

# LANGUAGE & CULTURE

ANT 3620  
Spring 2018  
3 Credit Hours

<b>Instructor:</b> Nathan R. Lawres	<b>Email:</b> nlawres@ufl.edu
<b>Lecture Meeting Times:</b> Mon, Wed, Fri: Period 6, 12:50-1:40 pm	<b>Lecture Location:</b> Turlington (TUR) L011
<b>Office:</b> TBA	<b>Office Hours:</b> Mondays 2:00-3:00 pm, Wednesdays 3:00-4:00 pm

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<b>Office:</b> TBA	<b>Office Hours:</b> TBA

## COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Language is something that is part and parcel with the everyday lives of humans around the globe. We hear it, practice it, and participate in its development and maintenance on a day-to-day basis, but what, exactly is language? How does it relate to culture and cognition? In this course, we will explore these questions, among many more, as we evaluate language and its role in human culture and society through the perspective of anthropological inquiry.

Linguistic anthropology is one of the four primary subfields of anthropology and has been a major component of anthropological discourse since the founding of the American form of the discipline. As such, it has historically been an important field of inquiry because it has the ability to address many questions unanswerable in the other anthropological subfields. It provides unique perspectives and important data that both stands on its own and as an important supplement to archaeological, biological, and cultural studies addressing such issues as the origins of language, population migrations, and more.

## REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:

*Language, culture, and society: An introduction to linguistic anthropology* (2017), 7<sup>th</sup> edition, by Zdenek Salzmann, James Stanlaw, and Nobuki Adachi. Westview Press. (abbreviated as LCS below).

Additional readings (.PDF format) will be posted on the course Canvas page under the Files folder.

## GENERAL EDUCATION OBJECTIVES AND LEARNING OUTCOMES:

This 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 theories 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.

The general education objectives in social and behavioral sciences are met by this course through:

- ✓ Examining of both the social and biological foundations of language;
- ✓ Employing problem-solving techniques to evaluate linguistic structure and its cognitive and social associations;
- ✓ Identifying key aspects of the evolution of verbal and non-verbal communication in humans;
- ✓ Evaluating the correlation between linguistic and archaeological data;
- ✓ Examining the relationships between language and social categories, such class, ethnicity, and gender.

Additionally, this course is considered an International (N) subject area course in UF's 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.

The general education objectives in international studies are met by this course through:

- ✓ Examining global variation in linguistic structures;
- ✓ Identifying linguistic relationships on a global scale;
- ✓ Cross-cultural comparisons of linguistic practices.

## **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

By taking this course students will develop the skills and knowledge base to:

- ✓ Explain the relationship between anthropology, linguistics, and culture;
- ✓ Identify and explain how language acts to both passively convey information (communicate) and actively construct social relationships;
- ✓ Describe and explain the coevolution of humans and language;
- ✓ Identify and explain correlations between historical linguistics and archaeological patterning;
- ✓ Describe and explain the relationships between language and social categories, and how this varies cross-culturally;
- ✓ Describe and explain the connections and variation (cross-culturally) between linguistic and non-linguistic cognition.

## **STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS:**

\*Purchase the textbook on time, and read the assigned readings (both in the textbook and the additional readings) before the lecture on the topic. Many students get lost during lectures when they are not familiar with the basic concepts behind the materials presented during lectures.

\*Pay attention and take notes during class lectures. A surefire way to remember the information presented is to write it down. Not only does this help you remember the materials, it also provides you with quick reference material for studying for the exams.

\*Don't hesitate to ask questions. Questions in class and/or lab can lead to good discussions that enhance your and your peers' understanding of the materials being discussed. Additionally, don't hesitate to email the instructor and stop in during office hours if you are having difficulty grasping the course materials. This is the best way to clarify any concepts that cause you difficulty.

\*Submit your assignments in a timely fashion (i.e., on time). Start your assignments early! Waiting until the last minute results in stress over the assignment as well as lower quality work. Use your time wisely, and get the most out of your effort.

## **COURSE FORMAT AND GRADING:**

This course involves three weekly lectures that introduce and discuss in detail the course materials. It is imperative that you attend lecture sessions, as attendance makes up a good portion of your final grade. Attendance will be taken each day via a sign-on sheet. Additionally, there will be ten homework assignments and three exams (two mid-terms and one final) throughout the semester. The exams will be based on your assigned readings and lecture material. Each exam will be administered during class time and will be a combination of true/false and multiple choice questions. The final will *not* be cumulative.

