

# ANT 3620 Language & Culture (online)

## Fall 2021

**Instructor:** Marit Ostebo  
marit.ostebo@ufl.edu

**Instructor Office Hours**  
Tuesday 2-4 pm and by appointment

**Course TAs**  
Camille Baylis  
Felipe Acosta-Munoz

**TA e-mails**  
[gbaylis@ufl.edu](mailto:gbaylis@ufl.edu)  
[facostamunoz@ufl.edu](mailto:facostamunoz@ufl.edu)

**TA Office Hours**  
Tuesday 9am-12pm  
Monday 2-5pm

### Course Communications

For all course-related questions, first review this syllabus to determine if the answer to your question is addressed before sending an email. In the content of the email, specifically state the particular assignment that is at issue. While we will respond as quickly as we can, please allow 48 hours (excluding weekends and holidays) before following up. During virtual office hours, emails will be answered within 5 minutes unless we are with another student.

There is also a general Course Questions Discussion Board where you are encouraged to ask general questions about the course and how to upload assignments.

### Required Readings

*Language, culture, and society: An introduction to linguistic anthropology*, by Zdenek Salzmänn, 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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:

- a) language documentation and revitalization;
- b) interactions between linguistic and non-linguistic cognition;
- c) language and social categories such as class, gender, race, and ethnicity;
- d) language, evolution, and history.

### General Education 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 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 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 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.

## **General Education Student Learning Outcomes**

**Content:** Students demonstrate competence in the terminology, concepts, theories, and methodologies used within the discipline of linguistic anthropology. Students will acquire a basic familiarity with the concepts and terminologies of phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, sociolinguistics, historical linguistics, and cognitive linguistics. This will be tested through weekly quizzes.

**Communication:** Students communicate knowledge, ideas, and reasoning clearly and effectively in written and oral forms appropriate to the discipline. Students will participate in discussions to further explore course content and to compare results of linguistic anthropology with other social science disciplines. Achievement of this learning outcome will be assessed through student discussion posts: one substantive original comment to the discussion and two substantive responses to other individuals' comments. Grades will reflect how well a student communicates in these posts.

**Critical Thinking:** Students analyze information carefully and logically from multiple perspectives, using discipline-specific methods, and develop reasoned solutions to problems. Students will read papers in linguistic anthropology and watch videos with content relevant to the discipline. Students will summarize, evaluate, and critique these materials, using the methods and terminology of linguistic anthropology.

## Course Objectives

Through lectures, assignments, and videos you will develop the basic skills and knowledge to

1. Identify and explain the relationship between linguistics, anthropology, and linguistic anthropology.
2. Identify, describe, and explain basic principles of the human vocal tract and sound production, using these principles for phonetic transcription and analysis.
3. Identify, describe, and explain basic principles of word and sentence construction, applying these principles to word and sentence analysis.
4. Identify and explain basic principles of sign languages and written language.
5. Describe and explain basic ideas in the evolution of language.
6. Use and interpret standard reference materials relevant to language change.
7. Correlate results in language change and archaeology.
8. Identify and explain connections between linguistic and non-linguistic cognition, as well as cross-cultural variation in these areas.
9. Identify and explain relationships between language use and social categories, such as class, age, gender, race, and ethnicity.
10. Describe and explain linguistic inequality and its connections to language endangerment.

## Course Mechanics

Given that this course is an online class, students are expected to be self-motivated. Each week of the semester, we will cover two or three different modules of the course. All assignments for the modules must be completed during the seven-day period they are assigned and must be submitted by the date and time indicated on the Assignments page on Canvas. Do NOT wait until the last minute to complete the assignments.

The instructions and materials needed for each assignment can be found under the relevant module. Please make sure to read the syllabus and familiarize yourself with Canvas. Students are responsible for all the material in each module and need to view all links posted on the course's website (e.g., lecture videos, films, and articles) and read any of the assigned reading

in the textbook. All of the material is fair game when it comes to quizzes, discussions, and activities. If there are questions about any assigned work, it is the student's responsibility to contact the Instructor or TA prior to the due date.

## Course Policies

### Assignments

**Quizzes:** There is a total of 13 **quizzes** in this course. (Modules 10 and 15 do not have quizzes; module 2 have two.) Quizzes are primarily made up of fill-in-the-blank or multiple-choice questions and they are worth 20 points. They are usually due on **Friday by 11:59 p.m. EST** but make sure to check the dates in Canvas for each quiz. The quizzes make up 50% of the total grade. The quizzes do not have a time limit. You may begin them at any time; however, you need to manually submit them by the due date. Quizzes are open until Saturday, 11:59 PM EST, for students who wish to complete them for a late penalty. Do not wait until the timer runs out or your quiz will automatically be submitted late.

**Activities:** Students will also need to complete eleven (11) online **activities**. Activities are submitted in essay form and relate to the theme of the week. Grades will be based on the quality of the response, following the instructions, and demonstrating a grasp of the weekly topics. Instructions should be read carefully, as each assignment has its own requirements. Files must be uploaded in the correct format (doc or docx) using Turnitin. Activities are usually due on **Friday by 11:59 p.m. EST** but check the dates in Canvas. The activities are worth 10 points each and form 30% of the total grade.

