Course Syllabus

Professor Contact

Instructor	Dr. Nessette Falu
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Course Information

Course Name	Language and Culture
Course ID & Section	ANT 3610
Credit Hours	3
Meeting Times	M&W 1:30-2:20
Semester/Year	Spring 2020
Location	BA1 - 0122

Teaching Assistant: Ms. Rachael Root

You may contact her via Inbox in Webcourses only.
Also, you should contact me primarily via Inbox Webcourses.

Prerequisite: PR: Sophomore standing.

Course Description

Language is part of our everyday lives. Having a linguistic approach to understanding language is one way to study it. In this course, you will learn understand language as a broad and complex category of culture and social aspects of people's lives.

The main goal of this course is to provide you with a basic understanding of various anthropological approaches to the study of language. You will learn how language both reflects and shapes thought, culture, and power. The course will explore the study of language in a variety of ways that include theory, methods, histories, and ethnographic approaches to linguistic anthropology. Linguistic anthropology, one of four main subfields of the disciple of anthropology, is a social science. As a social science, you will engage in readings, discussions, and assignments that examine and explore the role of language within

culture and society. This course will explore films, cultural productions, social media, politics, global and local contexts, and much more.

Course Objectives

- Recall and explain basic terminology used in anthropological linguistics.
- Identify and discern key information from reading materials.
- Assess how the broader concepts covered in this class can be used to understand everyday speech interactions.
- Learn theories and methods for the application of linguistic anthropology.

Required Texts

- Ahearn, Laura. 2017. *Living Language*. Wiley-Blackwell. Second Edition. ISBN 9781119060604
  - *NOTE: This textbook is also an e-book via UCF Library!!!*
- Davis, Jenny L. 2018. Talking Indian: Identity and Language Revitalization in the Chickasaw Renaissance ISBN-13: 978-0816537686.
  - *NOTE: This textbook is also an e-book via UCF Library!!!*

Supplemental Texts

Links to other required supplemental course material can be found in each module of this course.

Course Requirements

Attendance and participation: It is expected that students will attend all classes unless they have a valid excuse as determined by the professor. Class participation and demonstration of having read and reflected upon the texts is required. Students who have more than two undocumented absences will can potentially fail the course. Attendance will be taken each weekly. Students who have excessive undocumented absences can fail if you are already not doing well in the course. There is no extra credit allowed for undocumented absences.

Strict class policy about the use of social media and cell phones in class. Research shows that students using social media for personal reasons on class is a distraction for other students' learning. This rule will be strictly enforced in this course. I will randomly call upon students to participate in discussion if they seem excessively distracted by the use of their laptops. Please put your cell phones away. Do not use Facebook and social media while in class. Do not surf the internet for personal reasons. Be sure to speak with the professor in advance if you are experiencing difficulties or challenges with the coursework and attendance.

Quizzes: 6 in total based upon material for that week. 15 points each quiz. Occasionally, there will be spontaneous in-class or homework activities for credit based upon the readings and topics of the week. No quiz make ups without medical documentation.

Discussion Posts: 6 in total. Students are required to post a response for a discussion post and reply

by due date. There are no extensions. Do not send your discussion post via Inbox or email. 30 points each discussion post (First post: 20 points; reply to another student post: 10 points). First response is due on designated Fridays. If you post your first response late (as of Saturday and thereafter, you will be penalized 5 points for each day that it is late). Reply to another student will not be accepted late under no circumstances. This assignment is not accepted via Inbox or email.

Warning: I will not accept late discussion posts after the assignment closes without a documentable excuse. It is your responsibility to read the syllabus and bring questions to the professor and TA to be well-informed about the course requirements.

Book Review Assignment Posts: Students will be required to write brief responses (150-200 words) to 4 questions (Part 1: 2 questions and Part II: 2 questions). Each review will be posted before class during designated week - two parts. 25 points for each question (Total 100 points).

Lyrics and Social Change Paper 100 points: Students will write a short paper (750-800 words) interpreting the lyrics of a song of your choosing from any genre or period. Lyrics must speak and represent social change and social issues.

Decolonizing Language and Identity 200 pts: For this final paper of 4 pages in length, double-spaced, you will write a short history, socio-cultural analysis and biographical reflection of an *identity word* of your choosing. This identity word can represent an identity of any form (ethnic, racial, sexual, gender, class, religious, etc) that you identify with or represents you in some way via family tradition, social community, or religious community, etc. This paper requires research and careful thinking. Be sure to get an early start on the paper.

Midterm 76 points: Multiple choice, True/False and short answer questions based on Ahearn chapters and all other readings covered Weeks 1-7.

Final Exam 63 points: Multiple choice, True/False and short answer questions based on Ahearn chapters and other readings covered second half of the term - Weeks 8-16.

Film will be screened in class.

Missed Assignments/Make-Ups/Extra Credit

There are several due dates for discussion and other assignments (book review and papers) so you have to stay on top of this as **no late work will be accepted without penalty.** For every day that an assignment is late, 5 points are deducted. No late work will be accepted after 3 days. Communication is key. If you feel that you are falling behind or failing the course, you may email me to explore your circumstances and any options for missed assignments or extra credit. **There are no make-ups for missed discussion posts, quizzes or exams as stated earlier in the syllabus.**

Evaluation and Grading

Every week, you will have to complete either a quiz or a group discussion. I do not allow makeups of quizzes. I will consider makeups of the midterm and final exams with documentation of severe illness,

family emergency, or any extreme situation that might have prevented you from taking the exam. Late discussion posts and papers will be penalized 5 points if handed in within three days of the due date. I will not accept late assignments after this grace period. You also have two paper assignments to complete during the semester. You are expected to be able to produce college-level writing. If you have trouble writing, please contact me or visit the university writing center. I am also happy to read and comment on preliminary drafts of your papers, as long as you have them to me at least ten days before the paper deadline.

Quizzes 6	*90 points*
Discussion Posts 6	*180 points*
Book Review Assignment	*100 points*
Lyrics Paper	*100 points*
Decolonizing Language and Identity Paper	*200 points*
Midterm	*76 points*
Final Exam	*63 points*

Your grade will be based on the following scale:

Percentage	**Grade**
94-100	A
89-93	A-
85-88	B+
82-84	B
79-81	B-
73-78	C+
68-72	C
64-67	C-
60-63	D
59 and below	F

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Third-Party Software and FERPA

During this course you might have the opportunity to use public online services and/or software applications sometimes called third-party software such as a blog or wiki. While some of these could be required assignments, you need not make any personally identifying information on a public site. Do not post or provide any private information about yourself or your classmates. Where appropriate you may use a pseudonym or nickname. Some written assignments posted publicly may require personal reflection/comments, but the assignments will not require you to disclose any personally identity-sensitive information. If you have any concerns about this, please contact your instructor.