Grades are assigned on the basis of attendance and participation in lecture, ten homework assignments, two mid-term exams, and a final exam for a total of 450 possible points:

Class attendance/participation: 50 points

Homework assignments: 10 points each/100 points total

Mid-term exams: 100 points each

Final exam: 100 points

Letter grades are assigned according to the following grading scale:

A: 423-450 (94-100%)	A-: 405-422 (90-93%)	B+: 391-404 (87-89%)	B: 378-390 (84-86%)	B-: 360-377 (80-83%)	C+: 346-359 (77-79%)
C: 333-345 (74-76%)	C-: 315-332 (70-73%)	D: 270-314 (60-69%)	E: 270 or less (59% or less)		

Concerns about grades must be addressed promptly. Any errors found in a graded assignment or exam must be brought to the attention of the instructor or teaching assistant ASAP. The UF grading policy can be found at <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>.

## **PROJECTED SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND READING ASSIGNMENTS:\***

*\* Disclaimer: This schedule is subject to change if the need arises. Any changes will be announced in advance during class time as well as on the course Canvas site.*

<b>WEEK</b>	<b>DATES</b>	<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>READINGS/ASSIGNMENTS</b>
1	Jan 8-12	Topic 1: Introduction	LCS: Chapters 1-2

		What is language? What is Anthropology? How do they relate?	
2	Jan 15-19	Topic 2: Speech Sounds, Part 1 Consonants and vowels No Class Mon 1/15 (Holiday)	LCS: Chapter 3
3	Jan 22-26	Topic 2: Speech Sounds, Part 2 Phonetic and phonemic representations Phonological rules	Assignment #1 Due Jan 24
4	Jan 29-Feb 2	Topic 3: The Structure of Words & Sentences Morphological rules and variation Questions in syntax & syntactical variation	LCS: Chapter 4 Assignment #2 Due Jan 29
5	Feb 5-9	Topic 4: Nonverbal Communication Writing systems Sign language	LCS: Chapter 5 Assignment #3 Due Feb 5
6	Feb 12-16	Topic 5: Development & Evolution of Language Evolution of language Birth and death of languages <b>Exam #1: Feb 16</b>	LCS: Chapter 6 Assignment #4 Due Feb 12
7	Feb 19-23	Topic 6: First & Second Language Acquisition Theories of language acquisition Multilingualism and diglossia	LCS: Chapter 7 Assignment #5 Due Feb 19
8	Feb 26-Mar 2	Topic 7: Language Through Time, Part 1 Historical linguistics Indo-European languages Native American languages	LCS: Chapter 8 Assignment #6 Due Mar 2
9	Mar 5-9	<b>No Class: Spring Break</b>	
10	Mar 12-16	Topic 8: Languages in Variation and Contact Linguistic variation Pidgins and creoles Language prejudice and human rights	LCS: Chapter 9 Assignment #7 Due Mar 12
11	Mar 19-23	Topic 9: Culture and Cognition Concepts, words, and categories	LCS: Chapter 11 Assignment #8 Due Mar 19
12	Mar 26-30	Topic 11: Language, Culture, and Thought Colors and perception Time, space, and motion <b>Exam #2: Mar 30</b>	LCS: Chapter 12 Assignment #9 Due Mar 26
13	Apr 2-6	Topic 12: Language & Gender Language and gender case study	LCS: Chapter 13 Read Kulick Assignment #10 Due Apr 2
14	Apr 9-13	Topic 13: Language, Agency, and Practice Structuration & the role of individuals	LCS: Chapter 14 Read Ahearn Chapter 12, Blum Ch. 46-48
15	Apr 16-20	Topic 14: Language, Practice, and Performativity	Read Ahearn Chapter 8, Blum Ch. 12-18
16	Apr 23-27	Topic 15: Creating Worlds with Words	

		Ontologies, realities, and multiplicity of worlds	Read: Hanks & Severi (2015), Hanks (2015)
		<b>No Class Fri 4/27 (Reading Days)</b>	
17	Apr 30-May 4	<b>Final Exam: Thursday May 3 7:30-9:30 am</b>	

## E-LEARNING, EMAIL, AND OFFICE HOURS:

In this course we will be using the Canvas (formerly Sakai) system. The login page for Canvas can be found at <http://lss.at.ufl.edu>. Once logged in you should see this course (ANT 3620) listed in your course menu. On the course page you will find various resources such as the syllabus, additional readings (in the Files folder), homework assignments, and course announcements. As this page will be updated throughout the semester, and general announcements will be made here, you are responsible for regularly checking this site. If you encounter any issues related to Canvas, contact the UF Helpdesk by email or phone: [helpdesk@ufl.edu](mailto:helpdesk@ufl.edu); (352) 392-4357.

