

Language and Culture

ANT 3620 Spring 2013

Section 6882

MWF 12:50-1:40 pm

Instructor: Karen McIlvoy

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(directions for locating my office are posted on the class e-learning site)

Office Hours: Tuesday 1:00 – 3:00 pm or by appt

Course Description and Objectives:

The purpose of this course is to provide a basic introduction to the study of linguistics from an anthropological perspective. It is of importance that the student learns how language functions differ across cultures and how anthropologists have interpreted topics ranging from the origins of humans to language phenomena in the present day. This course focuses on language as an aspect of human culture. We consider structural properties of human languages, the major families of languages in the world, how languages differ, how and why speakers differ within communities, and how an outsider can come to understand and appreciate the basic principles at work within another language.

This course is organized into three parts. Part One will focus on placing language into an anthropological perspective. Lectures will cover the definition of language, language as it separates humans from animals, basic linguistic analytical methods, and a linguistic map of the world. Part Two will focus on the global origins and spread of language. Lectures will cover the biological requirements of spoken language, the origins of speech in human evolution, changes in language throughout time and space, systems of writing, and the influence of language on cultural worldviews. Part Three will focus on the impact of language on modern social relationships. Lectures will cover the processes of language acquisition, multilingualism, sociolinguistics, and language in modern media and technology.

Required Textbooks:

1. Salzmänn, Zdenek, James Stanlaw, and Nobuko Adachi. *Language, Culture, and Society: An Introduction to Linguistic Anthropology*, 5th ed. (2012).
2. Golinkoff, Roberta M. and Kathy Hirsh-Pasek. *How Babies Talk: The Magic and Mystery of Language in the First Three Years of Life* (1999).
3. Additional readings will be made available on the class e-learning website.

CLASS REQUIREMENTS

1. Exams-

There will be three exams, each worth 60 points. Exams are not cumulative and will consist of a mixture of objective questions (e.g., true false, multiple choice, etc), and short answer or essay questions. Exam questions will be based on material covered in lectures, readings, films, and in-class discussions. **Exams will be given in class.**

2. Quizzes-

Six **unscheduled** quizzes worth 5 points each will be given during the course of the semester. Quizzes may be given at any point during a lecture. There are NO makeup quizzes.

3. Essays-

Essays will be due in class on the dates given in the class schedule. **No assignments will be accepted via email.** All essays must be turned in on time. **No late work will be accepted.** Any essay less than the required length will receive a penalty. Essays should be double spaced in 12 pt Times New Roman font with standard 1-inch margins (there are 140 essays to be graded, if you try to use a larger font or alter the margins it will be noticeable). Proper spelling and grammar are required. Essays with substantial grammatical errors will be penalized. **Cite your references** with in-text parentheticals. Both the article in question and any outside sources from class should be referenced. **Lists of references DO NOT count towards page length.** Cover pages are not required. Staple your essays. **Any essay not stapled will receive a penalty.**

1) For the first required essay, the student will be required to view and respond to two movies. The first movie must have been filmed in a language other than English; the second film must be an English language re-make of the first film. The student may review any films of their choosing, so long as the films fit these requirements. (A list of possible film choices will be available on the class e-learning site. The choice of films is NOT limited to the films on this list...it is intended only to assist students in their decision making.) After the student has viewed both films, they will compare and contrast the two. At a minimum, students must detail: 1) which films they chose (including original language, locations, directors, and years of production), 2) the basic story plot, and 3) how the change in language affected the storytelling (be creative here). This essay must be at least 3 ½ - 4 pages, will count for 20 points, and is due in class **January 30, 2013.**

2) For the second required essay, the student will be required to research one officially recognized language from anywhere in the world. Chosen languages can be either extant or extinct. A list of possible languages will be provided on the class e-learning site. Students must describe the origins and development of the language, its general syntactical structure, and the history of the language's spread (or not). Because it is important that students use appropriate research sources, an annotated bibliography of at least five (5) scholarly sources must be turned in and approved before the essay is due. Of the five minimum sources used, no more than two (2) may be online resources. All

others must be appropriate print materials. This bibliography must be in proper MLA format, will count for 10 points, and is due in class **February 25, 2013**. Guides to scholarly sources and MLA citations will be provided on the class e-learning website. The research essay must be at least 7 ½ - 8 pages, will count for 40 points and is due in class **March 25, 2013**.

3) For the third required essay, the student will be required to choose one chapter from the assigned book *How Babies Talk* by Golinkoff and Hirsh-Pasek and write a summary and response essay. In particular, the student must address the validity/confidence of the evidence presented in the chapter as well as the anthropological impact of the chosen stage of language acquisition on the use of language as a whole. This essay must be at least 3 ½ -4 pages, will count for 20 points and is due in class **April 22, 2013**.