**Discussion posts:** There will be six (6) required **discussion posts**. Each student must post a substantive original comment to the discussion by **Thursday at 12 noon EST**. They must then make two (2) substantive responses to other individual's comments by **Friday at 11:59 p.m. EST**. (EXCEPTION: Because of the add and drop period, the first discussion post is due **Saturday at 12 noon EST**, and the responses to other individual's comments by **Sunday at 11:59 p.m.**) Make sure to check the dates in the schedule below and on Canvas. In total, this means there are six (6) original comments and twelve (12) responses throughout the semester. Participation in these discussions is 20% of the final grade. The grade for this component of the course will be derived from the quality of participation and use of the anthropological concepts from the readings and lectures for the week. Online discussion groups will be assigned by the Instructor once the Add/Drop period has closed.

There will be **no exam** for this course.

### Grading Policy

Grades are based on the following percentages:

Online discussions: 20%

Activities: 30%

Quizzes: 50%

The following grading scale, suggested by CLAS, will be used to determine final grades:

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E
≥ 90	89-87	86-84	83-80	79-77	76-74	73-70	69-67	66-64	63-60	59-57	≤ 56

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/>

## Make-up Policy

Given that this is an online class, students are responsible for making sure that they have a functioning internet connection and computer access. Assignments must be submitted on time to receive full credit. Students have until Saturday at 11:59 p.m. EST to submit late **activities** and complete late **quizzes** with a **10% penalty**. After Saturday, no late work will be accepted without documentation of an excused absence.

For **discussion posts** due on Thursday, students have until Friday at 11:59 p.m. EST to complete late posts with a **10% penalty** and Saturday at 11:59 p.m. EST for late responses. After this date and time, no late discussion submissions will be accepted without documentation of an excused absence.

Assignments missed due to a documented illness or emergency may be rescheduled. However, the Instructor should be notified **48 hours prior**, or as soon as possible thereafter (within a reasonable period of time). It is the student's responsibility to contact the Instructor, provide documentation, and arrange the make-up. Documentation must be provided to both the Instructor and the Dean of Student Office at <https://care.dso.ufl.edu/instructor-notifications/> for verification.

Technology issues while turning in assignments or completing quizzes are handled differently and are addressed below in the section "Getting help: technological difficulties."

## Online Evaluation

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at Gator Rater (<https://evaluations.ufl.edu>). Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>.

## University of Florida Policies

### University Policy on Accommodating Students with Disabilities

Students requesting accommodation for disabilities must first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>). The DRC will provide an accommodation letter to the student who must be presented to the Instructor when requesting

accommodation. You must submit this documentation prior to submitting assignments or taking quizzes or exams. Accommodations are not retroactive; therefore, students should contact the office as soon as possible in the term for which they are seeking accommodations.

## University Policy on Academic Misconduct

Academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community. UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge, which states:

*We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity by abiding by the Student Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by Students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment."*

The Honor Code (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions.

Your Instructor and TAs are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the Instructor or TAs in this class. Plagiarism and/or cheating on any exam, assignment, or quiz will not be tolerated. Students found to be engaging in these behaviors will receive zero (0) points for that assignment and be reported to the Dean of Students Office. After receiving a warning, if cheating persists, the student will receive a zero (0) for the subsequent assignment, be reported to the Dean of Students Office again, and incur any further penalties that are administered by the Dean of Students Office.

Once a student has been reported for cheating or plagiarism, they cannot drop the class. Plagiarism includes copying from websites or other students. Self-plagiarism will not be tolerated: you cannot duplicate your work from other courses. Any direct quotes should be properly cited with author, date, and page number(s). If you have questions about this, please use the Course Questions discussion board or email your Instructor and TAs directly. You are strongly discouraged from sharing your notes for this class on any online website. You are not permitted to distribute screen shots of any course content. *Remember that using and posting assignments on **Course Hero** or similar websites constitutes a violation of the UF Student Honor Code.*

### Basic guidelines for not plagiarizing:

- Do not copy and paste from any website
- Write your own words
- Do not collaborate with fellow students on any assignment unless otherwise noted
- Use in-text citations when using direct quotes, when paraphrasing, or when citing original research

([https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/teacher\\_and\\_tutor\\_resources/preventing\\_plagiarism/index.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/teacher_and_tutor_resources/preventing_plagiarism/index.html))

## **Netiquette: Communication Courtesy**

All members of the class are expected to follow rules of common courtesy in all email messages, threaded discussions, and chats. Students should treat others with respect. It is helpful to use clear and concise language, full sentences, and correct spelling and grammar. Students should be careful when providing personal information and remember that using all CAPS can be interpreted as yelling. Additional information can be found at <http://teach.ufl.edu/wpcontent/uploads/2012/08/NetiquetteGuideforOnlineCourses.pdf>.

