

Language and Culture, Anthropology 3620

Spring 2011

**Class time and place: Tuesday and Thursday 2nd period, TUR L007
And Friday Discussion Sections**

Instructor

Dr. Allan Burns

Office: 1112 Turlington Hall, TELEPHONE 392 2253 X 205

Office Hours: Thursdays 2:00-4:00 pm and by appointment

Email: AFBURNS@UFL.EDU



Graduate Assistant Discussion Section Leaders:

Mussa Idris (sections 9044, 3624, 9073)



Office: B331 Turlington

Office Hours: Thursday 9:30-11:30am and Friday 2-3pm

Telephone: 392 2253 X 218

Email: mussa@ufl.edu

Nicholas Kawa (sections 9060, 9056, 9077)



Office: B331 Turlington

Office Hours: Tuesday 10:00-11:30 a.m and Wednesday 10-11 a.m.

Telephone: 392 2253 X 218

Email: nckawa@ufl.edu

Course description and expectations:

This course explores the way language functions in society. The course uses information from different cultures around the world to shed light on how language influences society and culture and how anthropologists have used linguistics in fieldwork and theory.

This is a course in anthropological linguistics, and as such covers a broad range of topics. These include the evolution of human language, non-verbal communication, how people in different societies create culture through language, how language affects thought, interaction, and behavior. This range of ideas means that you will be reading from many different sources: articles written from the point of view of linguistics, sociology, anthropology, and other social sciences. The course readings are extensive. By keeping up with the readings you will be better able to participate in the discussions in class and do well on the examinations.

The requirements for this course include attending class lectures and discussions, participating in discussion section projects, doing well on three exams and completing ten reaction papers through the course the Sakai e-learning site.

Form of Reaction Papers:

Choose one article of the week in which you are submitting the reaction paper (follow the weekly schedule for readings for each week). The reaction papers are written for each week; you cannot write about readings for other than the week of the assignment. Your reaction should be to one reading or chapter from the book and only one. In other words, do not try to summarize all of the readings for a given week. Be sure to put the name of the article you are reviewing and the number of the reaction (i.e. "Reaction-1", etc.) as well as your name on it. These should be submitted via e-Learning by midnight of each Thursday of the week they are due, but you can submit them anytime during the week. Because of problems with computers and the internet, you should submit your paper no later than 11pm of the Thursdays that they are due so that you can correct any problems with the submission before midnight.

The reaction papers must be original work and no copying or plagiarism is allowed in this course.

The reactions should include (1.) An evaluation of the article: in other words, was it interesting, was it easy to understand, was it useful. (2) A short (i.e. 3 sentence) summary of the article, (3) A web-site or youtube video URL that relates to the article (4) your personal reaction to it, especially as it relates to your everyday life, and end with (5) an insightful question that the article raised with you.

The examinations are short answer essay and multiple choice. The exams are not cumulative: they cover only the lectures and required readings on the course outline. Questions for exams will only be taken from the lectures and assigned readings. Some sample exam questions will be posted on the Sakai site. Makeup examinations are given only under the most extreme circumstances with a doctor's note or other official excused absence (i.e. participating in University sponsored activities, religious holidays, etc.)

Points:

Exams: 3 @ 50 =	150	February 3th, March 3rd, and April 14th)
Weekly reactions 10 X 10=	100	(every week according to syllabus)
Additional participation points for discussion sections	50	
Weekly quiz during class	50	
Total Possible Points:	350	

Grades will be assigned based on the highest points achieved for the semester in the class. In other words, the grades will be based on a sum of the highest scores on the exams and reaction papers which may well be less than 300. Grades are calculated as follows:

A	92-100%
A-	90-91%
B+	88-89%
B	82-87%
B-	80-81%
C+	78-79%
C	72-77%
C-	70-71%

D+	68-69%
D	62-67%
D-	60-61%

Please note that minus grades are calculated into your GPA according to the Registrar's formula:
<http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html>

Letter Grade	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E	WF	I	NG	S-U
Grade Points	4.0	3.67	3.33	3.0	2.67	2.33	2.0	1.67	1.33	1.0	.67	0	0	0	0	0

Honor/Conduct Code: Students who do not comply with the student honor or conduct code

<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcodes/conductcode.php>

will be subject to sanctions. All assignments are put through "Turn it In" automatically, so any copying of papers off the internet or from other sources will be recognized. Cheating that is established and admitted by a student on any exam will result in zero points for that exam. Cheating on a reaction paper will result in a zero for that reaction paper. If cheating is not admitted, students will be referred to student judicial affairs. All plagiarism will be reported to student judicial affairs.

The reaction papers can be submitted as drafts before final submission and will be analyzed through "turn it in" so that you can check for incorrect citations and material from other sources.

Students with Disabilities: Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation.

Religious holidays: According to UF policies, "Students shall be excused from class or other scheduled academic activity to observe a religious holy day of their faith with prior notification to the instructor. Students shall be permitted a reasonable amount of time to make up the material or activities covered in their absence. Students shall not be penalized due to absence from class or other scheduled academic activity because of religious observances."

Attendance: Attendance is not taken in this class but will be taken in discussion sections and your participation points will be partly based on attendance. In addition there will be 10 short quizzes given in class throughout the term. These will not be announced and you cannot make them up if you are not present when they are given.

You can expect many questions on the exam that are based on class discussions, only some of which may appear in class power point presentations.

