

Language and Culture

ANT 3620

Summer A, 2011 (9:30-10:45)

Instructor: Tess M. Kulstad

Section: 0099

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Required texts:

- *The Anthropology of Language. An Introduction to Linguistic Anthropology* by Ottenheimer, Harriet Joseph. Second Edition 2009.
- Online materials that will be assigned as we advance throughout the semester.

Introduction:

This course will be an introductory course to anthropological linguistics. The course will be divided into six sections. First, we will briefly review what anthropology is and what anthropologists do. Secondly, we will look at the relationship between language and culture. For instance, do languages affect the way we perceive and understand the world? In the third section of the course, we will examine some of the basic universal structures found in every language: phonology (sounds), morphology (words), and syntax (sentences). Subsequently, the course will address sociolinguistics and the ethnographic study of communication, that is, the ways in which language interacts with cultural variables such as ethnicity, identity, class, and race. In the fourth section, students will learn how to evaluate the possible origins of language, how to trace the changes that come over languages through time, and how to identify the multiple uses that language serves in human cognitive and social life. Finally, we will examine issues such as bilingualism, minority language politics, nationalism, and multilingual nations in the world.

Assessment:

The final grade scale for this class is as follows:

A = 100-93	C(S) = 76-73
A-=92-90	C-(U)= 72-70
B+=89-87	D+=69-67
B= 86-83	D= 66-63
B-= 82-80	D-= 62-60
C+= 79-77	E= 59-0

For further information regarding passing grades and grade point equivalents, please refer to the Undergraduate Catalog at: <http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades/html>.

You will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

Exams (3)	60%
In-class activities	20%
Quizzes (4total)	20%
Total	100%

Classroom expectations:

- Attendance policy: As college students, you are responsible for your own learning. Therefore, I will not be taking attendance in this class. However, I highly recommend that you attend class every day. We will be covering a lot of material in very little time. In general, lectures will not be posted online (only under special circumstances) so your presence is a key factor in succeeding in this class. Also, in-class activities cannot be made up, unless you have a university approved absence.
- Do not come to class to do homework or to sleep.
- Tardiness: Tardiness really distracts others, so be on time and only leave early if you really have to. If you arrive to class 15 minutes after we have started, I will kindly ask you to please leave the room.
- Students are expected to read material before it is covered in class.
- Students are expected to be active participants in class.
- Students are expected to exhibit respectful behavior toward the class and toward your peers.
- Technology in the classroom: Computers may be used in class for taking notes or reviewing Power Points. Do not use computers to send emails, facebook, games or other non-class related activity. The use of cell phones, pagers, iPods or mp3 players during class is prohibited. All equipment must be turned off in the classroom. Any evidence of cell phones (use, ringing, buzzing, texting, etc.) and similar equipment use will result in me asking you to leave the classroom and getting a zero in the in-class activity of the day.

Exams: There will be a total of *three exams* in this class. They are non-cumulative and will be based on the readings, lectures, guest speakers, and films. The exam format will be multiple-choice, true-false and fill in the blank. Exams are not curved and no make-up tests will be given.

Exams will be administered through e-Learning on the days scheduled on this syllabus. You are not required to attend class the day of a scheduled exam. You can take the exams in a place and with a computer of your choice. It is your responsibility to have a reliable internet connection. Further instruction about how to complete an online exam will be provided in class.

NO DEVIATION OF THE TEST SCHEDULE WILL BE ALLOWED, UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES; this means NO early or late exams (unless you have a university approved absence).

Quizzes: There will be a total of 4 quizzes throughout the term. Each one is worth 5 points. They will be administered through the elearning website. Quiz dates will be announced in class. Unlike exams, we will have class on quiz dates. You can take the quizzes in a place and with a computer of your choice. It is your responsibility to have a reliable internet connection. The format will be multiple-choice, true-false and fill in the blank. Quizzes will cover material in the readings, lectures, guest lectures and films.

NO DEVIATION OF THE QUIZ SCHEDULE WILL BE ALLOWED, UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES; this means NO early or late quizzes (unless you have a university approved absence).

In class-activities: Throughout the term, we will be carrying out different activities in class that you will have to turn in to me for a grade. These activities cannot be made up, unless you have a university-approved absence.

