

ANT 3620**Language and Culture****Summer B 2021****Monday-Friday, 11:00-12:15 (Period 3)****Turlington Hall, Room 2319****Instructor- Jordan Traff (jtraff@ufl.edu)****Office Hours and Location: TBA****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. It also has close connections to the field of linguistics. Its beginnings go back to the formation of anthropology in the late nineteenth 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; and 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 General Education student learning outcomes in the areas of content, communication, and critical thinking. Students will be able to:

- demonstrate competence in the terminology, concepts, theories, and methodologies used within the discipline
- communicate knowledge, ideas, and reasoning clearly and effectively in written and oral forms appropriate to the discipline
- analyze information carefully and logically from multiple perspectives, using discipline specific methods, and develop reasoned solutions to problems

After successfully completing this course, students will have achieved course-specific student 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. 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.

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.

Evaluation

Students will be expected to complete six activities and three assignments over the course of the semester. The activities and assignments are the sole basis for assessment in this course. Activities will be assigned weekly to give students a chance to apply class material in a tangible way. Taken together, activities total 50% of your final grade. You are also expected to complete three assignments over the course of the semester which together make up the other 50% of the grade. Assignments are assigned at the end of each unit and are intended to give you an opportunity to demonstrate your comprehension and analysis of course materials as well as your ability to apply course concepts to new contexts. Due dates for activities and assignments are posted in Canvas.

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

Course Materials and Instructional Modalities

Textbooks: The following textbooks are **required** for this course:

Stanlaw, J., N. Adachi, and Z. Salzmann. 2018. *Language, Culture, and Society: An Introduction to Linguistic Anthropology*, 7th Ed. New York: Routledge.

Additional class materials will be available through Canvas.

Course Schedule and Outline

Below is a rough outline for the topics covered in this course. We may alter time spent on some topics as class interest dictates, and additional readings may be assigned. Those reading will be posted and announced with sufficient time to complete them before class. Due dates for activities and assignments will not change. All assignments and supplemental materials are available through Canvas.

Section I. What is language?

Week 1- June 28th-July 2nd

Chapters 1-3

Introduction to the course and linguistic anthropology, going over the structure of words and spoken language. Activity 1- Syntax and IPA

Week 2- July 6th-July 9th

Chapters 4-6

Further examine the structure of language, then move on to non-verbal language. What is it about human language that is different from animal communication systems? Activity 2- Animal Languages?

Assignment 1- Essay Due Monday July 12th

Section II. Language and the Natural World

Week 3- July 12th – July 16th

Chapters 6-8

Investigate theories behind how and why language evolved in humans. Examine how our brains are wired for language by looking at language acquisition. Activity 3- Language Acquisition (Activity 5)

Week 4- July 19th – July 23rd

Chapters 8-9,11-12

Examine how languages change; language families, how pidgins and creoles form, and what makes a dialect. Also begin to see how language can shape our thinking. Activity 4 Dialect Map

Assignment 2- Dictionary Comparison

Section III. Culture

Week 5- July 26th – July 30th

Chapters 12-13

Finish examining how language can shape thought with Sapir- Worf. Next, we will examine language with regards to topics such as sex and gender, class, and race and ethnicity.

Week 6 August 2nd – August 6th

Chapters 14-15

We will finish discussing how language interacts with topics from Week 5 and finish up by examining how technology and globalization are impacting language.

Assignment 3