

ANTH380
LANGUAGE, CULTURE, & SOCIETY
Fall 2009
TuTh 3-4:50; STV2065

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Office Hours: Tu 10:30-11:30; W 10-noon

COURSE OUTLINE

This course is a survey of basic issues concerning: language as part of human behavior; the symbolic nature of communication; language as an interpretive model for culture; the social nature of language; the psychobiological bases of language and its acquisition; human and nonhuman communicative behavior; verbal and nonverbal communication.

The focus of this course is language in sociocultural context, as analyzed from an anthropological perspective. The class will be roughly organized around seven (interwoven) themes:

1. Culture, Society, the Individual, and Language
2. Language Structure & Patterns of Use
3. Language as an Interpretive Model for Culture
4. Types, Varieties, & Levels of Relationships among Language, Culture, & Society
5. Learning Language, Learning Culture
6. Language, Culture, Ideology, & Gender
7. Genre and Text in Language & Culture

COURSE PREREQUISITE: ANTH203 Introduction to Cultural Anthropology *and* junior standing, *or* consent of instructor. ANTH200 or LING200 strongly recommended.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- **Attendance is expected and required.** Your active participation is a key part of the learning environment being cultivated in this course! Absences require documented medical or work excuse. More than three absences may reduce your final grade by as much as 10%. (Participation is 10% of your final grade.) Five absences and the student may be dropped from the course.
- Readings will involve books listed below, as well as additional handouts. We will be discussing reading materials in class, so *reading assignments must be completed before* the scheduled discussions. Please bring one-page written responses to each Monday class (format will be discussed in the first session). Weekly written responses count for 10% of the final grade.
- There will be two exams and one term project. Each exam is worth 25% of your final grade. The project is worth 30% of your final grade.
- Additional required readings will be placed on reserve in the SSU Jean & Charles Schulz Library.

E-MAIL COMMUNICATIONS: Course assignments, updates, and announcements will be sent to your SSU e-mail accounts. The course schedule will be sent in this manner before 9/1/2009.

Please check your e-mail daily; you are responsible for what appears in these communications.

When e-mailing the instructor, you must send it from your SSU account, and be sure to include "ANTH380" in the beginning of your subject header, followed by the relevant topic. Failure to follow this protocol will likely result with your messages being filtered out as spam (especially if any attachments are involved).

REQUIRED TEXTS

Agar, Michael

1994 *Language Shock: Understanding the Culture of Conversation*. New York: William Morrow and Company. ISBN: 0-688-14949-9.

Duranti, Alessandro (ed.)

2001 *Linguistic Anthropology: A Reader*. 2nd Edition. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishers. ISBN: 0-631-22111-5.

RECOMMENDED TEXT

(especially for those pursuing a focus in linguistic anthropology)

Crystal, David (ed.)

1997. *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of Language*, 2nd Edition. Cambridge: Oxford University Press. ISBN: 0-521-55967-7.

If you are a student with a disability and you think you may require accommodations, please register with the campus office of Disabled Student Services (DSS), located in Salazar Hall - Room 1049, Phone: (707) 664-2677, TTY/TDD: (707) 664-2958. DSS will provide you with written confirmation of your verified disability and authorize recommended accommodations. This authorization must be presented to the instructor before any accommodations can be made.

If you are a student with a disability and you think you may require assistance evacuating a building in the event of a disaster, you should inform your instructor about what kind of assistance you may require. You and your instructor should discuss your specific needs and the kinds of precautions that should be made in advance of such an event (i.e. assigning a buddy to guide you down the stairway). We encourage you to take advantage of these preventative measures as soon as possible and contact the Disabled Student Services office if other classroom accommodations are needed.