

**Department of Anthropology**

**ANTHRO 2245F-001: Anthropological Approaches to Language**

**BRIEF COURSE OUTLINE**

**Fall 2025**

*Date: 16 June 2025*

**Instructor and course information:**

Instructor: Dr. K. Pennesi (she/her)

Method of delivery: in person

Credit value: 0.5

Antirequisites: None.

Prerequisites: None.

**Course Description:**

This is an introduction to the general field of linguistic anthropology. The foundation of an anthropological approach to language is the idea that language use and linguistic variation are central to understanding the social lives of individuals and communities. Language and culture are bound together because it is through language that our values and our ways of behaving and thinking are passed on, negotiated and changed. Linguistic anthropology is concerned with the ways language shapes our understanding of the world and how people use languages in different ways to create multiple meanings and identities.

To achieve the learning outcomes, students will do weekly readings and participate in discussions, listen to lectures and podcasts, watch videos, and complete writing assignments. The assignments are designed to give students opportunities to think about what they are learning and apply new concepts and approaches to their analyses of language and culture.

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

**Learning Outcomes:**

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

- describe linguistic structures, patterns and practices using appropriate anthropological terminology
- critically examine sociocultural contexts in which particular language varieties are used in social action
- demonstrate how linguistic practices are linked to social meaning and categories such as race, gender, ethnicity, class and disability
- identify language ideologies at work in examples of discourse
- apply course concepts to real world observations of language in action
- critically reflect on their own linguistic practices and attitudes.

**Course Materials:**

There is no textbook. Required readings will be available through the Course Readings tool on the course site. Other audio-visual materials will be available in digital format on the course site.

**Evaluation:**

Grades will be based on the following:

Unit Test	25%
Analytical Essay	30%
Critical Reflections (3 x 5%)	15%
Final Exam (mixed format)	30%

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