes related to the class. Mobile phones, ipods, mp3 players etc. must be turned off during class. Remember that electronic distractions are inconsiderate to those seated around you. If you are causing distractions, you may be asked to leave.
- No electronic devices are allowed during the exam. Phones must be turned off and stored so that they are not visible.

VII. Schedule of Topics, Readings and Assignments

Week	Date	Topic	Readings Blum 2017	Video	Assignment Due
1	11 Sept.	Introduction		Faces of Culture	
2	18 Sept.	Language and Language Origins	Pg. 1-4 Ch. 2; 3; 4	Let There Be Words: Origins of Language	Quiz
3	25 Sept.	Language Ideologies	Pg. 252 Ch. 13; 22; 24		Quiz
4	2 Oct.	Language Socialization	Pg. 81 Ch. 8; 9; 25	Diverted to Delhi	Quiz
5	9 Oct.	THANKSGIVING and READING WEEK	NONE		
6	16 Oct.	Multilingualism	Pg. 480 Ch. 40; 41; 48	Speaking in Tongues	Quiz HW 1
7	23 Oct.	Linguistic Performativity and Transgression	Pg. 213 Ch. 19; 20; 26	Meet the Hitlers	Quiz
8	30 Oct.	Language and Identity: Race and Ethnicity	Pg. 335-337 Ch. 30 (video links on OWL); 31; 32		Quiz Last date to submit Video Paper 1
9	6 Nov.	Language and Identity: Class and Region	Ch. 28; 29 Talking Canadian (video on OWL)	American Tongues	Quiz
10	13 Nov.	Language and Identity: Gender, Sexuality, Generation	Ch. 33; 35; 38; 39 (links on OWL)	Do I Sound Gay?	Quiz
11	20 Nov.	Language Endangerment and Revitalization	Ch. 44; 45; Patrick 2007 (.pdf on OWL)	We Still Live Here	Quiz HW 2
12	27 Nov.	New Media	Pg. 154-155 Ch. 14; 16; 49	Comic Book Literacy	Quiz
13	4 Dec.	Language and Thought	Pg. 43 Ch. 5; 6; 7	How the Languages We Speak Shape the Ways We Think	Quiz Last date to submit Video Paper 2

List of Films

Week 1

Faces of Culture: Language and Communication. 1983. Producers: Ira Abrams and John Bishop: Harcourt Brace College Publishers.

Week 2

Let there be words: the origins of Language. 2007. Director: Christine Browne. Princeton, NJ : Films for the Humanities & Sciences.

Week 4

Diverted to Delhi. 2003. Director: Greg Stitt. Australia: Australia Film Commission.

Week 6

Speaking in Tongues. 2010. Producers and directors: Marcia Jarmel & Ken Schneider. San Francisco, CA: PatchWorks Production.

Week 7

Meet the Hitlers. 2016. Director: Matthew Ogens. Virgil Films and Entertainment.

Week 9

American Tongues. 1987. Directors: Andrew Kolker and Louis Alvarez. NY: Center for New American Media.

Week 10

Do I Sound Gay? 2014. Director: David Thorpe. Impact Partners and Little Punk think Thorpe.

Week 11

We still live here: Âs Nutayuneân. 2010. Director: Anne Makepeace. Makepeace Productions.

Week 12

Comic Book Literacy. 2009. Director: Todd Kent. Explorer Multimedia.

Week 13

How the Languages We Speak Shape the Ways We Think. 2017. Lecturer: Lera Boroditsky. Available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iGuuHwbuQOg> .