

**Department of Anthropology
ANTH 2245F
LANGUAGE AND CULTURE
Course Outline
Fall 2016**

**Class time: Mondays 1:30-4:30 pm
Classroom: TC-309**

Professor: Dr. Karen Pennesi
Office hours: Thurs. 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. or by appointment
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Teaching Assistants:

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Office: IGAB ON08

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 2245 is an introduction to the general field of linguistic anthropology. The foundation of this course is the idea that language use and linguistic variation are central to anthropological explorations 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 language(s) are used
- 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

II. Required Books

Blum, Susan (2013) *Making Sense of Language*. Second Edition. New York, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

***Be sure to get the second edition as 29 chapters are different from the first edition!**

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, 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 written essays, oral participation, online comments, and an exam.

Contributions to discussions in class and online: 10%

Students will have to make at least **five** contributions over the course of the semester in different weeks (5 x 2% = 10%). To count toward the mark for this assignment, contributions must be substantive and meaningful, demonstrating an engagement with the issues and materials from the course and not be repetitions of other comments. 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.

Students can contribute to discussions in two ways: in class (orally) or online (text, voice or video). Everyone is expected to come to class regularly, prepared to be an active participant. More in-class contributions will improve the quality of the class discussion. When making comments in class, please state your name so that we can get to know each other and to ensure that the TA is marking your contribution on the grade sheet.

For those who prefer online participation, a Voice Thread will be enabled in the Discussions tab on the course web site for each week. 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. On-line 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.

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

2 = insightful, makes reference to class materials, connects to other experiences

1 = minimal effort with little evidence of reflection; lacks references to readings

0 = missing or inappropriate contribution

Homework Assignments: 45%

There are three homework assignments due throughout the semester (3 x 15% = 45%).

Instructions for each assignment will be posted on the OWL website. Assignments should be submitted electronically through the OWL site before 11 p.m. on the due date. There will be a 24-hour grace period for late homework. Homework will be returned through OWL with comments inserted in the new file, so make sure that you know how to access them. Each assignment must

be 750-800 words and must include a word count at the end. Your writing style will influence your grade.

You have the option of revising ONE of these three homework assignments according to the feedback received. The revised assignment will be graded by the professor and the grade will be the average of the two versions. In order to take advantage of this option, you must contact the professor in advance, discuss the paper and hand in the revision no later than one week after it was returned. Late assignments cannot be revised.

Video Reaction Papers: 10%

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. 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 class readings will likely improve your grade.
- Reaction papers are due one week after the video is shown and they should be submitted electronically through the class website.
- No late papers will be accepted; if you miss a deadline, you can write about another video.
- You may write up to three reaction papers, in which case the best two will count towards your score.
- 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 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

Participation	10%
Homework	45%
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.
- A title page is not necessary but the top of the document must include your **first and last name** and the **assignment name** or a **title**.
- Name the file following this format: **Lastname_Initial_Assignment** (eg. Pennesi_K_HW1.doc).
- You may use Microsoft Word (.doc) or Open Office (.odt) to create your document as these will allow us to make comments on your assignment.
- 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.
- There will be a 24-hour grace period for late homework assignments (NOT video reaction papers), according to the timestamp on the OWL website. After that grace period, assignments will be penalized 5% per 24 hours that they are late and will not be accepted after 5 days.
- As an essay-designated course, all writing assignments (3 homework assignments and 2 video reaction papers) must be submitted and receive passing grades 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 will count against your participation mark.
- No electronic devices are allowed during the exam. Phones must be turned off and stored so that they are not visible.

Minimum Attendance

University regulations stipulate that an instructor may refuse to let a student take the final examination in a course if the student has, in the instructor's judgement, missed too many classes. For this course, any student who has not attended at least **seven** lectures will receive an e-mail

from the professor advising them not to take the final exam. An attendance sheet will be circulated in every class and it is the student's responsibility to sign it.

VII. Schedule of Topics, Readings and Assignments

Week	Date	Topic	Readings Blum 2013	Video	Assignment Due
1	Sept. 12	Introduction		Faces of Culture	
2	Sept. 19	Language and Language Origins	2, 3, 4	Let there be words: Origins of Language	
3	Sept. 26	Language Ideology	46, 47,48		
4	Oct. 3	Language and thought	6, 7, 8	How language shapes thought	
5	Oct. 10	THANKSGIVING	NONE		HW 1: 11 Oct.
6	Oct. 17	Language Socialization	9, 10, Fader 2006 (on OWL)	Diverted to Delhi	
7	Oct. 24	Multilingualism	19, 22, 23	Speaking in Tongues	
8	Oct. 31	Performativity and Indexicality	41, 43	Do I Sound Gay?	
9	Nov. 7	Language and identity: Class and region	29, 30, 31	American Tongues	HW 2
10	Nov. 14	Language and Identity: Race and ethnicity	32, 33, 34		
11	Nov. 21	Language and Identity: Gender and age	37, 38, 40	Diagnosing difference	
12	Nov. 28	Language Endangerment and Revitalization	25, 26, 28	We still live here	
13	Dec. 5	Language, literacy and media	12,16,17	Comic Book Literacy	HW 3

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

Beyond the Physics: How Languages Help us Construe and Construct. 2011. Lecturer: Lera Boroditsky. Available at: <https://vimeo.com/38834679> .

Week 6

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

Week 7

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

Week 8

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

Week 9

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

Week 11

Diagnosing difference: Transgender and Genderqueer Perspectives. 2009. Director: Annalise Ophelian. San Francisco, CA: Floating Ophelia Productions.

Week 12

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

Week 13

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