

**ANTHRO 2246G: Anthropology of Reading and Writing
Course Outline
Winter 2017
Dr. Tania Granadillo**

Classroom Location: AHB-1B04
Tuesdays 1:30-3:30 p.m. and Thursdays 1:30-2:30 p.m.

Office hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 11-12 or by appointment
Office: SSC 3408
Office phone: (519) 661-2111 ext 85096
E-mail: tgranadi@uwo.ca

Prerequisites:

One of Anthropology 1020E, 1027A/B, Linguistics 2288A/B or permission from the Instructor.

"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

This course examines reading and writing from an anthropological perspective. It first looks at how writing originated based on archeological evidence and at the sociocultural consequences of this invention. Then it explores various different writing systems around the world as well as the effects of the introduction of literacy in societies.

II. Required Books

- Ahearn, Laura. 2001. *Invitations to Love: Literacy, Love Letters, and Social Change in Nepal*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.
- Crystal, David. 2008. *Txtng: The Gr8 Db8*. Oxford; New York: Oxford University Press.
- Robinson, Andrew. 2007. *The story of writing*. London: Thames and Hudson.
- Wogan, Peter. 2004. *Magical writing in Salasaca*. Boulder, Co.; Oxford: Westview Press.
- Other Materials are available through WebCT OWL course website. Login at <http://owl.uwo.ca>

III. Course Requirements

Attendance & Participation 10%

Please come to class regularly, prepared to be an active participant. Your contribution will improve the quality of the class discussion, not to mention your participation grade.

You are allowed one unjustified absence throughout the semester. Any other absences must be justified in advance. An email before class will suffice in many circumstances. More than one absence will affect your attendance grade. A list to sign in will be provided every class.

Participation can also be enhanced by posting messages in the discussion part of the Owl website: <http://webct.uwo.ca/> > Owl by Sakai > Log in > Anthropology 2246. Every week a message thread will be enabled. Please follow appropriate netiquette. We will be monitoring this discussion site regularly.

Homework Assignments 40%

There are three homework assignments due throughout the semester. They will be posted on the Owl website by the end of the class and must be turned in electronically through the same site and in hard copy. They will be due by the beginning of the following class.

Each assignment must be around 750 words long (give or take 10%) and must include a word count at the end. Your writing style will influence your grade. You are also encouraged to present HW 1 and 3 in alternative formats; more information provided in class.

Reading Quiz 25%

Every Tuesday there will be a reading quiz that will cover the readings for the current week. The quiz can be found on the OWL website and must be done prior to coming to class.

Writing system paper 25%

The paper will be an essay on a particular writing system not covered in class or another appropriate topic discussed with the professor. This will be divided into various parts and they will count for part of the total: topic 2% outline and annotated references 3%, 3 min presentation 5%, paper 15%. You are encouraged to come discuss your drafts and ideas with the professor. The paper will be around 2500 words (give or take 10%).

IV. Grading Structure

Your grade will be based on the cumulative sum of points you earn in the areas outlined above. It's as simple as that. If you would like to know your grade at any point in the term, simply keep a running total of your accumulated points and compare them to the number of points possible at that point. I will be happy to confirm your point total at any time. This can also be checked through the Gradebook on Owl.

V. Grading Philosophy

Your grade is your responsibility, not ours

Your grade in this course is up to you, as much as we can make it so. We encourage you to talk to us, and to each other, in order to ensure that you understand the course material. If you have additional concerns about how you can ensure that you earn the grade you are hoping to earn in this course, please consult us for suggestions. If you feel you have been graded unfairly, please communicate with us about your concerns - and be

a strong advocate for yourself! We promise that we will not be mad at you because you argue a grade.

Grades are not personal statements about your intrinsic worth; they are accurate and fair-minded assessments of the objective merits of your work at a particular time and place.

While we are kind and sympathetic, we will not respond well to arguments about your grade that are based on anything other than the merits of your particular assignment. The smartest people in the world sometimes get poor grades - and the less-than-smartest sometimes get As. Your grade is not an index of your intelligence or of our beliefs about your intelligence.

The grade you earn is in no way required to be the grade you "need". Similarly, the grade you earn does not have anything to do with other grades you have earned in the past.

Need (due to financial aid status, athletics, or any other such requirement) is not an appropriate criterion for us to use in figuring your grade in this course. Neither is the fact that you are "an 'A' student", generally speaking. Please limit your discussion of grades in this course to the quality and quantity of work you do for this course - and we'll do the same! The grade you earn ought to be proportional to your willingness to do the course work in this class.

Note also that you will not be able to do well in this course unless you are willing to (a) attend regularly; (b) participate fully, (c) think really hard about the material, even if you find it confusing or difficult, and (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 see us for suggestions and assistance. If you are not doing all these things, please accept a lower grade and move on – that's precisely what low grades were intended for!

The grade you earn in this class ought to reflect your performance on the assignments, and not your availability to do extra credit work outside of class when you blow off the real assignments so there are no extra credit assignments.

VI. Course Policies

Written Assignments

All written assignments completed outside of class must be typewritten or word-processed, formatted for 8.5 x 11" white paper, double-spaced, using 12-point font. They must include your FIRST AND LAST NAME and the ASSIGNMENT NAME or a TITLE. If a hard copy is required, multi-page assignments must be stapled using ONE STAPLE IN THE UPPER LEFT HAND CORNER OF THE PAGE. Failure to follow these submission requirements will result in our REFUSAL TO ACCEPT YOUR ASSIGNMENT. Please purchase a stapler now if you do not already own one. Late assignments will be penalized 5% per business day that they are late, no assignments will be accepted one week after due date.

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. Electronic distractions will count against your participation mark.

University Policies regarding accessibility, plagiarism and scholastic offences, and medical accommodation:

All students should familiarize themselves with Western's current academic policies.

These policies are outlined (with links to the full policies) at:

http://anthropology.uwo.ca/undergraduate/course_information/academic_policies.html

VII. Schedule of Topics, Readings and Assignments (More articles to be determined)

Week	Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment Due
1	T Jan 10 R Jan 12	Introduction Origins of writing	Robinson introduction, ch. 2,	
2	T Jan 17 R Jan 19	Origins of writing	Robinson 3, 4	
3	T Jan 24 R Jan 26	Consequences of writing	OWL Ong	
4	T Jan 31 R Feb 02	Writing systems: Pictographs/Ideographs	Robinson ch. 11,12	HW 1
5	T Feb 07 R Feb 09	Writing systems: Hieroglyphs	Robinson ch. 1, 5, 6	
6	T Feb 14 R Feb 16	Writing systems: Syllabaries and Consonant alphabets	OWL	
7	T Feb 21 R Feb 23	READING WEEK		
8	T Feb 28 R March 02	Writing systems: Alphabets	Robinson ch. 9, 10	HW 2
9	T March 07 R March 09	Case studies: Kaluli	Schieffelin 1996, 2000	Paper topic
10	T March 14 R March 16	Case studies: Literacy and social change	Ahearn 2001	
11	T March 21 R March 23	Case studies: Salasaca	Wogan 2003	Paper outline and references

12	T March 28 R March 30	Contemporary case studies: Texting	Crystal 2008	
13	T April 04 R April 06	Presentations		HW 3
		Paper due Monday April 10		