Anthropology 1021A-001

Introduction to Sociocultural and Linguistic Anthropology

COURSE OUTLINE

Fall 2019

Lectures: Tuesdays 2:30-4:30pm

Classroom: SSC 2024

Tutorials: One hour on Thursdays between 1:30 and 5:30 pm. Rooms will be posted on the OWL course site.

Instructor: Dr. Nathan Dawthorne
Email: ndawthor@uwo.ca

Office: SSC 3331

Office Hours: Tuesdays 10:00 am - Noon or by appointment.
I am usually in the office between 9:00 am and Noon except on Thursdays.

Teaching Assistants:
Tyler MacIntosh, Office: SSC 3304, Email: tmacinto@uwo.ca
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Credit value: 0.5 credit

Course Description: An introductory course teaching basic concepts in the study of sociocultural and linguistic practices worldwide. It underscores shared human experiences as well as our rich diversity. Topics include changing sociocultural and economic institutions, political and religious systems, and the role of language in the workings of power, indexicality, and identity.

Antirequisites: Anthropology 1020/E; Anthropology 1025F/G.

Prerequisites: None.
Course Syllabus:

Anthropology is the holistic study of humanity. This course introduces you to the kinds of questions anthropologists ask (and the ways we strive to answer these questions) as we seek to understand how people make sense of the worlds in which they live. Sociocultural anthropology focusses on the ways cultural differences operate in the world and asks questions about who we are and what we do. Culture is the pattern of learned behaviors, beliefs, and ways of understanding shared amongst members of society. These ways of behaving and thinking are learned, formed and shared over time using language. Linguistic anthropology, then, asks what role language use, transmission, reference, creativity, and symbolism play in culture and social life. No matter what your major is, if you are interested in people, you will find the course to be of interest.

A full course schedule including a week-by-week breakdown of topics and assigned readings will be available on the course’s OWL site before the first day of class.

Learning Outcomes:

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

- Demonstrate a broad understanding of the unique holistic and comparative anthropological approach to understanding the past and present social, cultural and linguistic diversity of humans
- Analyze cultural commonalities and differences pragmatically
- Identify the types of research questions and methods employed in sociocultural and linguistic anthropology
- Challenge ethnocentricity and essentialism through critical thinking, deconstruction, reflexivity, and relativism
- Understand the connectedness among social processes such as: economic practices, political systems, social organization, belief systems, and other elements of social and cultural life
- Apply anthropological concepts to understand contemporary issues
- Articulate the relationship between language and identity in political and cultural terms.
- Explain how language is used to accomplish social goals.
- Understand language as a system and specify how it differs from other forms of communication
- Appreciate the complexity and breadth of human behavior around the world
**Course Materials:**
For purchase at UWO Bookstore:


*Registered students will be able to access information about additional course readings through the course’s online OWL site before the first day of class.*

**Evaluation:**

a) Online weekly reading quizzes = 8%

b) Tutorial participation exercises = 16%

c) Fieldwork Assignment = 18%

d) Names and Honorifics Assignment = 18%

e) Final Exam = 40%

a) *Online Weekly reading quizzes = 8%*

Starting on the second week of classes there will be a quiz that will take place online before our class sessions on Tuesday. There will be a total of 10 quizzes. They are meant to motivate you to complete all of the readings before class and to give us all a starting point for discussion. There will be no make-up quizzes, but 2 of the lowest grades will be dropped. Each quiz will be worth 1 point for a total of 8% of your final grade.

b) *Tutorial participation exercises = 16%*

At four times during the term you there will be very short group or solo exercises and activities depending on the week’s theme. Any readings or media in preparation for the tutorial will be posted on OWL in advance. All other material will be present or provided during tutorial. 4 exercises x 4%

c) *Fieldwork Assignment = 18% Due October 29*

This is an exercise in fieldwork observation. The ethnographic method uses multiple data collection techniques to construct a holistic and contextual view of the phenomenon under study. Through observation in the field we can witness what people actually do as opposed to what they tell us they do when we ask in interview, or how they act when we immerse ourselves in their world. The aim of this assignment is not only to observe, but to challenge you to think about what seems natural to you or your classifications, and to recognize that other ways of doing and interpretation are possible. Complete instructions will be posted on Owl.
d) Names and Honorifics Assignment = 18% Due November 28
The way we use language connects to our experiences, competencies, and many other aspects of life. Using the chart provided, list the names and honorific terms used with certain people in your life. In tutorial on Nov 21, compare these with a classmate and record their responses. Independently, identify patterns and differences, and explore what factors are relevant for using each term. Complete instructions will be posted on Owl.

e) Final Exam = 40%
The final exam will take place during the designated exam period in December for this course. Use of electronic devices will not be allowed. Format: 80 multiple choice questions (80 marks) and 1 short essay chosen from two to three choices (20 marks).

Course Specific Statements and Policies:

Statement on Seeking Special Accommodations:
Occasionally illness or other personal issues make it impossible to meet deadlines. Please see your academic counselor immediately if you will be seeking accommodations based on medical or compassionate grounds.

Late Penalties:
Paper copies of all assignments should be submitted in class or tutorial. If you are unable to do this, you must submit your assignment to the Anthropology drop box on the wall outside the main office in SSC 3326. Do not slide your paper under the professor’s or a TA’s office door. Make sure your assignment has your name, the course number, the professor’s name and the TA’s name on it so it can be delivered to the right person. Electronic versions also must uploaded on the day they are due. If you do not submit both copies, you will not receive a grade.

Assignments will be accepted up to two days late with a penalty of 5% per day.

Course Specific Conditions Required to Pass this Course:
To pass this course, students must submit all assignments and receive at least 50% on their final exam.

Missed tutorials:
If you know in advance that you have to miss your scheduled tutorial session, please speak to your instructor who may be able to arrange for you to join one of the other groups during that day. If you miss your scheduled session due to an emergency
please contact your instructor as soon as possible. If you have received special accommodation from your academic counselor you will be invited to attend a makeup session at the end of that portion of the course. This makeup session is by invitation only. If you miss both the regularly scheduled tutorial and the makeup tutorial you will receive a zero unless you can provide your instructor with acceptable documentation for both absences.

Statement on Plagiarism:
Students must write their assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing. It is also an academic offense to submit the same work for credit in more than one course. Plagiarism is a severe academic offense.

All required papers are 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 to detect plagiarism of papers subsequently input into the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com turnitin.com.

Policy on Laptops and Cellphones in Class:
Laptops are permitted for note-taking in class but if it is observed that students are on social networking sites, they will be asked to shut down and will not be permitted to use it for the remainder of the class. Be sure that all cellphones are turned off at the beginning of class-time, or put in silent mode.

Institutional Statements and Policies
All students should familiarize themselves with Western’s current academic policies regarding accessibility, plagiarism and scholastic offenses, and medical accommodation in Western’s Academic Calendar: http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/academicPolicies.cfm?SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=

Remember that the Learning Development and Success and the Writing Support Centre, as part of the Student Success Centre, are available to assist you to with the demands of post-secondary learning in Ontario.
https://www.uwo.ca/sdc/learning/