Email is the most efficient option for contacting the instructor and teaching assistants for this course. Per UF policy you should only contact the instructor and assistants using your Gatorlink email; **DO NOT** use the email or comments functions in Canvas to contact them, these will not be responded to. General considerations for email contact:

\*Please allow a 24-hour response time to any emails sent, and expect these responses between 9:00 am – 5:00 pm, Monday – Friday.

\*Prior to asking a question refer to the syllabus to ensure the answer to your question is not listed there.

\*Always include the subject in the subject line of the email.

\*Always be polite and *professional* (i.e., use full sentence structure, proper spelling, etc.) in your emails.

If you have questions or concerns about the course materials you are encouraged to meet with the instructor or your teaching assistant during office hours rather than via email. Face-to-face meetings over course materials are much more efficient in addressing these sorts of concerns.

## ATTENDANCE:

Attendance is a necessary component of this course. There is a lot of material covered in the assigned readings (both in the textbook and in additional readings) that will be covered and *expanded on* in lectures. It is your responsibility to attend these lectures in order to gain a thorough understanding of the materials, as you will be tested on them. Additionally, attendance will be taken during every lecture session throughout the semester. During lectures this will take the form of a sign-in sheet. You are allowed *one unexcused/voluntary* absence. In the case of involuntary absences (i.e., for medical reasons, emergencies, etc.) they will be excused *only* if they are certifiable/documented. In these cases you must provide the instructor or your teaching assistant with documentation. This policy is consistent with that found in the course catalog at <http://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>.

## CLASSROOM DECORUM:

In the lecture sessions it is your responsibility to maintain a respectful modicum of behavior towards your instructor and teaching assistant as well as your peers. Disrespectful and disruptive behaviors

will not be tolerated. These behaviors include discussions among classmates (unless allotted time to do so), text messaging, talking on cell phones, eating, browsing the internet, late arrivals, and early departures. **CELL PHONES MUST BE SILENCED PRIOR TO ENTERING THE CLASSROOM.** Technologies such as laptops and tablets are permitted for **NOTE-TAKING PURPOSES ONLY.** If you exhibit these or any other disruptive behaviors during class time you will be asked to leave and will be marked as having an unexcused absence for that day.

### **MAKE-UP POLICY:**

Make-up exams will *ONLY* be allowed for those persons able to provide certifiable documentation of an involuntary absence. If you know in advance that you will not be able to attend an exam you must notify the instructor ASAP to schedule alternative arrangements.

Additionally, students in need of modification of the due dates for assignments and/or exams for religious reasons (i.e., holiday observances) should contact the instructor at the beginning of the term so that alternative arrangements can be made.

### **SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS AND ASSISTANCE:**

Any student requesting accommodations for disabilities *must* register with the Dean of Students Office (DSO) and Disability Resource Center (DRC). The DSO will provide the necessary documentation to the student, who is then responsible for providing this documentation to the instructor in order to request accommodation. This *must* be done at the beginning of the term, prior to any submission or due date of assignments, as accommodations *are not* retroactive. The Disability Resource Center is located in Reid Hall, Room 101. For further information or assistance visit the DRC or their website: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>.

The University of Florida additionally offers several counseling and academic assistance services to students that are available throughout the semester:

- \*The Counseling and Wellness Center (located on Radio Road; (352) 392-1575) offers personal counseling, career counseling, and health care;
- \*The Reading and Writing Center (located in SW Broward Hall; (352) 392-2010) offers test preparation assistance, study skill development, and writing assistance;
- \*The Career Resource Center (located in the Reitz Union; (352) 392-1601) offers job counseling and career development assistance.

For other services that the University of Florida offers its students visit <http://www.ufl.edu>.

### **ACADEMIC HONESTY:**

University policy on academic honesty will be enforced in cases where cheating or plagiarism occurs. All students are expected to abide by the University of Florida's Student Honor Code: "We, the members of the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity." The following is implied on all work submitted for credit in this course: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." More information on the student honor code and the university policy can be found at <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/advising/info/student-honor-code.aspx>.

Any acts of plagiarism or academic dishonesty of any sort will result in a zero grade for that assignment for the first offense. A second offense will result in a zero (or 'E') for the entire course grade, and will be reported to the Dean of Students Office. This is in accordance with the policies as listed by the Dean of Students Office: <https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>.

### **COURSE EVALUATION:**

All students are expected to provide feedback on the content, quality, and instruction of the course in the form of online evaluation forms. These forms are available during the final weeks of each semester and students will be notified through both email and course announcements as soon as they are available. The forms are available at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>.