



ANTHROPOLOGY 1021B-001 & 002

Introduction to Sociocultural and Linguistic Anthropology

Department of Anthropology

Course Outline

Winter 2024

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Instructors:

Sociocultural Anthropology

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Linguistic Anthropology

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Mode of Delivery: This course is planned for in-person delivery. Lectures are on Mondays. Tutorials are on Wednesdays. You must attend the tutorial section for which you are enrolled.

Class day/time: LECTURES

Section 001: Mondays 9:30 am-11:30 am

Section 002: Mondays 1:30 pm-3:30 pm

TUTORIALS

Wednesdays at a range of times (please check your enrollment information)

Credit value: 0.5

Requisites:

Prerequisites: None.

Antirequisites: Anthropology 1020 (formerly Anthropology 1020E), Anthropology 1025F/G.

Please note: if you are interested in pursuing a module in Anthropology, you should pair this course with Introduction to Biological Anthropology and Archaeology, either Anthropology 1022A/B (non-essay) or Anthropology 1026F/G (essay).

Course Description:

This course offers an introduction to anthropological approaches 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* focuses on variation in social and cultural systems including kinship, politics, identity, economics, and belief systems. *Linguistic anthropology* explores the role of language in forming identities and participating in social life, and the various ways language organizes cultural beliefs and understandings of the world. This course is intended to provide students with a comparative and critical framework with which to understand contemporary social issues.

Note: a weekly schedule of topics and readings will be available separately on the course OWL site.

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 among diverse social processes (e.g. economic and political systems, language, identity formation, social organization, beliefs).
- 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 text for Sociocultural Anthropology is: John Monaghan and Peter Just, [Social and Cultural Anthropology: A Very Short Introduction](#) (Oxford University Press, 2000). This course textbook can be accessed free of charge through Western Libraries, or you can purchase it at the Campus Bookstore.

Readings for Linguistic Anthropology, supplementary readings for Sociocultural Anthropology, as well as any other assigned materials such as blogposts, films, or audio, will be made available on the course OWL site.

Schedule of Topics:

WEEK	DATE	TOPICS
1	8 Jan.	What is anthropology?
	10 Jan.	<i>No tutorial</i>
2	15 Jan.	What is culture? How is ethnographic fieldwork done?

	17 Jan.	<i>No tutorial</i>
3	22 Jan.	Where do we come from? Society, family and kinship
	24 Jan.	<i>Tutorial (A): Identity Bundles</i>
4	29 Jan.	Who are we? Social identity
	31 Jan.	<i>Tutorial (B): Identity Bundles</i>
5	5 Feb.	What do we need and what do we want? Economic systems
	7 Feb.	<i>Tutorial (A): The Social Life of “Things”</i>
6	12 Feb.	How do we deal with uncertainty? Why does anthropology matter?
	14 Feb.	<i>Tutorial (B): The Social Life of “Things”</i>
	19 Feb.	READING WEEK
	21 Feb.	READING WEEK
7	26 Feb.	What is linguistic anthropology?
	28 Feb.	<i>Tutorial: Drop-in session for review or help</i>
8	4 Mar.	How does language work?
	6 Mar.	<i>Tutorial (A): Language as a Tool</i>
9	11 Mar.	How is language used to accomplish social goals?
	13 Mar.	<i>Tutorial (B): Language as a Tool</i>
10	18 Mar.	How does language intersect with identity?
	20 Mar.	<i>Tutorial (A): Identities and Ideologies</i>
11	25 Mar.	How do language ideologies unite and divide people?
	27 Mar.	<i>Tutorial (B): Identities and Ideologies</i>
12	1 Apr.	Why does language matter?
	Apr. 3	<i>Tutorial: Drop-in session for review and assignment help</i>
13	Apr. 8	Review for Exam

Evaluation:

Sociocultural Anthropology short assignments (3 assignments x 10% each)	30%
Linguistic Anthropology short assignments (3 assignments x 10% each)	30%
Cumulative final exam covering Sociocultural and Linguistic Anthropology	40%
Total	100%

Assignments – 30% + 30% = 60%

You will attend four tutorial sessions throughout the term. The schedule will be posted on OWL. The discussion and learning activities during the tutorial sessions will help you prepare for the related

assignment. The assignments should be done after the Wednesday tutorial session and will be due on Friday night of the same week. If you cannot meet the Friday deadline, there is a 48-hour grace period so you can still submit the assignment without penalty by 11:59 pm Sunday night in the week it is due. If you need longer, you must request Academic Consideration from Academic Counselling. There will be no make-up assignments.

