

ANTHROPOLOGY 1025G-650
Introduction to Sociocultural and Linguistic Anthropology
COURSE OUTLINE
Summer 2024
Distance Studies

Version date: May 6, 2024

This course runs for 6 weeks from June 17 – July 26, 2024

Instructor: Dr. Kelly Linton (she/her)

EMAIL: kelly.linton@uwo.ca

Credit value: 0.5 credit

Antirequisites: Anthropology 1020 (formerly Anthropology 1020E), Anthropology 1021A/B. *Please note: you cannot get credit for taking this course and Anth 1020, 1020E or 1021A/B.*

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.

The structure of the course consists of online instruction, and as such, includes content that will be shared virtually on OWL Brightspace 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 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.

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 6 quizzes on readings, 6 discussion activities, the Public Anthropology project, and a research paper, as follows:

Quizzes – 25%

Discussion Activities – 25%

Public Anthropology Project – 25%

Linguistic Anthropology Research Paper – 25%

Quizzes – 25% (6 quizzes – one per week, drop lowest 1, each quiz 5.0%)

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 – 25% (6 Activities worth 5% each, drop lowest 1)

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 Brightspace site.

Public Anthropology Project – 25%

Using the internet to draw students at various universities together into an intellectual community, the Community Action Website encourages students to consider important social issues that lie at the interface of anthropology and the contemporary world. Participating in the Community Action Website project helps students improve both their critical thinking and writing skills as well as broaden their perspectives regarding how other students at other schools think about the same issues they think about.

Given the frequent polarization between “us” and “them” in many countries, the anthropological effort to communicate across differences is more vital today than ever. Rather than trying to obliterate differences, anthropology, at its best, allows communities to flourish – not because everyone in the community thinks or behaves alike, but because they appreciate their differences with one another and have learned to work together on projects of shared interest despite their differences. Students will complete a writing assignment of roughly 700-800 words expressing how to bridge the differences between different perspectives on a contemporary issue of social relevance. Detailed assignment information will be provided once you have registered for the project.

Students pay a \$15 USD registration fee to participate in the project. This project will run from June 24th - July 10th. This window is firm. Once registered, students have a free copy of *Why a Public Anthropology*, autobiographies of many key figures in cultural anthropology, and full access to the website and its support. ***You must complete the entire project to receive a grade for the project and fulfillment of the project is a requirement to pass this course.***

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 750-1000 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 Wednesday July 24th 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 Friday July 6th, 2022. More information will be made available to students on the course OWL site.

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).

Course Specific Conditions Required to Pass this Course

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. In order to pass an essay course, the student must also 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 (the Public Anthropology Project and the Linguistic Anthropology Essay) and receive a passing grade on at least one of them.

ANTH 1025G makes use of diverse assessments to evaluate students' learning, including quizzes using multiple-choice. The multiple-choice format allows for assessment of students' detailed knowledge of a broad range of concepts, theories, principles, and research that other formats do not permit. There are different types of multiple-choice questions used in this course, including application-based multiple-choice questions. Although application-based questions can be challenging for students, they are necessary to meet the learning outcomes of this course and to allow students to develop an appreciation for and understanding of the course material as it relates to anthropological theories.

Course Specific Statements and Policies:

Statement on Engaging in the Online Learning Environment

This course relies on the OWL Brightspace 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.

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 (1025G) in the subject line.

Statement on 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.

Statement on Seeking Academic Consideration:

For the assignments in this course (other than weekly quizzes which are due on Fridays) there will be a target date for submission (which will be on a Friday evening before midnight) and then a 48-hour grace period (ending on Sunday night before midnight) within which assignments can be submitted. While OWL Brightspace will indicate the assignment is late if it is submitted past the Friday night date, you will not be penalized for submitting during the grace period. While some students prefer a Friday deadline so they can do other activities on the weekend,

others may feel they need the weekend to complete their assignments. This submission window gives you an opportunity to manage your time and various commitments in the way that works best for you. ***Please note that extended submission windows are not due dates and cannot be further extended through academic considerations. Any academic considerations must date from the formal due date of any assignment.***

Late days bank: In addition to the grace period, each student can access a “late bank” of five extra days in total (for the semester, not each assignment), to submit their assignments past the end of the grace period. This gives students an opportunity to submit work late when they need to do so, without having to provide any documentation or any explanation. You just have to email me prior to the end of the Sunday 11:59 PM grace period to claim days from the late days bank so I know your assignment is coming.

Please note that due to the external facilitation of the Public Anthropology Project, extensions cannot be granted and failure to complete the assignments within the designated window will result in a “0”. Make-up assignments will not be available.

No accommodations will be granted retroactively. 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.

Writing and Use of Generative AI (ChatGPT, etc):

Use of generative AI (e.g., ChatGPT) or other programs to assist in your writing is considered an academic offence. All students are required to submit assignments that are their own work. The deliberate use or misrepresentation of another work or someone else’s ideas as your own is a violation of Western’s academic integrity policies and will be considered plagiarism.

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 using this link: [Western’s academic policies](#).