24-hour Grade Dispute Policy

Students who wish to discuss grades on assignments and exams should contact the instructor within 24 hours of posting to arrange a meeting time. Please do not wait until the end of the semester to

question grades or request special consideration. Twenty-four hours after posting, all grades are final.

General Administrative Issues

Academic Integrity

All students are required to abide by the Academic Honesty Guidelines which have been accepted by the University. The UF Honor Code reads:

We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.

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." For more information please refer to <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/studentguide>.

Accommodations

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. For more information see <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc>.

Counseling and Wellness

A variety of counseling, mental health and psychiatric services are available through the UF Counseling and Wellness Center, whose goal is to help students be maximally effective in their academic pursuits by reducing or eliminating emotional, psychological, and interpersonal problems that interfere with academic functioning. The Center can be found online at <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc> or reached by phone at 392-1575.

Class Schedule

Disclosure: The sequence of lectures is pretty much set but it can be modified due to emerging needs of the class.

Week	Date	Topic	Assignment due
1	May 9 th	Course introduction and expectations	<u>Read:</u> syllabus
	10	What is linguistic anthropology?	<u>Read:</u> Ottenheimer- Ch 1
	11	What is linguistic anthropology?	<u>Read:</u> Ottenheimer- Ch 1; William E. Mitchell: A Goy in the Ghetto: Gentile-Jewish Communication in Fieldwork Research.
	12	How language reflects and influences culture	<u>Read:</u> Ottenheimer- Ch 2; Whorf: The Relation of Habitual Thought and Behavior to Language; Harold C. Conklin: Hanunóo Color Categories; Lakoff and Johnson: Metaphors We Live By
	13	How language reflects and influences culture	<u>Read:</u> Ottenheimer- Ch 2
2	16	The Sounds of Language	<u>Read:</u> Ottenheimer 3
	17	The Sounds of Language	<u>Read:</u> Ottenheimer 3
	18	Words and Sentences	<u>Read:</u> Ottenheimer 4
	19	Words and Sentences	<u>Read:</u> Ottenheimer 4
	20	Words and Sentences	<u>Read:</u> Ottenheimer 4 Quiz 1
3	23	Exam 1- Elearning (No Class)	
	24	Language in Action	<u>Read:</u> Ottenheimer 5; Jim Good Tracks: Native-American non-interference
	25	Language in Action	<u>Read:</u> Ottenheimer 5; Bucholtz: "The whiteness of nerds..."; Preston: "They speak really bad English..."

	26	Language in Action	<u>Read:</u> Ottenheimer 5; Portes and Rumbault: "Learning the Ropes..."
	27	Nonverbal communication	<u>Read:</u> Ottenheimer 6; Iverson: "Why people gesture..."; Joseph Hickey and William Thompson: "Personal Space: The Hidden Element of Cowboy Demeanor". Quiz 2
4	30	No class- Memorial Day	
	31	Nonverbal communication	<u>Read:</u> Ottenheimer 6
	June 1	Writing and Literacy	<u>Read:</u> Ottenheimer 7; Harriet Ottenheimer: "Spelling Shizwani: Dictionary Construction and Orthographic Choice in the Comoro Islands".
	2	Writing and Literacy	<u>Read:</u> Ottenheimer 7
	3	Writing and Literacy	<u>Read:</u> Ottenheimer 7 Quiz 3
5	6	Exam 2-Elearning (No Class)	
	7	How and when is language possible?	<u>Read:</u> Ottenheimer 8
	8	How and when is language possible? Film: Koko , a talking gorilla	<u>Read:</u> Ottenheimer 8
	9	How and when is language possible?	<u>Read:</u> Ottenheimer 8
	10	Change and choice	<u>Read:</u> Ottenheimer 9 Quiz 4
6	13	Change and choice	<u>Read:</u> Ottenheimer 9; Robert Haller: "English as an Official Language: The Nebraska Experience"
	14	Change and choice	<u>Read:</u> Ottenheimer 9
	15	Doing linguistic anthropology	<u>Read:</u> Ottenheimer 10; Jane Hill: "Mock Spanish: A Site for the Indexical Reproduction of Racism in American English"
	16	Doing linguistic anthropology Film: "The Linguists"	<u>Read:</u> Ottenheimer 10
	17	Exam 3- Elearning (No Class)	

