

Department of Anthropology

ANTHRO 4412G-001/ANTHRO 9228B-001 Language and Power

COURSE OUTLINE

Winter 2026

Date: January 6, 2025

Instructor and Course Information:

Instructor: Dr Tania Granadillo

Method of delivery: In person

Credit value: 0.5

Antirequisites: None

Prerequisites: for undergraduate students: Fourth-year in an Anthropology or Linguistics module and by application .

Course Description:

This course examines linkages between linguistic practices and relations of power, drawing primarily on tools and methodologies of Linguistic Anthropology and Discourse Analysis. Topics such as racism, disability, migration will be addressed

A full course schedule including a week-by-week breakdown of topics and assigned readings will be posted on the OWL Brightspace course site at the beginning of the term.

Learning Outcomes:

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

- Read, summarize, and critically evaluate language related literature from academic and popular sources about language and power
- Locate and synthesize research findings in linguistic anthropology with the purpose of formulating and effectively communicating well-supported arguments about language and power.
- Recognize, understand and respect the complexity of cultural and linguistic diversity in the past and the present, locally and globally about language and power.
- Appreciate the history, key arguments and applications of different theoretical approaches used in linguistic anthropology about language and power.
- Identify, evaluate and employ, in an ethical manner, appropriate research methods in linguistic anthropology.

Course Materials:

Readings for this course can be found in digital format through the Readings folder tool in the course OWL BRIGHTSPACE site or through the library website, at no cost to students.

Textbook and Other Learning Materials

Below is a list of the books we will be using. We will only be reading excerpts of them and these parts will be available in digital format through the Readings folder tool in the course OWL

BRIGTSPEACE site or through the library website, at no cost to students. However, students may wish to purchase some of these books.

Bourdieu, Pierre. 1993. *Language and Symbolic Power*. Harvard University Press. Cost: \$59

Hill, Jane. 2008. *The everyday language of white racism*. Malden, MA; Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell. Cost: \$10 (first edition, second edition not required.)

Evaluation:

Grades will be based on the following:

Reading Responses (9/11)	45%
Discussion leader	20%
Research Paper	35%

Reading Responses (8/10 45%)

Every week you will write a reading response related to that week's readings. The reading response can take various formats: an application of the material to something you see in real life, a critique of the materials highlighting some of its shortcomings or blind spots, a connection between all of the materials, or a series of interrogations about aspects that remain unclear to you. You should not write a reading response on the material you will lead a discussion on. That week you may either skip, or write about one of the other readings. These will be turned in electronically through the course website and should be 300-500 words for UG/500-750 words for G. These should be turned in weekly before class starts but assignment will be open until Friday at 11:59 (no penalty). Two of these will be dropped.

Discussion leader 20%

You will lead the discussion of a particular reading during the term. You are required to present background info on the author, a short summary of the main points and to post 24 hrs in advance of class your summary and at least 3 application or extension questions for people to consider around the issues brought up in the readings. In addition, you are required to bring in a text (newspaper article, transcription of audio, cartoon, anything you like!) that can allow for an analysis of the same issues presented in the reading. These will start on Feb 3 for UG; feedback will be provided one week after the discussion takes place. If a student misses their selected reading, then another one must be chosen at a later date. This is a designated assignment for which documentation is required if academic consideration is requested.

Research paper 35%

You will be required to write a research paper of around 1800-2000 words UG/ 3000-4000 words G. Your paper must be data-driven, that is it must present an analysis of a piece of data using the tools provided in this class. The paper will be divided into two assignments, a proposal including topic, data and annotated references (10%), and the paper itself (25%). This paper is due on April 11 (Undergraduate students).

Please consult Western's policy on [Academic Consideration](#).

Course Specific Conditions Required to Pass This Course

In order to pass this essay course, students must submit and receive a passing grade on their research paper.

Additional Statements

Institutional Statements and Policies

All students should familiarize themselves with Western's current [Academic Rights and Responsibilities](#) policies in the Academic Calendar. Such items include accommodations for students with disabilities, religious holidays, academic considerations, academic appeals, plagiarism and scholastic offences, and code of student conduct.

Statement on Use of Electronic Devices

You may use laptops, tablets, or other electric devices to take notes in class. You may not record class lectures or discussions without permission.

Statement on the Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Any submitted assignments should be your own original work. Plagiarism or the use of generative-AI tools to produce student work is an academic offence. You may use generative-AI tools to brainstorm ideas (although it would be better to talk to fellow students in the course or to come see me in office hours!), but you cannot use such tools to produce your assignments.

Statement on Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, in the [Scholastic Offences policy](#).

All required written work 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 Western University and [Turnitin.com](#).

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 students are expected to uphold academic integrity by appropriately attributing all sources of information and avoiding plagiarism. Writing assignments should reflect the student's own thoughts and independent written work.

Support Services

For student support services please see the [Office of the Registrar](#) and [Academic Support and Engagement](#).

Statement on Gender-Based and Sexual Violence

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence (GBSV) and providing compassionate support to anyone who is going through or has gone through these traumatic events. If you are experiencing or have experienced GBSV (either recently or in the past),

you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts on the [GBSV survivor support webpage](#).

To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca.

Accessible Education: Students with disabilities work with the Accessible Education office which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. Please see [Accessible Education](#) for information.

Accommodation for Religious Holidays: Students should review the policy for [Accommodation for Religious Holidays](#). Where a student will be unable to write examinations and term tests due to a conflicting religious holiday, they should inform their instructors as soon as possible but not later than two weeks prior to writing the examination/term test. In the case of conflict with a midterm test, students should inform their instructor as soon as possible but not later than one week prior to the midterm.

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