

ANTHRO 2245 LANGUAGE AND CULTURE
Dr. Tania Granadillo
Winter 2012
Fridays 9:30-12:30
WL-258

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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

"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

Anthropology 2245 is an introduction to the general field of linguistic anthropology. The foundation of this course is the idea that linguistic variation and language use are central to anthropological explorations of ourselves and others. Language and culture are bound together because it is primarily through language that culture is passed on, negotiated and changed. In this course, students will investigate how language and culture are connected in multiple ways. The goal is for students to develop skills in analyzing how linguistic structures and behaviors are patterned and how they are linked to social meaning. Topics to be addressed are what is language, how it is structured, language and thought, language and identity, language ideology among others.

II. Required Books

Blum, Susan. 2009. Making Sense of Language. New York, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Other materials available through WebCT OWL course website. Login at <http://owl.uwo.ca>

III. Course Requirements

Discussion contributions in class and online: 100 pts

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. As well, each week a discussion thread will be enabled on the course web site. Students will have to make at least 2 contributions over the course of the semester. 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. They should be approximately 250 words each and they cannot both be from the same week. Students may make as many contributions as they like, and are encouraged to do so, but at least two must meet these requirements to receive the full mark. Please follow appropriate netiquette. We will be monitoring this discussion site regularly.

Homework Assignments: 500 pts (100 pts each)

There are five 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. They will be due by the beginning of the following class.

Each assignment must be around 500 words long (give or take 10%) and must include a word count at the end. Your writing style will influence your grade. You have the option of re-writing ONE homework assignment to be graded by the professor. The average of the two assignments will be your grade. In order to take advantage of this option, you must contact the professor in advance, discuss the paper and hand in the rewrite no later than one week after it was returned. Homework assignments will be returned through OWL with comments inserted in the new file, so make sure that you know how to access them.

Video Reaction Papers: 200 pts (100 pts each)

At least every other week there will be a video shown in class. From these videos, you must write two reaction papers of about 500 words (give or take 10%). The reaction paper must link the video to something in your own life, either as it being very different or very similar. It is an exercise in critical thinking and linking class material to the world around you. You have one week after the video to turn in the paper electronically through the class website, no late papers will be allowed as you have the option of writing on another video. You may write up to three reaction papers in which case the best two will count towards your score.

Final Paper or Take-Home Final Exam: 200 pts

You will have the choice of handing in a research paper or a take-home final exam. This choice must be made in advance. The topic for the final paper must be approved by the professor by March 16 you and hand in an outline and references by March 30.

Alternative formats may be considered for this assignment.

You will be provided with a take-home final exam on the last day of this class, March 30. The final exam will be an essay question. The research paper or the final exam must be

around 2000 words (give or take 10%). This assignment will be due on April 16 at noon. It must be turned in through the class website in electronic format.

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 – 11" white paper, double-spaced, using 12 point font. They must include your FIRST AND LAST NAME and the ASSIGNMENT NAME or a TITLE and they must be named LASTNAME_Initial_ASSIGNMENT (Replace with the appropriate information). Please make sure you turn in your assignments as .doc files. Late assignments will be penalized 5% per 24 hours that they are late as per the timestamp on the class website and will not be accepted after 5 days.

Missed Deadlines

Occasionally illness or other personal issues make it impossible to meet deadlines. In such cases adequate documentation must be submitted to Academic Counselling of your home faculty, according to the terms of the Senate policy regarding medical accommodation as specified at:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf. Providing such documentation is accepted by Academic Counselling, reasonable effort will be made to accommodate your situation. Without this, no accommodations will be made.

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.

Accessability

If you need this outline or any other course information in a different format, or need any other assistance to make this course accessible to you, please contact Dr. Granadillo as soon as possible so she can help. Where appropriate, get to know the people in Services for Students With Disabilities -Room 4100 in the Western Student Services Building (661-3031), as they can provide you with additional assistance specific to your personal needs.

Plagiarism

"Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offense. Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the

definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence at the following website:
<<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholoff.pdf>>."

"All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>)."

VII. Schedule of Topics, Readings and Assignments

Week	Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment Due
1	Jan 13	Introduction		
2	Jan 20	Language	Blum 1,2,3,4	
3	Jan 27	Language	Blum 5,6,7,8	HW 1
4	Feb 3	Language and thought	Blum 9,10,11,12	
5	Feb 10	Multilingualism	Blum 13,14,17,18	HW2
6	Feb 17	Language Endangerment and Revitalization	Blum 21,21,22	
7	Feb 24	Reading Week	NONE	NONE
8	March 2	Language and identity: Class and region	Blum 23,24,25	HW 3
9	March 9	Language and Identity: Race and ethnicity	Blum 26,27,28,29	
10	March 16	Language and Identity: Gender	Blum 30,31,32,33,34	HW 4 Topic for final paper
11	March 23	Discourse, performance and ritual	Blum 35, 36, 37, 39	
12	March 30	Language ideology	Blum 41,42,43, 44,45	HW 5 Outline and references for final paper
13	April 6	GOOD FRIDAY	NO CLASS	NO CLASS