



**School of Arts & Science
SOCIAL SCIENCES DEPARTMENT**

ANTH 232-001
Language, Culture, and Communication
Fall 2017

COURSE OUTLINE

This course is about the interdisciplinary field of anthropology known as linguistic anthropology. The central premise in linguistic anthropology is that language is a set of social practices. This means that everything we say, write, or sign not only has literal or denotational meaning, but also points to social meanings like class, ethnicity, gender and so on. The goal of this course is to introduce you to some key concepts such as performance, communicative competence, and language ideologies, as well as some popular subjects, such as language contact, language endangerment, multilingualism, gender, and ethnicity. We will start by examining the question 'what is language?'

Monday: Lecture 2:30 – 4:20 pm, Wilna Thomas Building 103

Wednesday: Seminar A 2:30 – 3:20 pm & Seminar B 3:30 – 4:20 pm, Ewing Building 201

1. Instructor Information

Instructor:	Karoline Guelke, M.A.		
Office Hours:	Mon & Wed 1 – 2 pm		
Location:	Young 207		
Phone:	370 3368		
Email:	Guelkek@Camosun.bc.ca		

2. Intended Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. List the characteristics of language and distinguish between language and other animal communication systems.
2. Explain and give examples of the relationship between language and culture.
3. Describe the formal (morphological and phonological) properties of language.
4. List the key elements of the ethnography of communication.
5. Apply key concepts such as performativity, indexicality, practice, and habitus to speech use
6. Outline why language preservation is important for cultural survival.
7. Explain and give examples of nonverbal communication.
8. Describe how language variation is linked to social factors such as gender, age, race and ethnicity.

3. Required Materials

There is no textbook assigned for this course; all required readings can be accessed through the course's D2L site. Please note that a couple of short readings and web links not included in this outline will be added. Students are expected to prepare for class by doing the readings ahead of time.

4. Basis of Student Assessment

(a) Quiz & Exams (55%)

Both exams must be written in order to receive credit for this class. Exams must be written during the scheduled times *unless* a counsellor's or a doctor's note is presented. Do not make travel plans until the final exam schedule is posted; you will not be permitted to write your exam early.

Quiz (5%)

The quiz will ask you to answer a few short questions testing your understanding of cultural relativity, commonly known as the Sapir-Whorf hypothesis. You will have 30 minutes at the beginning of class.

Midterm (25%)

The midterm consists of a mix of multiple-choice, fill-in-the-blanks, and short and long answer questions. It is based on all materials covered up to that day, including lecture topics, readings, and films.

Final Exam (25%)

The final is based on all materials covered after the midterm, including lecture topics, readings, and films. It will also include some general concepts covered earlier and throughout the course. The format is the same as that of the midterm. You will get a study guide for both exams.

(b) Assignments (35%) – *detailed instructions will follow*

Assignment 1: Discussion Paper (10%)

This assignment consists of writing a discussion paper (~four pages or 1000 words) based on the article *The Acquisition of Communicative Style in Japanese*, by Clancy. The assignment asks you to summarize the key points of the argument and critically discuss specific questions the article raises. It is due in the seminar Oct. 11.

Assignment 2: Group Presentation (10%) & Individual Paper (15%)

This assignment is based on resources from a large cross-cultural social media study (<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/why-we-post>), summarized in the book *How the World Changed Social Media*, by Miller et al. Using one of the chapters (5, 7-12), students will choose a topic and present it in groups of three or four during the seminar on Nov. 8, 15 or 22. They will also write individual papers exploring different angles of the topic due in class Dec. 4.

(c) Seminar Attendance & Participation (10%)

The seminars will allow us to explore certain topics issues in more depth, and attendance and participation form an integral part of this course. Seminars will involve discussions and some activities based on the material covered in the lecture that week. In preparation for successful seminar participation it is necessary that you attend the lecture and do the readings.

Your participation grade is calculated as follows:

Attendance will be taken each seminar. If you (a) attend the seminars regularly (missing no more than one seminar without a valid excuse), and, (b), participate in pair/small group discussions and activities, you will receive 6% (C) out of the 10%. The remaining 4% will be given based on your participation during seminar discussions. Since the lectures will have an interactive component as well, your participation in lecture discussions will count towards your seminar participation mark. This is a chance to earn some bonus participation points.

