

ANT 3620 Language & Culture (Online)

Spring 2025

Instructor: Maha Bouhnin

Instructor Office Hours (EST) on Zoom

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TA Office Hours (EST) on Zoom

TBD

Course Communications

For all course-related questions, first review this syllabus to determine if the answer to your question is addressed. Please direct general questions about course requirements, assignments, activities, etc. to the Q&A discussion board under “Discussions” on Canvas. You may also contact the instructor and/or teaching assistants via email or Canvas Messages; however, please check if your question has already been addressed on the course’s Q&A discussion board.

Do not post any questions related to individual assignments or grades on the Q&A discussion board. Please submit those inquiries via email. In the content of the email, specifically state the particular assignment that is at issue. While I will respond as quickly as I 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.

Required Readings

Language, Culture, and Society: An Introduction to Linguistic Anthropology, by Zdenek Salzman, 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 19th 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; and,
- 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; and,
- 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 languages.
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.

General Education subject area objectives can be found here:

<https://undergrad.aa.ufl.edu/general-education/gen-ed-program/subject-area-objectives/>

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 prior to the due date.

Course Assignment Policies

Quizzes: There are a total of thirteen (13) **quizzes** in this course; Modules 10 and 15 do not have quizzes while Module 2 has two quizzes. Quizzes are primarily made up of fill-in-the-blank or multiple-choice questions and are worth 20 points. They are usually due on **Friday by 11:59pm 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 at 11:59pm 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 eight (8) 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 11:59pm 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 seven (7) 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 11:59pm EST**. Please note the due date in Week 16 is earlier to accommodate University reading days. In total, this means there are seven (7) original comments and fourteen (14) 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	73-30	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 greater will be rounded up to the next integer.

A minimum grade of C is required for General Education credit.

Additional information about UF's grade policies is available at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies>

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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 11:59pm EST each week to submit late

activities and complete late **quizzes** with a **10% penalty** per late submission/completion. 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 11:59pm EST to complete late posts with a **10% penalty** and Saturday at 11:59pm 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. It is the student's responsibility to contact the Instructor, provide documentation, and arrange a make-up. Documentation must be provided to both the Instructor and the Dean of Students 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."

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies. Additional information about the University's attendance policies are available at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>

Online Evaluation

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/> Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/> Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>

Library Resources

The [UF Libraries](#) provide access to numerous resources and services that will help you succeed in this course. Access thousands of [online databases, books, and articles](#) or visit one of the [branch locations](#) for additional [resources, services, and study spaces](#). Can't find what you are looking for? You can [Ask A Librarian](#) for help by email, chat, text, or phone.

University of Florida Policies

University Policy on Accommodating Students with Disabilities

Students requesting accommodation for disabilities must first register with the Disability Resource Center (DRC) by contacting the DRC at 352-392-8565 and/or <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>. The DRC will provide an accommodation letter to the student which 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 (<https://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 (if applicable) 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 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.*

Writing assignments will be subject to and in accordance with the **student conduct code and academic honesty**. Assignments will use the tool Turnitin to assess plagiarism and are subject to [ChatGPT/AI](#) detection. If there is any evidence of violation of the [Student Honor Code](#), the student will receive a grade of zero for the assignment and be reported to [Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution](#) Office. All assignments should have the following statement: *“On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.”*

Note that in this General Education course, any class topics that touch on identity politics or topics of discrimination will be covered objectively without endorsements of viewpoints, will be observed from multiple perspectives, and will be taught as objects of analysis within the larger course of instruction. All viewpoints will be welcome in class discussions.

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)

“Net”-iquette: Communication Courtesies

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
- 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 email 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 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> or 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

Most 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!

Spring 2025 Schedule

Module	Readings	Assignments
Unit 1: What Is Language?		
Week 1: January 13-17		
0: Start Here	Start Here page on Canvas	Syllabus Quiz: prerequisite
1: Introduction	LCS Chapters 1 + 2	Discussion: 1/16 @ Noon Two Responses: 1/17
2.1 Speech Sounds (Part 1)	LCS Chapter 3	Video Activity 2.1: 1/17 Quiz 2.1: 1/17
Week 2: January 20 - 24		
Holiday – Martin Luther King Day, January 20		
2.2 Speech Sounds (Part 2)	LCS Chapter 3	Video Activity 2.2: 1/24 Quiz 2.2: 1/24
Week 3: January 27 - 31		
3: Structure of Words	LCS Chapter 4	Quiz 3: 1/31
Week 4: February 3- 7		
4: Structure of Sentences	LCS Chapter 4	Video Activity 4: 1/7 Quiz 4: 1/7
Week 5: February 10 - 14		
5: Non-Verbal Communication	LCS Chapter 5	Video Activity 5: 2/14 Quiz 5: 2/14
Unit 2: Natural History of Language		
Week 6: February 17 - 21		
6: Development and Evolution of Language	LCS Chapter 6	Video Activity 6: 2/21 Quiz 6: 2/21
Week 7: February 24 - 28		
7: First and Second Language Acquisition	LCS Chapter 7 Rosa 2016 (in Canvas)	Discussion: 2/27 @ Noon Two Responses: 2/28 Quiz 7: 2/28
Week 8: March 3 - 7		
8: Language Through Time	LCS Chapter 8	Video Activity 8: 3/7 Quiz 8: 3/7
Week 9: March 10 - 14		
9: Languages in Variation and Contact	LCS Chapter 9	Video Activity: 3/14 Quiz 9: 3/14
Holiday – Spring Break, March 15-22		
Unit 3: Culture + Communication		
Week 10: March 24 - 28		

Week 12: April 7- 11		
12: Language, Culture, and Thought	LCS Chapter 12 Winawer et al. 2007 (in Canvas)	Discussion: 4/10 @ Noon Two Responses: 4/11 Video Activity: 4/11 Quiz 12: 4/11
Week 13: April 14 - 18		
13: Language and Gender	LCS Chapter 13 Kulick 1998 (in Canvas) Zimman 2019 (in Canvas)	Discussion: 4/17@ Noon Two Responses: 4/18 Quiz 13: 4/18
Week 14: April 21 - 23		
14: Race, Class, and Ethnicity	LCS Chapter 14 Bucholtz 1999 (in Canvas)	Discussion: 4/22 @ Noon Two Responses: 4/23 Quiz: 4/23
Reading Days – April 24-25		