COURSE OUTLINE

ANTHROPOLOGY 1025F-650
Introduction to Sociocultural and Linguistic Anthropology
Summer 2020
Distance Studies

Instructor: Dr. Kelly Linton
Office hours: I am available for questions via email. You can also reach me by Zoom: Mondays 11:00-1:00pm and Wednesdays 6pm-8pm or by appointment.
Email: kabra.ms4@uwo.ca

Teaching Assistants: 
Credit value: 0.5 credit

Calendar 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 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 introductory course offers an examination of an anthropological approach to the study of humanity. Taking into account the diversity of human experience across time and space, this course will emphasize two subfields of anthropology: sociocultural anthropology, which focuses on variation in social and cultural systems including kinship, politics, identity, economics, and belief systems; and linguistic anthropology which explores the role of language use, transmission, and symbolism in culture and social life. This course is intended to provide students with a comparative and critical framework with which to understand contemporary social issues such as race, gender, communication, and economic inequality and will include discussions of the historical legacy of anthropology as a 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.

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

- Identify the methodology, concepts, and approaches used in the anthropological study of humanity.
- Apply critical thinking and analytical skills to representations of human and cultural diversity.
- Reflect on the connections between diverse social processes (economic and political systems, language, social organization, ontologies, etc).
- Reflect on the purpose and usefulness of anthropological practice in the world.
- Illustrate how language and culture influence each other.
- Critically examine sociocultural contexts in which particular varieties of language are used.
- Describe the relationship between language and identity in political and cultural terms.
- Demonstrate how linguistic practices are linked to social meaning and categories such as race, gender, ethnicity, and class.

**Course Materials:**

The course text is available online via at Western’s Library.

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 through the Course Readings tool on the course’s OWL site. 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:**
Quizzes – 20%
Course Blog Contributions – 30%
Sociocultural Anthropology Reflection Paper – 25%
Linguistic Anthropology Research Paper – 25%
Total = 100%

Quizzes – 20% – (12 quizzes, drop lowest 2, each quiz 2.0%)
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, but note that you will not be able to access other components of the lesson until you have completed the quiz. 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 2.0% for a total of 20% 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.

Course Blog Contributions – 30% (10% x 3 = 30%)
Contributions Set #1 (weeks 1 to 4) – 10% [Nominations due May 29]
Contributions Set #2 (weeks 6 to 9) – 10% [Nominations due July 3]
Contributions Set #3 (weeks 10 to 13) – 10% [Nominations due July 30]

Students will take part in weekly contributions to the course forum. Each student is required to provide a minimum of one (1) substantial contribution to forum content on a weekly basis (starting with week one). These contributions can be in the form of short forum posts (1 or 2 paragraphs) which reflect on issues discussed in the readings and course material, evidence from independent research, short videos with comments/discussion, or artistic contributions with captions that link to course concepts. The contributions should be thoughtful and illustrate critical engagement with issues and concepts discussed in the course. Students will also be required to contribute at least one (1) weekly response to the contributions of others through comments, questions, and reflections. The forum will be divided and students will be placed into smaller groups in order to facilitate easier engagement with the material. Students will be required to post and comment in their assigned forum only.

Students will be responsible for nominating one (1) forum contribution plus one (1) response from each four week set for grading. Only the nominated posts will be
graded. Nominations should be submitted via email to the leader of your forum group, either your TA or the course instructor. Each of the nominations should include the title of contribution, the date and time of posting, and the text of the post/response. Not posting the minimum of four (4) contributions + four (4) responses is the equivalent of missing the four week set, and students who post fewer than the minimum will forfeit the grades associated with that set of postings. If you fail to post the weekly minimum, nominations from that set of contributions will not be accepted.

The purpose of the forum contributions is to make the learning process interactive while providing students with the opportunity to provide valuable contributions and material to the course content. Critical discussion and engagement provides us with the opportunity to learn from and interact with each other and counts towards the participation aspect of the course. Every student must participate in the forums. Additional details regarding the course forum will be posted on the course OWL site.

**Sociocultural Paper – “Anthropology Matters” – 25%**

Students will hand in a short (750 word) reflection paper that explores the value of anthropology to their chosen major field of study. Students will use the concepts discussed in the course to determine how an anthropological approach to understanding human diversity can be useful across disciplines. Students who have chosen anthropology as their major will be asked to consider how anthropology may be of use in another discipline (law, medicine, marketing, etc). The Sociocultural paper is due during Week 7 on **Wednesday June 17th** and all submissions must be reviewed by Turnitin plagiarism software. Students who submit assignments that receive a <15% similarity score from Turnitin will receive 2 bonus marks on their paper. If a paper receives a >15% similarity score on Turnitin students will have 48 hours to revise and resubmit their paper without penalty. The final deadline is **Friday June 19th**. More information will be made available to students on the course OWL site.

Note: Unless a student receives academic consideration through the Counselling office of their home Faculty, paper 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. Students who are unable to submit this paper on-time due to circumstances that warrant use of a “self-reported absence” will be expected to submit their paper within 24 hours of the end of their absence period.

**Linguistic Anthropology Research Paper – “Language and Identity in Online Communities” – 25%**
The Linguistic Anthropology Research Paper is the second of two papers assigned during this course. This Research Paper requires students to collect data (beginning in Week 10), and then write a paper of 750-1000 words that analyzes and discusses the data. Students will be required to research a distinctive online community and provide a critical analysis of the language and communication behaviours that characterize the social space of this community. The Linguistic Anthropology research paper is due during Week 13 on Tuesday July 28th and all submissions must be reviewed by Turnitin plagiarism software. Students who submit assignments that receive a <15% similarity score from Turnitin will receive 2 bonus marks on their paper. If a paper receives a >15% similarity score on Turnitin students will have 48 hours to revise and resubmit their paper without penalty. The final deadline is Thursday, July 30th, 2020. More information will be made available to students on the course OWL site.

Note: Unless a student receives academic consideration through the Counselling office of their home Faculty, paper 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. Students who are unable to submit this paper on-time due to circumstances that warrant use of a “self-reported absence” will be expected to submit their paper within 24 hours of the end of their absence period.

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.

Course Specific Conditions Required to Pass this Course

In order to pass this essay course, students must submit both writing assignments and receive a passing grade on at least one of them. Note that you must write a minimum of 1500 words in essay assignments at the 1000-level to meet the requirement for an essay-designated course.

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 or zoom. 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=