Attendance is not taken in this class, but is highly encouraged. Students not in attendance cannot make up quizzes. The only exception to this rule is if you clear an absence with the instructor **prior** to the absence. Other than this stated exception, this policy is non-negotiable

Extra credit opportunities may arise during the semester and will be offered to the entire class. These opportunities will be announced in lecture as well as posted on the e-learning site.

Grading:

Midterm Exam1	60 pts	20 %
Midterm Exam 2	60 pts	20 %
Quizzes (x6)	5 pts each	10 %
Essay 1	20 pts	6.5 %
Essay 2 Bib	10 pts	3.5 %
Essay 2	40 pts	13.5 %
Essay 3	20 pts	6.5 %
Final Exam	<u>60 pts</u>	<u>20 %</u>
	300 pts	100 %

A final letter grade will be assigned at the end of the semester, according to this scale:

A	(90-100%)
B	(80-89%)
C	(70-79%)
D	(60-69%)
E	(59% or below)

Make-up Exams:

If an exam is missed, and the absence was pre-arranged, or in the event of illness accompanied by a physician's note, a make-up exam will be given at the instructor's discretion. No make-up exams will be given for students who miss the testing period due to unexcused absences.

Student Conduct:

All students must comply with the Student Conduct Code which can found at <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcodes/conductcode.php>. Any behavior that interferes with either the instructor's ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to benefit from the instructional program will not be tolerated. Please turn off cell phones and all other electronic devices before class.

Texting during class is not allowed. Laptops may only be used to take notes. Disruptive students will be asked to leave.

Accommodating 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 in turn must provide this documentation to me when requesting accommodation. All paperwork must be turned in to me PRIOR to the assignment for which the student is requesting accommodation.

Academic Honesty:

The University reminds every student of the implied pledge of Academic Honesty: "on any work submitted for credit the student has neither received nor given unauthorized aid."

CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM WILL NOT BE TOLERATED IN THIS CLASS

Consult the Student Guide at <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcodes/conductcode.php> for further information. To avoid plagiarism, you must give credit whenever you use another person's idea, opinion, or theory; any facts, statistics, graphs, drawings (any pieces of information) that are not common knowledge; quotations of another person's actual spoken or written words; or paraphrase of another person's spoken or written words. Students caught cheating will be referred to the University administration for disciplinary action, the consequences of which can include failure of this course, and possible expulsion from the University.

Course Outline

Note: Though the basic three-exam structure will not change, the order of specific topics may change with advance notice. The timing of assigned films is subject to availability. Updates will be available on the class E-Learning page.

Date	Lecture	Readings
1/7	Class Introduction	
1/9	Anthropology and Culture	
1/11	Linguistic Anthropology	Text 1-15, 17-18
1/14	What is Language?	Text 101-105
1/16	Animal Language?	Text 87-96; Kemp and Smith
1/18	Nonverbal Communication	Text 73-82
1/21	<i>MLK - No Class</i>	
1/23	Linguistic Description and Methods	Text 19-30
1/25	Phonology	Text 31-33, 36-52
1/28	Morphology	Text 53-63
1/30	Syntax, Essay 1 Due	Text 63-71
2/1	American Sign Language	Text 82-86; Emmorey
2/4	Classifying Languages and Language Areas	Text 141-144, Hickerson
2/6	<i>Review</i>	
2/8	EXAM 1	
2/11	Biology of Language	Text 33-36
2/13	Origins of Human Language	Text 96-117
2/15	Evolution of Language	
2/18	Language Change	Text 145-151
2/20	English	Roberts
2/22	Pidgins and Creoles	Text 169-184
2/25	Gullah, Bibliography Due	
2/27	Language Extinction and Reconstruction	Text 151-167
3/1	<i>FILM - Cracking the Maya Code</i>	
3/ 4-8	<i>Spring Break – NO CLASS</i>	

3/11	Writing and Alphabets	Hughes, Ottenheimer
3/13	World View	Text 225-239
3/15	Semantics	Text 205-224
3/18	<i>Guest Speaker: Dr. Susan Milbrath</i>	Text 239-256
3/20	Colors and Names	
3/22	EXAM 2	
3/25	Language Acquisition, Essay 2 Due	Text 119-128
3/27	<i>How Babies Talk 1</i>	Golinkoff and Hirsh-Pasek
3/29	<i>How Babies Talk 2</i>	Golinkoff and Hirsh-Pasek
4/1	Dialects	
4/3	Multilingualism	Text 128-139
4/5	<i>Guest Speaker: Dr. Ester De Jong</i>	Heny
4/8	Aphasias	
4/10	Sociolinguistics	Text 257-261
4/12	Class	Text 273-282
4/15	Race and Ethnicity	Text 261-273
4/17	Gender	Text 282-289
4/19	Nationalism	Aitchison, Nilsen and Nilsen
4/22	Media and Technology, Essay 3 Due	
4/24	<i>Review</i>	

FINAL EXAM: Tuesday April 30, 2013 at 10:00 am.