

## ANTHROPOLOGY 1025F-650

### Introduction to Sociocultural and Linguistic Anthropology

#### COURSE OUTLINE

Fall 2022

*Version date: August 19, 2022*

**Instructor:** Dr. Kelly Linton (she/her)

**EMAIL:** kelly.linton@uwo.ca

**Credit value:** 0.5 credit

**Mode of Delivery:** Online

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

**Prerequisites:** None

#### **Course Description:**

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.

*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:

1. Identify the methodology, concepts, and approaches used in the anthropological study of humanity.
2. Apply critical thinking and analytical skills to representations of human and cultural diversity.
3. Reflect on the connections between diverse social processes (economic and political systems, language, social organization, ontologies, etc).
4. Reflect on the purpose and usefulness of anthropological practice in the world.
5. Illustrate how language and culture influence each other.

6. Critically examine sociocultural contexts in which particular varieties of language are used.
7. Describe the relationship between language and identity in political and cultural terms.
8. Demonstrate how linguistic practices are linked to social meaning and categories such as race, gender, ethnicity, and class.

**Course Materials:**

Monaghan, John and Peter Just. 2000. *Social & Cultural Anthropology: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford University Press.

The course text is available online via [Western's Library](#).

In some weeks, and this is especially true for the linguistic anthropology section of the course (Weeks 3-6), 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 additional course readings through the course site in OWL before the first day of class.*

Public Anthropology Project: students will be required to sign up for the Public Anthropology Project and pay a course fee of \$15 USD.

**Evaluation:**

Grades will be based on 6 quizzes on readings, 6 discussion activities, participation in the Public Anthropology Project, and a research paper, as follows:

- Quizzes – 20%
- Discussion Activities – 25%
- Public Anthropology Project – 20%
- Linguistic Anthropology Research Paper – 20%
- Take-Home Final Assessment 15%

**Quizzes**

12 quizzes – one per week, drop lowest 2, each quiz 2.0%, total 20%

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 unless a student has used the Self-Reported Absence Form which must be submitted prior to the deadline of the quiz. Students must also communicate to the professor that they

have submitted a Self-Reported Absence Form and will miss a deadline in order to arrange a time for a make-up quiz. The two lowest quiz 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

### Discussion Activities

6 Activities worth 5% each, drop lowest 1, total 25%

There are six Discussion Activities embedded in this course that serve as 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, or to reflect on course concepts. Discussion activities will occur in Weeks 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11. Additional details for each discussion activity will be posted on the course OWL site.

Note: Discussion Activities are not accepted following the 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.

### Public Anthropology Project – 20%

Using the internet to draw students at various universities together into an intellectual community, the Community Action Website encourages students to consider important social issues that lie at the interface of anthropology and the contemporary world. Participating in the Community Action Website project helps students improve both their critical thinking and writing skills as well as broaden their perspectives regarding how other students at other schools think about the same issues they think about.

Given the frequent polarization between “us” and “them” in many countries, the anthropological effort to communicate across differences is more vital today than ever. Rather than trying to obliterate differences, anthropology, at its best, allows communities to flourish – not because everyone in the community thinks or behaves alike, but because they appreciate their differences with one another and have learned to work together on projects of shared interest despite their differences. Students will complete a writing assignment of roughly 700-800 words expressing how to bridge the differences between different perspectives on a contemporary issue of social relevance. Detailed assignment information will be provided once you have registered for the project.

**Students pay a \$15 USD registration fee to participate in the project. This project will run from October 3rd-October 19th. This window is firm.** Once registered, students have a free copy of Why a Public Anthropology, autobiographies of many key figures in cultural anthropology, and full access to the website and its support. **You must complete the entire project to receive a grade for the project and fulfillment of the project is a requirement to pass this course.**

### Linguistic Anthropology Research Paper “Language and Identity in Online Communities” – 20%

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 7), and then write a paper of 800-1000 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 12 on Wednesday November 30th and all submissions must be reviewed by Turnitin plagiarism software. Students who submit assignments that receive a <15% similarity score from Turnitin will receive 1 bonus mark 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 of Friday December 2nd, 2022. 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](https://www.turnitin.com).

#### Take-home Final Assessment “Take-home Final” – 15%

Students will complete a take-home final assessment comprised of three short answer questions (300-400 words each). The questions will require you to apply knowledge and concepts and reflect on the learning that you have done in the course. Students must complete the assessment individually and will be given three days to complete the assignment. The final assessment will be posted at 12:00 am EST on Tuesday December 6th and must be submitted through Turnitin by 11:59 PM EST on Thursday December 8th.

### **Academic Policies and Procedures**

#### **Course Specific Conditions Required to Pass this Course**

In order to pass an essay course, the student must exhibit some minimal level of competence in essay writing and the appropriate level of knowledge of the content of the 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.

ANTH 1025F makes use of diverse assessments to evaluate students’ learning, including quizzes using multiple-choice. The multiple-choice format allows for assessment of students’ detailed knowledge of a broad range of concepts, theories, principles, and research that other formats do not permit. There are different types of multiple-choice questions used in this course, including application-based multiple-choice questions. Although application-based questions can be challenging for students, they are necessary to meet the learning outcomes of this course and to allow students to develop an appreciation for and understanding of the course material as it relates to organizational settings.

#### **Course Specific Statements and Policies:**

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 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. 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](#) 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](#) 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.

### **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.

### **Academic Success Program**

During first term, this course is participating in the Academic Success Program. The program runs in parallel to our course and is designed to facilitate connections with your online classmates, enhance your academic skills, and communicate tools and campus resources that can assist in your successful transition to Western. Each registered student has been placed in a group, and each group has been assigned a Peer Leader, an upper year stu-

dent who has completed this course in the past. If you haven't already heard from your Peer Leader, you can expect to hear from them in the coming days. Your active participation in weekly programming with your group and Peer Leader is encouraged; please plan to participate for 1-1.5 hours each week of first term, excluding the Fall Reading Week. Please send any questions regarding this program to your Peer Leader or ase@uwo.ca.

### **Institutional Statements and Policies**

All students should familiarize themselves with Western's current academic policies regarding accessibility, plagiarism and scholastic offences, and medical accommodation. These policies are outlined in Western's academic policies using this link: [Western's academic policies](#).