

ANTHROPOLOGY 1025G-650

Introduction to Sociocultural and Linguistic Anthropology

COURSE OUTLINE

Summer 2021

Distance Studies

This course is 6 weeks and runs from June 14 – July 23, 2021.

Credit value: 0.5 credit

Instructor:

Dr. Kelly Linton (she/her)

Email: kelly.linton@uwo.ca

Calendar Course Description:

An introductory course teaching basic concepts in the study of socio-cultural and linguistic practices worldwide. It underscores shared human experiences as well as our rich diversity. Topics include, changing socio-cultural and economic institutions, political and religious systems, and the role of language in the workings of power, indexicality and identity.

Antirequisites:

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

Prerequisites:

None.

Course Syllabus:

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:

- 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 between diverse social processes (economic and political systems, language, social organization, ontologies, etc).
- 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:

Monaghan, John and Peter Just. 2000. *Social & Cultural Anthropology: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford University Press. This [course textbook](#) can be purchased at Western Libraries.

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.

Evaluation:

Grades will be based on the following:

- Quizzes – 25%
- Discussion Activities – 25%
- Sociocultural Anthropology Reflection Paper – 25%
- Linguistic Anthropology Research Paper – 25%

Quizzes

6 quizzes – one per week, drop lowest 1, each quiz 5.0%, total 25%

There will be six 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 but the lowest quiz grade will be dropped. Each quiz will be worth 5.0% for a total of 25% 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 each week. 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.

Sociocultural Paper: Auto-Ethnography

“The Complexity of Identity” – 25%

Students will hand in a short (750-850 word) paper that critically reflects on an aspect of their identity. Using an ethnographic lens and situating their analysis within concepts discussed in the course, students will explore the culture and communities of which they are a part and reflect on their position and experience as a part of a specific culture or subculture. The Sociocultural paper is due during Week 3 on Friday July 2nd 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 is Sunday July 4th. 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 24hours of the end of their absence period.

Linguistic Anthropology Research Paper

“Language and Identity in Online Communities” – 25%

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 2), and then write a paper of 750-850 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 6 on Friday July 23rd 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 is Sunday July 25th, 2021. More information will be made available to students on the course OWL site.

Course Policies and Statements:

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 by clicking on this link: [Western's academic policies](#).

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.

Students may not record or distribute any class activity, including conversations during office hours, without written permission from the instructor, except as necessary as part of approved accommodations for students with disabilities. Any approved recordings may only be used for the student's own private use.

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.

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.

Late Assignments

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 24hours of the end of their absence period.

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.

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).

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.