## **Getting Help**

### **Technical Difficulties**

For issues with technical difficulties for E-learning in Canvas, please contact the UF Computing Help Desk at:

- [helpdesk@ufl.edu](mailto:helpdesk@ufl.edu)
- (352) 392-HELP - select option 1
- <http://helpdesk.ufl.edu/>

\*\* Any requests for make-ups due to technical issues MUST be accompanied by the ticket number received from ELS when the problem was reported to them. The ticket number will document the time and date of the problem. You MUST e-mail your Instructor within 24 hours of the technical difficulty if you wish to request a make-up.

### **UF Counseling Services**

If you are experiencing personal problems that are interfering with your studies, you are encouraged to take advantage of the available university resources:

- U Matter, We Care: If you or a friend is in distress, please contact [umatter@ufl.edu](mailto:umatter@ufl.edu) or 352-392-1575 so that a team member can reach out to the student. Also see <http://www.umatter.ufl.edu/>
- UF Counseling and Wellness Center: <https://counseling.ufl.edu>, 352-392-1575
- Sexual Assault Recovery Services: Student Health Care Center, 352-392-1161
- University Police Department: 352-392-1111

Other resources are available at <http://distance.ufl.edu/getting-help/> for:

- Counseling and Wellness resources
- Disability resources
- Resources for handling student concerns and complaints
- Library Help Desk support

Should you have any complaints with your experience in this course, please visit <http://distance.ufl.edu/student-complaint-process/> to submit a complaint.

### **Notes on the Schedule**

All assignment due dates occur on Thursdays and Fridays. It will be in your best interest, therefore, to begin your work early in the week and hold yourself accountable for completing

each module in succession. This is especially true in weeks with discussion posts. The material is cumulative, meaning you will need to complete earlier modules in order to make sense of the later ones. Do not wait until the last minute to begin reading and viewing lectures!

Module	Readings	Assignments
<i>Unit 1: What is language?</i>		
<i>Week 1: Introducing Linguistic Anthropology</i>		
1: Introduction	Start Here page on Canvas  LCS Chapters 1 & 2	Syllabus Quiz – 8/27  Discussion – 8/28 @ noon + 2 responses – 8/29
<i>Week 2: Speech Sounds</i>		
2.1: Speech Sounds (part 1)	LCS Chapter 3	Video Activity 2.1 – 9/1 Quiz 2.1 – 9/1
2.2: Speech Sounds (part 2)	LCS Chapter 3	Video Activity 2.2 – 9/3 Quiz 2.2 – 9/3
<i>Week 3 &amp; 4: Structures of Sentences</i>		
3: Structure of Words	LCS Chapter 4	Quiz 3 – 9/10
4: Structure of Sentences	LCS Chapter 4	Activity 4– 9/17 Quiz 4 – 9/17 “Bad Children Have Small Umbrellas – Swahili Noun Classes”
<i>Week 5: Nonverbal Communication</i>		
5: Non-verbal Communication	LCS Chapter 5	Activity 5 – 9/24 “A Year in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia - Amharic Script and transliteration” Quiz 5 – 9/24
<i>Unit 2: A Natural History of Language</i>		
<i>Week 6: Language Evolution</i>		
6: Development and Evolution of Language	LCS Chapter 6	Video Activity 6 – 10/1 Quiz 6 – 10/1
<i>Week 7: Language Acquisition</i>		
7: First and Second Language Acquisition	LCS Chapter 7	Discussion – 10/7 @ noon + 2 responses – 10/8 Quiz 7 – 10/8
<i>Week 8: Language Through Time</i>		
8: Language through Time	LCS Chapter 8	Video Activity 8 – 10/15 Quiz 8 – 10/15
<i>Week 9: Language Variation and Contact</i>		
9: Languages in Variation and Contact	LCS Chapter 9	Video Activity 9 – 10/22 Quiz 9 – 10/22
<i>Unit 3: Culture and Communication</i>		



Week 10: Ethnography of Communication		
10: Ethnography of Communication	LCS Chapter 10 Black 2012	Discussion – 10/28 @ noon + 2 responses – 10/29 “Laughing to Death – Humor in Zulu Language”
Week 11: Semantics and the Study of Meaning		
11: Culture and Cognition	LCS Chapter 11 Frisch 1968	Quiz 11 – 11/5
Week 12: Language, Culture & Thought		
12: Language, Culture, and Thought	LCS Chapter 12 Winawer et al. 2007	Quiz 12 – 11/12 Activity 12 – 11/12 “Telling time in Tanzania”
Thursday, November 11 UNIVERSITY HOLIDAY		
Week 13: Language and Gender		
13: Language and Gender	LCS Chapter 13 Kulick 1998	Discussion – 11/18 @ noon + 2 responses – 11/19 Quiz 13 – 11/19
November 24-26 THANKSGIVING BREAK		
Week 14: Race, Class and Ethnicity		
14: Language and Race, Ethnicity, Nationality	LCS Chapter 14 Bucholtz 1999	Discussion – 12/2 @ noon + 2 responses – 12/3 Quiz 14 – 12/3
Week 15: Globalization & Digital Worlds		
15: Globalization and Digital Worlds	LCS Chapter 15 Oduro-Frimpong 2009	Activity 15 – 12/8 “Ghanaian Hiplife and American Rap”
December 9-10 READING DAYS		