

ANT 3620 Language & Culture

Fall 2021

Tuesday | Periods 8 & 9 (3:00-4:55 PM) Little Hall 101

Thursday | Period 9 (4:05-4:55 PM) Little Hall 101

instructor: Netty Carey

email: nettycarey@ufl.edu

office hours: Tues 1-2 p, Thurs 1-3 p

office: Turlington B335

Required Materials

Language, culture, and society: An introduction to linguistic anthropology, by Zdenek Salzmann, James Stanlaw, and Nobuko Adachi. 7th edition. Westview Press. (abbreviated LCS below)

Additional readings and links to other resources will be posted on Canvas.

Course Description

This course is an introduction to the field of linguistic anthropology. Linguistic anthropology is one of the four primary subfields of anthropology in the United States and has close connections to the field of linguistics. Its beginnings go back to the formation of the discipline in the late 19th century and are strongly influenced by the study of American Indian languages. Linguistic anthropologists combine linguistic and anthropological techniques in their work and focus on a variety of areas, including: language documentation and revitalization; interactions between linguistic and non-linguistic cognition; language and social categories such as class, gender, race, and ethnicity; language, evolution, and history.

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes

This course is a **social and behavioral sciences (S) subject area course** in the UF General Education Program. Social and behavioral science courses provide instruction in the history, key themes, principles, terminology, and underlying theory or methodologies used in the social and behavioral sciences. Students will learn to identify, describe, and explain social institutions, structures, or processes. These courses emphasize the effective application of accepted problem-solving techniques. Students will apply formal and informal qualitative or quantitative analysis to examine the processes and means by which individuals make personal and group decisions, as well as the evaluation of opinions, outcomes, or human behavior. Students are expected to assess and analyze ethical perspectives in individual and societal decisions. This course meets the general education objectives in social and behavioral sciences through:

- Examination of the biological and social underpinnings of language.
- Use of problem-solving techniques to discover cognitive and social patterns underlying linguistic structure.
- Identification of key aspects of the evolution of human verbal and non-verbal communicative behavior.

- Analysis of historical evidence on the correlation of linguistic and archaeological information.
- Examination of the interaction of languages with social categories such as gender, race, ethnicity and class.

This course is also an **International (N) subject area course** in the UF General Education Program. International courses provide instruction in the values, attitudes, and norms that constitute the contemporary cultures of countries outside the United States. These courses lead students to understand how geographic location and socioeconomic factors affect these cultures and the lives of citizens in other countries. Through analysis and evaluation of the students' own cultural norms and values in relation to those held by the citizens of other countries, they will develop a cross-cultural understanding of the rest of the contemporary world. This course meets the general education objectives in international studies through:

- Examination of world-wide variation in linguistic structure.
- Use of resources to identify language relationships around the world.
- Comparison of linguistic practice in the United States with linguistic practice more widely.

After successfully completing this course, students will have achieved course-specific learning outcomes. Students will be able to:

- Identify and explain the relationship between linguistics, anthropology, and linguistic anthropology.
- Identify, describe, and explain basic principles of the human vocal tract and sound production, using these principles for phonetic transcription and analysis.
- Identify, describe, and explain basic principles of word and sentence construction, applying these principles to word and sentence analysis.
- Identify and explain basic principles of sign languages and written language.
- Identify and explain connections between linguistic and non-linguistic cognition, as well as cross-cultural variation in these areas.
- Identify and explain relationships between language use and social categories, such as class, age, gender, race, and ethnicity.
- Describe and explain linguistic inequality and its connections to language endangerment.

Course Policies and Important Links

Academic Honesty. Apart from 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 requests by September 10.**

UF Counseling and Academic Support Services. Resources are available on-campus for students having personal problems or experiencing a lack of clear career and academic goals that interferes with their academic performance. These resources include:

1. [University Counseling and Wellness Center](#), 3190 Radio Road, 392-1575. Personal, career, and crisis 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.

Evaluation

Students will complete **ten activities** over the course of the semester. **Activities** are problem sets and linguistic puzzles designed to help you practice basic methodological skills or reflect on the week's primary lesson. These will usually be assigned on Tuesdays and reviewed in class on Thursdays. Activities will primarily be evaluated as completion grades: either the deliverable is complete and receives full credit or is incomplete/missing and receives no credit. Partial credit for activities is rare. Each activity is worth **3%** of your grade, totaling **30%** of the final grade.

Students will complete four **assignments** over the course of the semester. Each assignment is worth 10% of your grade and will be assessed using the rubric included in the assignment instructions. Assignments will include two reading analyses and two field exercises. These are intended to give you an opportunity to demonstrate your comprehension and analysis of course materials and to apply the methods of linguistic anthropology to real-life contexts. Taken together, assignments total **40% of your final grade**.

There will be two take-home **exams**, each worth 14%, totaling **28% of the final grade**.

Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class and accounts for **2% of your final grade**. Success on exercises, assignments, and exams will also depend on regular attendance and participation in in-class activities.

Grades for the course will be assigned as follows:

A: 93+; A-: 90-92; B+: 87-89; B: 83-86; B-: 80-82; C+: 77-79; C: 73-76; C-: 70-72; D+: 67-69; D: 60-66; E: <60

Final grades will be rounded following conventional math standards; grades ending with a decimal of 0.5 or greater will be rounded up to the next integer.