Classroom technology: Powerpoints for each week's classes are available on the e-learning (sakai) site. Computers may be used in class for taking notes or reviewing powerpoints. Do not use computers to do email or other non-class related activity. Cell phones are not to be used during class.

TEXTS:

Blum, Susan. *Making Sense of Language*. Oxford University Press, 2009

Tse, Lucy. *"Why don't they learn English?" Separating fact from fallacy in the U.S. language debate*. Teachers College Press. 2001

In addition all students must purchase the OBT Texts packet for this course 309 NW 9th Ave). It has the following articles:

1. Boas, "Introduction to the Handbook of American Indian Languages" (Blount, Language Culture and Society, pp 9-28)
2. Burns, A., Maya Education and Pan Maya Ideology in the Yucatan. Cultural Survival, Spring 1998.
3. Burns, Allan, "The Road Under Ground," (Folk, 1992)
4. Burns, Allan, "Video Production as a Dialogue" (Tedlock and Manhiem: Toward a Dialogic Anthropology, University of Illinois Press)
5. Burns, Allan, L. Blonder, K. Heilman, "Sociolinguistics and Aphasia" (Journal of Linguistic Anthropology, 1991)
6. Warren, Kay, "Each Mind is a World," In Lawrence Rosen., ed., Other Intentions: Culture and the Attribution of States of Mind. Seattle: University of Washington Press 1995.
7. Sacks, Oliver, "Chapter One" from Seeing Voices (1991).
8. Bernice Woll, Rachel Sutton-Spense, and Frances Elton. Multilingualism: The Global Approach To Sign Languages. Chp. 2 The Sociolinguistics of Sign Language. Cambridge University Press 2001.
9. Price, Laurie, Ecuadorian Illness Stories: Cultural Knowledge in Natural Discourse. In Dorothy Holland and Naomi Quinn, Cultural Models in Language and Thought. Cambridge University Press 1987.
10. Hidalgo, Margarita, Language Contact, Language Loyalty, and Language Prejudice on the Mexican Border, Language in Society, 1986
11. Burns, Allan, "Humor Through Yucatec Maya Stories, To Appear in Parallel Worlds: Genre, Discourse and Poetics in Contemporary, Colonial and Classic Period Maya Literature, Kerry M. Hull and Michael Carrasco, eds. University of Colorado Press, 2011.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE, READINGS, AND ASSIGNMENTS

Week of January 3. Introduction to course, objectives, themes of language and culture, theory and practice, differences between an anthropological approach to language and culture and the field of linguistics.

Readings: Blum introduction, 1, Boas article in course pack.

THERE WILL BE DISCUSSION SECTIONS THIS FRIDAY.

Week of January 10. **REACTION PAPER # 1 On Thursday** Theories of Language and Culture, history of interest in the field, uses of language and culture in the social sciences, language and symbol, design features of language.

Readings: Burns, "Maya Education.." in course pack. Blum 3,4.

Week of January 17 (No classes on Monday, January 17th, Martin Luther King Day).

(REACTION PAPER # 2 On Thursday Non-verbal communication, sign language, language and the brain.

Readings: Iverson "Why people gesture", Blum, 5. Sacks Chapter One from "Seeing Voices"; Woll, et al, "Multilingualism.." from course pack. Blum 44, 45.

Week of January 24. **REACTION PAPER # 3 On Thursday** Language and the Brain.

Neurolinguistics and Social Anthropology. Readings: Burns, "Sociolinguistics and Aphasia"; Warren, "Each Mind is a World" from course pack. Blum, 2, 10.

Week of January 31. **(First exam, February 3) READINGS FOR THIS WEEK WILL BE COVERED ON THE EXAM** The Form of the Message: Traditional linguistics-phonology and morphology. Readings: Blum 35, 36, 37.

Week of February 7 . **REACTION PAPER # 4 On Thursday** Sentences and Meanings. Studies of Grammar and Culture. Readings: Blum 6, 7, 11, 12.

Week of February 14. **REACTION PAPER # 5 On Thursday** Semantics and Ethnolinguistics Readings: Blum 9, 39, 40, 43. Burns, "The Road Underground," from course pack

Week of February 21. **REACTION PAPER # 6 On Thursday** Institutional Encounters. Blum, 13, 14, 15.

Week of February 28. **(2nd Exam, March 3rd) (Discussion sections will not meet on March 4th).** Multilingual encounters. Readings: Blum 29.

Spring Break: March 5-13

Week of March 14 **REACTION PAPER # 7 On Thursday** Language life and death: language preservation. Blum 20, 21, 22.

Week of March 21. **REACTION PAPER # 8 On Thursday** Anthropology and communication: ethnographic studies of language use. Tse, Chps 1,2,3. Blum 23, 24, 25, 37.

Week of March 28 **REACTION PAPER # 9 On Thursday** Language as a social activity: discourse and conversation in bilingual settings. Tse, Chps 4,5,6, Blum 17, 18

Week of April 4. **REACTION PAPER # 10 On Thursday** Discourse and Communication, Social class, race, and language. Readings: Burns, "Video Production as Dialogue", Blum 26, 27, 28.

Week of April 11 Narrative analysis, gender, and translation. Readings: Price, "Ecuadorian Illness Stories" Blum 30, Burns, "Yucatec Maya Humor" in course pack. Blum 31, 32. **THIRD EXAM, APRIL 14th.**

Week of April 18 . Tuesday: Last day of class. Final thoughts about language and culture.

There is no final examination in this class