

Language and Culture **ANT 3620, Section 0318**

Fall 2010
MWF 7th period (1:55-2:45 pm)
Turlington L011

Instructor

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Course Description and Objectives

The purpose of this course is to provide a basic introduction to the study of linguistics from an anthropological perspective. We will explore the ways that language functions in different societies and cultures around the world and how researchers from a variety of disciplines use linguistic and anthropological methods to understand topics ranging from the origins of humanity to the power of language in the modern day context. We also hope to get you thinking about how we use language in our daily lives: how we use it to express ourselves and how it enables, structures, and constrains our interactions. We will analyze everything from the language ideology of hip-hop and the speech patterns of nerds to the chronicles of an anthropologist living with and attempting to document the language of an indigenous group. In addition to the texts, we bring our experiences as anthropologists, as well as films, music, and guest lecturers and we encourage you to share your own perspectives.

This course is divided into three sections. The first section provides a foundation for the study of language and culture: the origins of language and the techniques used to analyze the basic building blocks of all human languages. The second section examines the social uses of language, with a focus on gender, class, and ethnicity and the ways that language is used to express power, identity, and belief. The third section of the course focuses on the study of language change and endangerment; we will employ what we have learned throughout the semester to analyze an ethnography about life and language in the Amazon jungle.

Required Course Materials

- Blum, Susan. *Making Sense of Language*. Oxford University Press, 2009
- Everett, Daniel. *Don't Sleep, there are Snakes*. Vintage, 2008.
- Additional book chapters and articles are posted on Ares (Automating Reserves)
<https://ares-uflib-ufl-edu.lp.hscl.ufl.edu/>

Exams and Grading

Exams (60%): There will be three exams based on material presented in class (lecture, films, guest presentations) and assigned readings. Exams will consist of a combination of multiple choice and true/false questions. Exams will be administered via the E-learning in sakai portal. Exams are timed (60 minutes for a 50-question exam). Class will not be held on exam days; you will have a 2 hour window from 1:30 to 3:30 to take the exam on e-learning. The exam times and dates are not negotiable. I suggest that you take the exam using a secure connection in a computer lab on campus, but if you take it on your own computer through an ISP other than the university, make sure ahead of time that the internet connection is stable and reliable, and that your computer is working properly. Make-up exams are granted only under the following circumstances: a documented medical emergency, religious holiday, and students travelling on official school business. In such cases, you must provide the instructor with written documentation from an appropriate authority at least 24 hours before the exam.

Quizzes (20%): You are responsible for taking 5 out of 6 quizzes, which will be administered either on E-learning or in class. The specific dates of these 10-question quizzes will be determined by the instructor. Their purpose is to assess your comprehension of the material that we are currently covering in class and to encourage you to keep up with the reading assignments.

Essays (20%): You will write two short (2 pages each) essays in which you reflect on the study of language and culture. The specific topic and guidelines for the essays will be announced in lecture and posted on E-learning 3 weeks before the due date. Essays should be 2 pages, double-spaced, in 12-point Times New Roman font with 1-inch margins. You must include your name, Instructor name and course number, and the name of the assignment.

Before submitting your essay you must upload them to Turnitin.com, a plagiarism detection program, through E-Learning. Your paper will be considered incomplete and will not be graded if it is not submitted to Turnitin.com before the beginning of lecture on the due date. If there is any evidence of plagiarism, you will receive a grade of zero points for the assignment and be reported to Student Judicial Affairs. Essays must be submitted to the TA at the beginning of lecture on the due dates. No late reaction papers will be accepted, unless documentation of a university-approved excuse is provided at least 24 hours before the due date.

Grades: Final grades are based on points accumulated during the semester. Points will be awarded as follows:

Exams (3 x 50 pts)	150 pts	(60%)	(Sept 24, Oct 29, Dec 8)
Quizzes (5 x 10)	50	(20%)	(dates to be determined)
Essays (2 x 25)	50	(20%)	(Oct 11, Nov 17)
Total:	250 pts	(100%)	

Grades will be assigned based on the highest points achieved for the semester in the class. Grades are calculated as follows:

A	92-100%
A-	90-92%
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 will be subject to sanctions. <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcodes/conductcode.php>

All writing 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 an essay will result in a zero for that assignment. If cheating is not admitted, students will be referred to student judicial affairs. All plagiarism will be reported to student judicial affairs. Collaborating or sharing answers with other students on an online exam or quiz is considered cheating.

