ANG 5621 Linguistic and Cultural Anthropology Proseminar

Spring 2017

Mondays 3rd-5th periods (9:35 am-12:35 pm)
Turlington 1208H

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Collings Office Hours: Tuesdays 1-3 pm & by appointment
Broadwell Office Hours: Tuesdays 1-3 pm & by appointment

Course Description and Objectives

This course provides an overview of major ideas and research areas within the subfields of cultural and linguistic anthropology. The objective of the course is to provide a solid foundation for a graduate four-field Anthropology degree.

Textbooks and Reading Assignments:


Readings from the primary literature will be available through the Canvas learning portal, and placed under the resources tab on the site. Articles will be identified by the author’s last name and year. Bibliographic information for these readings can be found in the weekly schedule, below.

Assignments and Grading

Team Discussions: Each week, teams of 3 students will lead the class discussion. Each group is expected to meet outside of class to organize readings and prepare a list of questions and points of discussion and organize any in-class activities. Each student should present once. Team discussion leadership is worth 25 points.

Written assignments: Students are required to write 12 essays (one each week) based on that week’s readings. Essay topics will be assigned and due at the beginning of class the following week. Written assignments are intended to precede discussion of that week’s readings. Written work should be a maximum of 1000 words (double-spaced, 12 pt. font, etc.) and focused on a particular point, idea, and/or theme occurring in the readings. Late papers will be docked five points per day past the Monday they are due. Each paper is worth 25 points (total 250). We will drop the two lowest scores (one score for each section of the course) for the written assignments.
Final Exam: There will be one take-home exam, due during finals week. The exam is worth 100 points.

Attendance and Participation: This is a graduate seminar, and students are expected to alternatively participate and lead class discussions. Because this is a graduate seminar and we meet only once per week, attendance is effectively mandatory. Unless there is a compelling reason you cannot attend class, you are expected to be here. More importantly, students are expected to also actively participate in class discussion. The participation grade is worth 25 points.

The grades and assignments for this course break down as follows:

Class participation: 25 points
Writing Assignments: 250 points
Final Exam: 100 points
Team Discussion: 25 points

Total 400 points. As for letter grades, the numbers are as follows:


Please note that this is a required course for Anthropology graduate students. A grade of B or better is necessary to satisfy this requirement.

Academic Honesty

Unless it is specifically connected to assigned collaborative work, all work should be individual. Evidence of collusion (working with someone not connected to the class or assignment), plagiarism (use of someone else’s published or unpublished words or design without acknowledgment) or multiple submissions (submitting the same work for different courses) will lead to the Department’s and the University’s procedures for dealing with academic dishonesty. All students are expected to honor their commitment to the University’s Honor Code.

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Disability Resource Center. The DRC will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation. Please make any requests by January 13.

UF Counseling Services.

Resources are available on-campus for students having personal problems or lacking clear career and academic goals that interfere with their academic performance. These resources include:
1. University Counseling and Wellness Center, 3190 Radio Road, 392-1575. Personal, career, and emergency counseling
2. Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601, Career development assistance and counseling
3. Writing Studio, 302 Tigert Hall, 846-1138. Writing assistance, study skills, test preparation
Course Evaluations

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations. Evaluations are typically open during the last 2-3 weeks of the semester, but students will be notified of specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are also available to students.

Linguistic Section Schedule of Topics:

Jan 23: Language, cognition, and universals
Foley, ch 3, (4), 5, (6), 7
Kay, Paul and Chad McDaniel. 1978. The linguistic significance of the meanings of basic color terms. Language, Vol. 54, No. 3 pp. 610-646
Regier, Terry and Paul Kay. Language, thought, and color: Whorf was half right.

Jan 30: Linguistic relativism and Sapir-Whorf
Foley, ch 8, (9), 10, 11

Feb 6: Politeness, Gender, Race, and Social Status
Foley, 14, 15, 16
Munson, Ben and Molly Babel. 2016. The phonetics of sex and gender.
Rickford, John and Sharese King. 2016. Language and linguistics on trial: Hearing Rachel Jeantel (and other vernacular speakers) in the courtroom and beyond. Language 94(2): 948-988

Feb 13: Language and history
Salzman et al, ch 8
Chang et al. 2015. Ancestry-constrained phylogenetic analysis supports the Indo-European steppe hypothesis. Language 91(1):194-244

Feb 20: Language, power, and endangerment
Foley, ch 19, 20, 21
Hale et al 1992

Gal, Susan. 2015. Politics of Translation

Feb 27: The evolution of language

Foley, ch. 2


Each week there will one or two additional primary readings, chosen by the discussion leaders for the week. The discussion leaders must forward to me PDFs or web links to the readings no later than noon on the Wednesday before the relevant week.

Cultural Section Schedule of Topics:

March 13: Ethics


March 20: Knowledge and Representation


March 27: Power


April 3: Identity


April 10: Health


April 17: Environment


