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Department of Anthropology  
Spring 2009  
MW 4-5:15 PM

STV 2054C; 664-2307  
Office Hours:  
Tu 10-noon  
W 9:30-11:00 AM (Th vary)  
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## **ANTHROPOLOGY 200**

### **Introduction to Linguistic Anthropology**

**CATALOG DESCRIPTION:** This course is an introduction to the anthropological study of language. Topics covered in this course include a survey of core topics in linguistics (e.g., phonetics, morphology, syntax and semantics) and the relationship of language to social, cultural, and psychological factors. This course may include discussion of nonverbal communication, evolution of language abilities, and historical linguistics. This course highlights linkages among linguistic anthropology and the other subfields of anthropology.

ANTH200 is one of four lower division anthropology courses required of all anthropology majors. Each of these courses provides the foundations to support further studies in upper division courses in the corresponding subfields. Each introductory course also prepares students for ANTH300, the core upper division theory course.

**PREREQUISITES:** None.

#### **OBJECTIVES OF THE COURSE:**

- Becoming familiar with the domain of linguistic anthropology within the traditional four-field approach to anthropology, and how linguistic anthropology complements, supports, or even contradicts paradigms, theories, methodologies, and approaches characteristic of the other three fields;
- Developing skills in the precise description of language, and describing how languages work as systems of subsystems;
- Developing a fundamental understanding of the major concepts, terminology, and analytic approaches used in linguistics and the anthropology of language;
- Entering debate on fundamental questions concerning the relationships between language and other forms of human culture;
- Recognizing the ideological nature of language, and its possibilities and limitations;
- Cultivating a social network among peers as the beginnings of further professional networks.

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

- **Attendance is expected and required.** Excused absences require documented medical or work excuse. Participation is 10% of your final grade. **3 absences may reduce your final grade by 5% or more; 5 absences may reduce your final grade by a whole letter-grade (e.g., B ⇒ C).**
- Students will bring to *each Monday class* the assigned homework. When workbook/reader assignments are not given, students will bring a 250-300 word written response to the readings for that upcoming week (format will be discussed in the first sessions). Usually, these responses will be collected and graded. **Students will keep returned assignments and responses, and may be required to resubmit them at the end of the semester.** Homework and responses will count for 15% of the final grade. **NO LATE ASSIGNMENTS ACCEPTED.**
- Students will choose one of two possible term projects: 1) inventing a language as part of a group, or 2) conversation partnering. The **term project counts as 15%** and the written component is due Wednesday, 6 May.
- There will be **three exams**, each **worth 25% of your final grade.** **Exam 1** is scheduled for 25 February; **Exam 2** for 1 April (no foolin'!). **Final Exam** session is Wednesday, 20 May, 5-6:50 PM (**note the time!**).
- Readings will involve books listed below, as well as additional handouts. Additional required readings will be placed on reserve in the Jean & Charles M. Schultz Library. We will be discussing reading materials in class, so I expect that reading assignments will be completed *before* the scheduled discussions.
- Note: Beginning with the 2006-2008 General Catalog, a grade of C- or better is necessary for a course to count towards anthropology major requirements. (A lower grade will require retaking the course.)

### **REQUIRED TEXTS**

Ottenheimer, Harriet Joseph

2009a The Anthropology of Language: An Introduction to Linguistic Anthropology. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth. ISBN: 978-0-495-50884-7.

2009b The Anthropology of Language: An Introduction to Linguistic Anthropology Workbook/Reader. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth. ISBN: 978-0-495-55564-3.

### **RECOMMENDED TEXT**

Blum, Susan D.

2009 Making Sense of Language: Readings in Culture and Communication. New York, NY: Oxford University Press. ISBN: 978-0-19533638-2.

**TEACHING MODE:** Much research indicates that students learn least from lecture-and-take-notes formats and most from highly interactive and participatory formats. In an introductory course, some lecturing will be inevitable. But wherever possible, students will take active roles as discussants of the *many* assigned readings and exercises, and often as collaborators in work groups. At times, exercises assigned to all students will generate materials for general discussion. For this reason, *your regular attendance is needed, and you will have to come prepared*. Otherwise, the quality of the class sessions will be noticeably diminished. My philosophy of teaching includes close attention to the context of the class and the characteristics of the enrolled students—as individuals and as groups. ***Therefore, I reserve (and frequently exercise) my right to significantly alter planned activities and assignments for the course.*** Where possible, I will give advance notice. I understand that for those who plan (and work) ahead, or who juggle complex schedules, schedule changes can be difficult or frustrating. However, I have found that the effect of such flexibility is worth the costs, since students tell me they appreciate when the course is relevant to them and their situations.

**SPECIAL NEEDS:** If you have any special needs or accommodations, please contact the Disability Services for Students office in Salazar Hall. However, I may not be able to accommodate special needs if they are not brought to my attention early enough. **It is the student's responsibility to make arrangements for special needs or accommodation issues in a timely manner, and certainly well before deadlines or exam dates.**

**SSU POLICIES & PROCEDURES:** Students are encouraged to review SSU policies and procedures regarding add/drops, cheating and plagiarism, grade appeals, access for students with disabilities and special needs, as well as the SSU vision statement regarding diversity. See: <http://www.sonoma.edu/uaffairs/policies/studentinfo.shtml>.