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.

E-learning in sakai: <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/>

You will take your exams and a portion of the quizzes, and submit your essays through E-learning in sakai. Please note that UF is transitioning from E-learning to a new portal, E-learning in sakai. When you go to the E-learning website, log into E-learning in sakai. All important materials can be viewed here, including the syllabus, guidelines for writing the essays, and other useful documents.

Classroom Behavior: Classroom disruptions will not be tolerated. If you are talking, reading newspapers, listening to your iPod or other mp3 player, texting on your cell phone, or being disruptive in any other way, you will be asked to leave. I expect that cell phones will be turned off during the lecture and that you will remain seated and not talk with your neighbor or read the newspaper during class. Use of laptops is permitted, but only for taking notes. If you do need to leave early, please sit in a location where your movement will cause the least disruption.

Other Information and Resources:

- UF Anthropology Department Policy: <http://www.web.anthro.ufl.edu>
- UF LIBRARY: <http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/instruct/neworient.html>
- UF Grading System: <http://www.isis.ufl.edu/minusgrades.html>
- UF Academic Honesty Code: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcode.php>
- UF Disability Services: <http://www.ufl.edu/disability>
- UF Counseling Services: www.consel.ufl.edu/cwc/counseling-services.aspx
- UF's Reading & Writing Center: www.at.ufl.edu/rwcenter

Course Schedule and Readings

The following course outline is tentative. We may spend more or less time on specific topics as class interest dictates, and I may change some of the readings. Any changes to the readings will be posted on the syllabus and announced in class at least one week prior to the week in question. Exams and essay due dates are not subject to change. **Guide for readings: E = Everett, B = Blum, A = Ares.**

Week		Topic	Readings
I. Foundations of Linguistic Anthropology			
1	Aug 23, 25, 27	Introduction to the Study of Language and Culture	E: prologue, 1 B: pgs vii-4, Ch. 1 A: Duranti
2	Aug 30, Sept 1, 3	Origins of Language	E: 2 B: 2, 5, 6 A: Aiello & Dunbar
3	Sept 8, 10 <i>*No class Mon, 9/6: Labor Day</i>	Language and Cognition	E: 3 B: 9-12 A: Berlin & Kay
4	Sept 13,15,17	Descriptive Linguistics	E: 4 B: 3,4,7,8 A: Hickerson
5	Sept 20,22 <i>Sept 24: Exam I</i>	Nonverbal communication	B: 44, 45 A: Iverson; Scherzer
II. Sociolinguistics			
6	Sept 27,29, Oct 1	Sociolinguistics: Introduction	E: 5 B: 13-15 A: Fromkin
7	Oct 4,6,8	Class, Dialect, Ethnicity, Race	E: 6 B: 23-29 A: Carver
8	Oct 11, 13 <i>*No class Fri, 10/15: homecoming</i>	Sex, Gender, & Language <i>Essay # 1 due Mon, Oct 11</i>	B: 30-34 A: Lakoff; Mehl
9	Oct 18,20,22	Language as Social Action	E: 7 B: 35-37 A: Bonvillian (364-387)
10	Oct 25, 27 <i>Oct 29: Exam 2</i>	Discourse and Power	E: 8 B: 38-40 A: Spradley
III. The Study of Language, Culture, and Change			
11	Nov 1,3,5	Language Endangerment	E: 9-11 B: 20-22 A: Boas
12	Nov 8,10, 12	Studying Language and Culture: <i>Don't Sleep, There are Snakes</i>	E: 12-15 A: Finnegan (445-462)
13	Nov 15, 17, 19	Studying Language and Culture: <i>Don't Sleep, There are Snakes</i> <i>Essay # 2 due Wed, Nov 17</i>	E:16-17 A: Everett
14	Nov 22, 24 <i>*No class 11/26: Thanksgiving</i>	Societal Multilingualism	B: 13-15 A: Crystal
15	Nov 29, Dec 1, 3	Individual Multilingualism	B: 16-19 A: Tse
16	Dec 6 <i>Dec 8: Exam 3</i>	Lessons in Language and Culture	

