

Department of Anthropology
ANTHRO 2254B-001: Language, Race and Ethnicity
BRIEF COURSE OUTLINE
Winter 2026

Date: June 23, 2025

Instructor and course information:

Instructor: Dr. K. Pennesi

Method of delivery: in person (2 hours lecture, 1 hour tutorial)

Credit value: 0.5

Antirequisites: None.

Prerequisites: None.

Course Description:

The interrelationship of language, race, and ethnicity is complex and multifaceted. We will begin by generating an understanding of each of these concepts and seeing how they intersect. The focus will be on methods in linguistic anthropology that enable us to understand how language is used to talk about, express and identify race and ethnicity. Examples will be drawn cross-culturally and cross-linguistically, and topics will be varied.

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:

- Read, summarize, and critically evaluate literature from academic and popular sources about language, race and ethnicity
- Recognize structures and processes through which interrelated hierarchies of race, ethnicity and language are produced in various societies
- Describe anthropological methods for researching connections between language, race and/or ethnicity.
- Recognize, understand and respect the complexity of cultural, biological and linguistic diversity locally and globally
- Articulate the contribution of anthropology to understandings of language, race and ethnicity in the past and the present

Course Materials:

There is no textbook for this course. Required readings will be available through the Course Readings tool on the course website. Other audio-visual materials will be also available on the course website.

Evaluation:

Grades will be based on the following:

Tutorial Participation	15%
2 Tests (2x20%)	40%
Group Assignment	15%
Final Exam (mixed format)	30%

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