

Department of Anthropology

ANTHRO 1025F-650: Introduction to Sociocultural and Linguistic Anthropology

BRIEF COURSE OUTLINE

Fall 2025

Date: June 24, 2025

Instructor and course information:

Instructor: Dr. Jeremy Trombley

Method of delivery: Online

Credit value: 0.5

Antirequisites: None.

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.

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:

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.

Evaluation:

Weekly Discussion Activities	20%
Weekly Quizzes	40%
Cultural Research Paper	10%
Linguistic Research Paper	10%
Final Exam	20%

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