ANG 5621 Linguistic and Cultural Anthropology Proseminar

Spring 2018

Mondays 3rd-5th periods (9:35 am-12:35 pm)
Matherly 004

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Course Description and Objectives

This course provides an overview of major ideas and research areas within the subfields of cultural and linguistic anthropology. The objective of the course is to provide a solid foundation for a graduate four-field Anthropology degree.

Textbooks and Reading Assignments:


The majority of the readings come from the primary literature. Bibliographic information for these readings can be found in the weekly schedule, below. We will discuss access to these articles on the first day of class.

Assignments and Grading

Team Discussions: Each week, teams of 3 students will lead the class discussion. Each group is expected to meet outside of class to organize readings and prepare a list of questions and points of discussion and organize any in-class activities. Each student should present twice during the semester, once during the first six weeks, once during the last six weeks. Team discussion leadership is worth 50 points.

Written assignments: Students are required to write 6 essays based on a that week’s readings. I will post questions for each week (total 12), but students are required to complete only 6 assignments. Students must complete three during the first 6 weeks of the course, and three during the last 6 weeks. Essays are due at the beginning of class the following week. Written work should be a maximum of 1500 words (double-spaced, 12 pt. font, etc.) and focused on a particular point, idea, and/or theme occurring in the readings. Late papers will be docked five points per day past the Monday they are due. Each paper is worth 50 points (total 300).

Final Exam: There will be one take-home exam, due during finals week. The exam is worth 100 points.

Attendance and Participation: This is a graduate seminar, and students are expected to alternatively participate and lead class discussions. Because this is a graduate seminar and we meet only once per week, attendance is effectively mandatory. Unless there is a compelling reason you cannot attend class, you are
expected to be here. More importantly, students are expected to also actively participate in class discussion. The participation grade is worth 50 points.

The grades and assignments for this course break down as follows:

Class participation: 50 points  
Writing Assignments: 300 points  
Final Exam: 100 points  
Team Discussion: 50 points

Total 500 points. As for letter grades, the numbers are as follows:

\[ A=418+, \ A-=405-417, \ B+=391-404, \ B=374-390, \ B-=360-373, \ C+=346-359, \ C=329-345, \ C-=315-328, \ D=270-314, \ E=<270 \]

Please note that this is a required course for Anthropology graduate students. A grade of B or better is necessary to satisfy this requirement.

Academic Honesty

Unless it is specifically connected to assigned collaborative work, all work should be individual. Evidence of collusion (working with someone not connected to the class or assignment), plagiarism (use of someone else’s published or unpublished words or design without acknowledgment) or multiple submissions (submitting the same work for different courses) will lead to the Department’s and the University’s procedures for dealing with academic dishonesty. All students are expected to honor their commitment to the University’s Honor Code.

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Disability Resource Center. The DRC will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation. Please make any requests by September 3.

UF Counseling Services.

Resources are available on-campus for students having personal problems or lacking clear career and academic goals that interfere with their academic performance. These resources include:

1. University Counseling and Wellness Center, 3190 Radio Road, 392-1575. Personal, career, and emergency counseling
2. Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601, Career development assistance and counseling
3. Writing Studio, 302 Tigert Hall, 846-1138. Writing assistance, study skills, test preparation

Course Evaluations

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations. Evaluations are typically open during the last 2-3 weeks of the semester, but students will be notified of specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are also available to students.
Schedule of Topics:

Week 1 (Jan 22): Language Universals

Foley Chapters 3-6

Week 2 (Jan 29): Relativism and Sapir-Whorf

Foley Chapters 8-11

Week 3 (Feb 5): Ethnography of Speaking

Foley Chapters 13-16
Rickford, J. R., & S. King. 2016. Language and Linguistics on Trial: Hearing Rachel Jeantel (and other Vernacular Speakers) in the Courtroom and Beyond. *Language* 92(4): 948-988.ANg

Week 4 (Feb 12): Historical Linguistics

Week 5 (Feb 19): Language Endangerment

Foley Chapters 19-21


Week 6 (Feb 26): Language and Evolution

Foley Chapter 2


Week 7 (March 12): Ethics


Week 8 (March 19): Knowledge and Representation


Week 9 (March 26): Power


Week 10 (April 4): Identity


Week 11 (April 9): Health


Week 12 (April 16): Environment