For each 6-week subfield segment of the course, there will be 3 assignments: two assignments based on specific weekly topics covered in tutorials, and a "connections" assignment in which you make connections among all concepts from all the previous weeks. The connections assignments will be due in Week 7 (Feb. 28) at the end of the cultural anthropology segment, and in Week 12 (April 3) at the end of the linguistic anthropology segment. Each assignment is worth 10%, for a total of 30% for each 6-week subfield segment. Detailed information about course assessments and expectations will be available on the course OWL site.

All written assignments 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 assignments 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).

Cumulative Final Exam – 40%

The final exam will cover both Sociocultural Anthropology and Linguistic Anthropology. More information about the format of the exam, and study materials to help you prepare, will be available later in the term. The final week of classes has also been set aside for course review and preparation for the final exam, which will give students a chance to consolidate their learning and synthesize key course material. The exam will be scheduled by the Registrar's Office during the April exam period. The final exam is planned as an in-person exam.

Late Policy for Assignments

Unless accommodation is granted, assignments that are not submitted within 48 hours of the due date (including weekends and holidays) may receive a grade of zero. Assignments are due on Fridays by 11:55 PM with a grace period of 48 hours. The last chance to submit an assignment is Sunday at 11:55 PM. No further extensions will be granted without approved accommodation from Academic Counselling.

Academic Statements and Policies

Course Specific Conditions Required to Pass this Course

To pass this course students must submit at least 2 assignments for each section of Sociocultural and Linguistic Anthropology, and write the final exam.

For **course-specific policies** about academic considerations, and what to do when you need help with a range of issues, please see the webpage labelled "**I Need Help**" in the **Anthropology 1021B OWL website**. You should be familiar with all of the information posted there. The statements below are general academic policies.

Academic Integrity - Statement on Plagiarism and Use of AI Tools

Students must write their assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea from another author or artificial intelligence tool (AI), they must acknowledge their debt both by using

quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing. The same principles also apply to the use of translation software and grammar checkers (e.g. Grammarly) to support the writing of essays and other assessments. It is also a scholastic offence to submit the same work for credit in more than one course. **Plagiarism is a major scholastic offence.** See link below for more details on the penalties for plagiarism. All assignments will be evaluated using Turnitin in the Assignments portal.

Students are permitted to use AI tools (e.g. ChatGPT) exclusively for information gathering and preliminary research purposes. These tools are intended to enhance the learning experience by providing access to diverse information sources, and for identifying errors in text you write yourself (e.g. spelling, grammar). However, it is essential that you critically evaluate the obtained information, exercise independent thinking, and engage in original research to synthesize and develop your own ideas, arguments, and perspectives. Text generated by AI often contains factual errors and biases. The use of AI tools can serve as a starting point for exploring a topic, but you are expected to uphold academic integrity by appropriately attributing all sources of information and avoiding plagiarism. Essays and written assignments should reflect your own thoughts and independent written work. You should also generate your own figures (e.g., graphs, diagrams) rather than using AI generated ones. By adhering to these guidelines, you contribute to a responsible and effective learning environment that promotes critical thinking, independent inquiry and original ideas.

Use of OWL

Western's online course management program, OWL, will be used for providing the final course outline and weekly schedule (using the Syllabus page), providing, submitting and returning assignments (using the Assignments page) and communications with the class (using the Announcements and Messages tools). Pdf copies of Powerpoint presentations will be made available in the OWL Lesson pages after each class. All grades will be posted in the OWL Gradebook.

This course makes use of multiple-choice assessments to evaluate students' learning. 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 demonstrate understanding of the course material.

Accommodation Policies

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

All missed work must be made up by the end of the exam period.

Students with disabilities work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD) which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here: [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#).

Academic Rights and Responsibilities

All students should familiarize themselves with Western's current [Academic Policies in the Academic Calendar](#) which include, but is not limited to, academic consideration for medical illness, accommodation for religious holidays, academic appeals, academic accommodation for students with disabilities, as well as scholastic discipline.

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