4. Course Content and Schedule

Please note that this schedule is tentative; changes will be announced in class and shown on D2L.

Dates 2017	Topic	Readings
Sept. 6	Introduction to Class	
Sept. 11 & 13	Introduction to Linguistic Anthropology The Form of Language	Burling, Ong, Schwartz, Handout 1
Sept. 18 & 20	Language, Culture and Thought	Gumperz & Pinker, Lakoff & Johnson Chap. 1, 2, 3, 9, 21
Sept. 25 & 27	Language, Culture and Thought cont. Ethnography of Communication	Petrow, Tannen (a), Cruikshank, Handout 2
Oct. 2 & 4	Mon: Quiz (2:30 – 3pm) Ethnography of Communication cont.	Tannen (b), Miller et al. chapters 1-3, CBC link
Oct. 11	<i>Oct. 9: Thanksgiving – College closed</i> Language Acquisition & Socialization Assignment 1 due	Clancy
Oct. 16 & 18	Nonverbal Communication <i>Sign-up for Assignment 2</i>	Basso
Oct. 23 & 25	MON: MIDTERM EXAM Wed: Gender and Language	Hall
Oct. 30 & Nov. 1	Gender & Language continued	Holmes, Kiesling, Bonvillian
Nov. 6 & 8	Language, Ethnicity and “Race” WED: Assignment 2 Presentations	Ndemanu, Hill, Fink
Nov. 15	<i>Nov. 13: College closed</i> WED: Assignment 2 Presentations	
Nov. 20 & 22	Language, Power, and Institutions WED: Assignment 2 Presentations	Cohn, TBA
Nov. 27 & 29	Language Change & Preservation Deaf Culture	Patrick, McArthur
Dec. 4 & 6	Assignment 2 due TBA Review and Wrap-up	TBA
Exam Period Dec. 11 – 19	FINAL EXAM*	

* **IMPORTANT:** Please do not make travel plans before the final exam schedule is posted; accommodations cannot be made for work or travel.

6. Grading System

Standard Grading System (GPA)

Percentage	Grade	Description	Grade Point Equivalency
90-100	A+		9
85-89	A		8
80-84	A-		7
77-79	B+		6
73-76	B		5
70-72	B-		4
65-69	C+		3
60-64	C		2
50-59	D	Minimum level of achievement for which credit is granted; a course with a "D" grade cannot be used as a prerequisite.	1
0-49	F	Minimum level has not been achieved.	0

Undergraduate Grading		
Passing Grades	Grade Point Value	Description
A+ A A-	9 8 7	Exceptional, outstanding and excellent performance. Normally achieved by a minority of students. These grades indicate a student who is self-initiating, exceeds expectation and has an insightful grasp of the subject matter.
B+ B B-	6 5 4	Very good, good and solid performance. Normally achieved by the largest number of students. These grades indicate a good grasp of the subject matter or excellent grasp in one area balanced with satisfactory grasp in the other area.
C+ C	3 2	Satisfactory, or minimally satisfactory. These grades indicate a satisfactory performance and knowledge of the subject matter.
D	1	Marginal Performance. A student receiving this grade demonstrated a superficial grasp of the subject matter.
COM	Excluded Grade	Complete (pass). Used only for 0-unit courses and those credit courses designated by the Senate. Such courses are identified in the course listings.

UVic Undergraduate Grading, retrieved August 22, 2017 from <http://web.uvic.ca/calendar2011/FACS/UnIn/UARe/Grad.html>

7. Recommended Materials or Services to Assist Students to Succeed Throughout the Course

LEARNING SUPPORT AND SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

There are a variety of services available for students to assist them throughout their learning. This information is available in the College calendar, at Student Services or the College web site at camosun.ca.

STUDENT CONDUCT POLICY

There is a Student Conduct Policy which includes plagiarism. It is the student's responsibility to become familiar with the content of this policy. The policy is available in each School Administration Office, at Student Services and on the College web site in the Policy Section.