COURSE OUTLINE

ANTHROPOLOGY 1025F-650
Introduction to Sociocultural and Linguistic Anthropology
Fall 2019
Distance Studies

Instructor: Dr. Jennifer Spinney
Office: SSC 3421
Office hours: Mondays 1:00-3:00pm or by appointment, or by Skype: Thursdays 5pm-8pm (Skype account is: jspinney1)
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Teaching Assistants:
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Credit value: 0.5 credit

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

Antirequisites: Anthropology 1020 (formerly Anthropology 1020E), Anthropology 1021A/B.

Prerequisites: none

Course Syllabus:
This course introduces students to anthropology, which is the study of human beings and the differences and similarities among groups. Anthropology is the study of human nature, culture and the human past. Culture is the shared pattern of learned behaviors, beliefs and ways of understanding. Anthropology takes a holistic approach by studying all aspects of human life, and in this course we will explore on two key fields of anthropology: sociocultural anthropology, which
focuses on variation in beliefs and behaviours among human cultures, and linguistic anthropology, which focuses on the role of language in social life and the creation of culture. The cross-cultural, comparative and deep temporal perspectives are critical underpinnings of this discipline.

The structure of the course consists of online instruction, and as such, includes content that will be shared virtually on OWL on a weekly basis. Content for each week will be released on Sundays.

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:

- Define fundamental terminology, concepts, and methods associated with the study of sociocultural and linguistic anthropology;
- Demonstrate a broad understanding of the unique holistic and comparative anthropological approach to understanding the social, cultural and linguistic diversity of humans;
- Recognize that their own beliefs and ways of living are only some of the possibilities that exist among many equally valid ones;
- Examine critically their own assumptions about how the world works, how people should behave and what they should believe;
- Complete the basic steps of scholarly research, including critically evaluating scholarly and other information sources relevant to anthropological topics;
- Formulate well organized written arguments that are grounded in supporting evidence;
- Understand the connectedness among social processes such as: economic practices, political systems, social organization, belief systems, and other elements of social and cultural life.

Course Materials:

The course text is available at Western’s Bookstore (https://bookstore.uwo.ca). When you do a textbook search from the bookstore’s main page, be sure to follow this pathway: Books>Textbook Search>Distance Online Studies Program>Undergrad Fall 1st Term 2019>ANT1025F Intro Sociocul & Linguist Anth (650 CO).
In some weeks, and this is especially true for the linguistic anthropology section of the course (Weeks 7-13), short article readings, blog posts and videos will be assigned. These additional materials will be made available for download. Registered students will be able to access information about these additional course readings through the course’s on-line OWL site before the first day of class.

**Evaluation**

Weekly Quizzes- 5%
Discussion Activities- 20%
Paper 1 = 20%
Research Essay = 25%
Final Exam = 30%
Total = 100%

*Quizzes*– 5%– (12 quizzes, drop lowest 2, each quiz 0.5%)

There will be twelve quizzes throughout the course (one each week). Quizzes will be released on Sundays of each week. Quizzes will be completed online, and each one must be completed by Friday of each week (with the exception of Quiz 12 which is due the last day of classes- Thursday, December 5th, 2019). Quizzes will focus on the main ideas in the week’s readings. They are meant to motivate you to complete all of the assigned readings. There will be no make-up quizzes but the two lowest grades will be dropped. Each quiz will be worth 0.5% for a total of 5% of your final grade.

Note: Each quiz will only be open for a one-week period. If you miss a quiz deadline, you will not be able to complete that quiz.

*Discussion Activities*– 20%– (5 Reactions x 2% + 5 Responses x 2%)

The ten Discussion Activities embedded in this course occur during 5 different weeks during the term. These Discussion Activities are opportunities to engage with course content, see the thoughts and opinions of your peers, contribute your own questions, or ideas, present evidence from independent research on the web, or reflect on coursework. Students are required to make two posts during each Discussion Activity week: first, a reaction to the course material presented, and then second (within the same week), a response to another student’s reaction. Additional details for each discussion activity will be posted on the course OWL site.

Discussion Activities occur in Weeks 2, 4, 5, 10 and 12.
Note: Discussion Activities are not accepted following deadline given that each one is relevant to its own week and contributions are typically synthesized and posted for everyone to read. If you miss a deadline, you will not be able to complete that activity.