Additional information about the University's grade policies is available at:
<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

Late Work Policy

Except in the case of a documented, pre-approved absence (see below), late **activities** and **exams** will not be accepted. **Assignments** submitted late without prior approval will be penalized one letter grade (10%) per week.

Attendance

Absences and **missed assignments/exams** due to COVID-19 or other health-related issues and family emergencies must be documented. You must communicate with your instructor *before* you miss class meetings or deadlines. If it is not possible to notify the instructor beforehand, you must do so no later than 24 hours after-the-fact. Excuses and make-up assignments/exams will be determined on a case-by-case basis. **If you have any symptoms of COVID-19, please get tested and do not come to class. If you have a known COVID-19 contact, please get tested and do not come to class.**

Classroom Safety

For the safety of our class and our community, students are expected to comply with applicable county mandates (e.g., masks, physical distancing) aimed at curtailing the spread of COVID-19. Regardless of changing instructions from state, county, and UF officials, it is requested that all students wear masks in class, maintain six feet of distance between yourself and anyone outside your household, and submit to regular testing for COVID-19 irrespective of vaccination status. All students are eligible for free testing through UF Health's Screen, Test, & Protect program. All students and staff are required to be cleared for campus to enter the classroom. No special accommodations will be made for students who fail to maintain 'cleared' status through non-compliance with UF Health's Screen, Test, & Protect procedures.

Course Schedule

See below for a detailed course schedule, which may be subject to change.

Readings should be completed before the class meetings for which they are assigned. The below dates for Assignments & Activities correspond to the class during which the material will be assigned. Due dates will be specified in class and in the assignment instructions on Canvas. In general, **activities** will be due the following class period; **exams** issued on Thursday will be due the following Tuesday; and you will have at least a week to complete **assignments**.

Class Meeting	Readings	Assignments & Activities
Unit 1: What is language?		
Week 1: Introducing Linguistic Anthropology		
Tuesday, August 24	Syllabus Course Canvas	
Thursday, August 26	LCS Chapter 1	
Week 2: The Methods of Linguistic Anthropology		
Tuesday, August 31	LCS Chapter 2	
Thursday, September 2		
Week 3: Speech Sounds		
Tuesday, September 7	LCS Chapter 3	Activity 1: Phonetics and Phonology Problem Set
Thursday, September 9	Wong 2014 “Branding and Linguistic Anthropology”	Activity 2: Sound Symbolism Problem Set
Week 4: Structure of Sentences		
Tuesday, September 14	LCS Chapter 4	Activity 3: Bad Children Have Small Umbrellas – Swahili Noun Classes
Thursday, September 16		
Week 5: Nonverbal Communication		
Tuesday, September 21	LCS Chapter 5	Activity 4: A Year in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia – Amharic Script
Thursday, September 23		
Unit 2: A Natural History of Language		
Week 6: Language Evolution		
Tuesday, September 28	LCS Chapter 6 Explore: My Grandmother’s Lingo	
Thursday, September 30	Reading TBA	
Week 7: Language Acquisition		
Tuesday, October 5	LCS Chapter 7	Activity 5: Language Acquisition Problem Set
Thursday, October 7	Reading TBA	
Week 8: Language through Time		
Tuesday, October 12	LCS Chapter 8 In-class video: history of English	Activity 6: Historical Linguistics Problem Set
Thursday, October 14	Reading TBA	Assignment 1: Slang Dictionary
Week 9: Language Variation and Contact		
Tuesday, October 19	LCS Chapter 9	Activity 7: Personal Dialect Map

Thursday, October 21	Reading TBA	Exam 1 issued
Unit 3: Culture and Communication		
Week 10: Ethnography of Communication		
Tuesday, October 26	LCS Chapter 10	
Thursday, October 28	Black 2012 “Laughing to Death” Watch: Muzi Sibiya, “Humor in Zulu”	Assignment 2: Humor and Stigma
Week 11: Semantics and the Study of Meaning		
Tuesday, November 2	LCS Chapter 11	Activity 8: Semantics Problem Set
Thursday, November 4	Austen 1962 <i>How to Do Things with Words</i> , excerpt	
Week 12: Language, Culture, and Thought		
Tuesday, November 9	LCS Chapter 12 Watch: Dr. Bwenge, “Time in Swahili”	Activity 9: Telling the Time in Tanzania
Thursday, November 11	University Holiday	
Unit 4: Language, Identity, and Ideology		
Week 13: Language and Gender		
Tuesday, November 16	LCS Chapter 13 Kulick 1998	Activity 10: Sex & Gender Problem Set
Thursday, November 18	David Sedaris, “Go Carolina”	
Week 14: Race, Class, and Ethnicity		
Tuesday, November 23	LCS Chapter 14	Assignment 3: Linguistic Profiling
Thursday, November 25	Thanksgiving Break	
Week 15: Race, Class, and Ethnicity (continued) + Globalization and Digital Worlds		
Tuesday, November 30	Read/Watch: Stoevers-Ackerman 2010 “The Noise of SB 1070”	
Thursday, December 2	LCS Chapter 15	
Week 16: Globalization and the Digital World		
Tuesday, December 7	Oduro-Frimpong 2009 “Glocalization Trends”	Assignment 4: Ghanaian Hiplife and American Rap Video Comparison
Thursday, December 9	No Class: Reading Day	
Thursday, December 16	Final exam DUE by 12 pm EST	