**Paper 1- “Be an Anthropologist for a Day”- 20%**  
Fieldnotes- 5% + Analysis- 15%

Paper 1 is the first of two papers assigned during this course. Paper 1 requires students to engage in anthropological field methods and then produce a 750-word analysis of their experience. More information will be made available to students on the course OWL site. Paper 1 is due during Week 7 and no later than Friday, October 25th, 2019.

Note: Unless a student receives accommodation for illness through Academic Counselling, Paper 1 assignments will be penalized at the rate of 5%/day late for up to a total of 5 days (including weekends) following the due date. Late assignments will not be accepted after 5 days.

**Research Essay- “Slang as Linguistic Resource in Accomplishing Social Goals”-25%**  
Data collection- 2% + Outline- 3% + Essay- 20%

The Research Essay is the second of two papers assigned during this course. This Research Essay requires students to collect data (beginning in Week 10), prepare and submit an outline for their research essay, and then write an essay of 1000 words that analyzes and discusses the data. More information will be made available to students on the course OWL site. The Outline is due during week 10 and no later than Monday, November 11th, 2019. The Outline will be reviewed and feedback will be given to students to enhance preparation of their Research Essay. The Research Essay is due during Week 13 and no later than Thursday, December 5th, 2019.

Note: Unless a student receives accommodation for illness through Academic Counselling, late Research Essays will be penalized at the rate of 5%/day late for up to a total of 5 days (including weekends) following the due date. Late assignments will not be accepted after 5 days.

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.
Final Exam – 30%
Exams will be written in person on Western University campus (Student ID required) or at the nearest Exam Centre. The final exam is cumulative for the course and the format is 80% multiple choice questions + 1 mini-essay question worth 20%. A live final exam review session will be held online at the end of the semester using the Blackboard Collaborate tool in OWL. The final exam will take place during the designated exam period for this course. Use of electronic devices will not be allowed during the final exam.

Note: If you do not attend an examination at the time set in the timetable, you will not be allowed to write the missed examination. You may petition for permission to write a Special Examination by submitting written documentation in support of your request to the Academic Counselling Office where it will be determined if accommodation is warranted.

Course Specific Conditions Required to Pass this Course
In order to pass this essay course, students must submit all writing assignments and receive at least a passing grade on their final essay.

Course Specific Statements and Policies

Statement on Seeking Special Accommodations:
No accommodations will be granted retroactively more than 10 days after an assignment’s due date or a missed quiz or test. Please see your academic counsellor immediately if you will be seeking accommodations based on medical or compassionate grounds.

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 a scholastic offence to submit the same work for credit in more than one course. Plagiarism is a major scholastic offence.

Statement on Engaging in the Online Learning Environment
This course relies on the OWL site to connect you with the syllabus, assignment outlines, content, and other course material. Here, you will engage with me, the TAs, and your peers as we progress through the course. Please keep track of weekly tasks and contribute respectfully to online activities.
Statement on Email

You may contact me or the TAs by email, but it may take up to 24 hours for a response. If we cannot provide an immediate response, or if the matter is something we cannot address quickly, we will direct you to meet with us through skype, zoom or in-person at our offices on campus. Please ensure that your emails are worded professionally and include the course number (1025F) in the subject line.

Statement on Student Success

If you need support with your academic writing skills, please visit the Writing Support Centre in person or online at: http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/writing/. The Centre aims to (1) enhance your writing and communication skills and build your confidence, (2) equip you with tools, resources and knowledge to effectively communicate through writing, (3) increase your critical analysis abilities to effectively communicate scholarly ideas, (4) convey university level writing expectations, and (5) provide you with the skills you need to navigate academic transitions.

The staff at Learning Skills Services (http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/learning/) support your development as an excellent student by answering your questions and providing advice on how to succeed in your studies at Western. They can help you to develop new skills or strengthen existing academic skills. You can make an individual appointment with a learning skills counsellor, attend learning skills presentations, drop by the Peer Assisted Learning (PAL) Centre, or receive helpful information via e-mail. Information on important learning skills topics is also available online.

Visit the Wellness Education Centre (http://wec.uwo.ca/) if you need support in navigating any kind of mental health issue (e.g., anxiety, stress, etc.) WEC provides free assistance in connecting you with wellness services and resources on and off campus.

Institutional Statements and Policies

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