

Eastern Illinois University
Anthropology 3960A
Language and Culture
TR 2:00-3:15 PM

Classroom: Blair Hall 1165
Office: Blair Hall 3140
Office Hours: TR 10-11; F 10-12 and by appt

Instructor: Dr. Angela Glaros
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This course provides an introduction to linguistic anthropology, the subfield of anthropology that focuses on the conjunction of language, culture, self and society. In this course, we will treat language as an embodied social practice that takes place within speech communities or networks, and that creates and mediates meaning. Throughout the course, our aim will be to uncover meaning in language use, and to consider whether, and how, those meanings are performed, shared, and contested. As we progress in the course, we will also give a critical eye to the theories presented in the readings, to determine which are most useful for explaining the linguistic and cultural phenomena we encounter.

Aims of the Course

- To introduce you to the foundational terms and concepts of linguistic anthropology;
- To encourage you to think critically about a variety of theoretical approaches to language;
- To give you a grounding in the practical side of research on language and culture, through an ethnographic project on a speech community and/or practice of your choosing.

Assigned Readings

Fox, Aaron. 2004. *Real Country: Music and Language in Working-Class Culture*. Durham: Duke University Press.

Hinton, Leanne. 1994. *Flutes of Fire: Essays on California Indian languages*. Salt Lake City, UT: Publishers Press.

Additional readings will be available electronically on WebCT. You are responsible for reading these **before** you come to class. We will also view several films and videos throughout the semester. You will be responsible for their content as well.

Assessment

The following will be used to assess your grade.

| | Points | % of Grade |
|--|---------------|-------------------|
| In-Class/Take-Home Exercises (5 exercises, 10 pts each) Throughout the semester, we will spend some class time working with analytical techniques and concepts that you will find useful in your projects. | 50 | 20% |
| Ethnographic Project Your grade for the project is assessed as follows: | 100 | 40% |
| Proposal (one page) | 10 | |
| Speech community/domain analysis | 20 | |
| Transcription/conversational analysis | 20 | |
| Final paper | 50 | |
| Total | 100 | |
| Midterm Exam | 50 | 20% |
| | 50 | 20% |
| Final Exam (not strictly cumulative) | | |

The final will not be strictly cumulative, but as in all courses, some concepts carry through to the end of the semester. Exams will draw on class lectures, discussions, readings, films—in short, anything covered during the semester. Format includes multiple choice, true/false, matching, short answer, and essay.

Total Course Points 250 100%

Class Schedule

Note: This schedule is subject to change at the instructor's discretion.

| Date | Topic/Assignment | Readings (to be read before class) |
|------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| Aug 21 | Introduction | Basso (WebCT) |
| Aug 23 | Introduction/Units of Analysis | " |
| Aug 28 | Evolutionary Perspectives on Language | Rumbaugh, et al (WebCT) |
| Aug 30 | " | Ambrose (WebCT) |
| Sep 4 | Language & Culture in American Anthropology | Duranti (WebCT) |
| Sep 6 | Linguistic Relativity | Whorf (WebCT) |
| Sep 11 | Linguistic Relativity | Conklin (WebCT) |
| Sep 13 | Relativity, Sound and Grammar Project proposals due | Everett (WebCT) |
| Sep 18 | Film: <i>The Carolina Brogue</i> | |
| Sep 20 | Indexicality and Space | Basso, Farnell (WebCT) |
| Sep 25 | Metaphor | Lakoff & Johnson (WebCT) |
| Sep 27 | Language as a Social Act | Gumperz, Ochs & Schieffelin (WebCT) |
| Oct 2 | The Ethnography of Speaking | Hymes (WebCT), Goffman (WebCT) |
| Oct 4 | " | Briggs, Duranti, Spradley (WebCT) |
| Oct 9 | Midterm Exam | |
| Oct 11 | Discourse and Power | Fairclough (WebCT) |
| Oct 16 | Language, Race & Ethnicity | Dean-Olmsted, Urciuoli (WebCT) |
| Oct 18 | Language & Gender Speech community/domain analysis due | Hoffman, Murray (WebCT) |
| Oct 23 | Language & Sexuality | Cameron & Kulick (WebCT) |
| Oct 25 | Language & Class | Fox, <i>Real Country</i> |
| Oct 30 | Language in Performance | Bauman (WebCT) |
| | Film: <i>I Am Comic</i> | |
| Nov 1 | Language in Performance | Fox, cont'd |
| Nov 6 | Language in Performance | Fox, cont'd |
| Nov 8 | " Transcription/conversation analysis due | " |
| Nov 13 | Film: <i>The Linguists</i> | |
| Nov 15 | **No class (AAA meetings)** | |
| Nov 19-23 | ** Thanksgiving Break—No Classes** | |
| Nov 27 | Language Endangerment, Death & Revival | Hinton, <i>Flutes of Fire</i> |
| Nov 29 | " Final projects due | " |
| Dec 4 | Language Endangerment, Death & Revival | " |
| Dec 6 | " | " |
| Dec 10 | Final Exam (2:45-4:45 PM) | |

Policies

Attendance & Classroom Environment

Attendance will not be a formal part of your course grade, though I will take attendance daily. If, at the end of the semester, you are on the “edge” between two letter grades, great attendance will bump you up; likewise, poor attendance will bump you down. More importantly, attendance is vital to your overall success in this class. A large portion of the exams will come from material that I present and that you discuss in class. Additionally, our discussions will reinforce the knowledge you gain from reading on your own, and will help you to understand assignments. Also, we will be doing a number of hands-on exercises in class throughout the semester.

Please refrain from using cell phones, checking e-mail or texting in class. It’s distracting to me and, quite frankly, to you. If you must respond to an emergency message, please do so during our break or step outside. If you need to take notes on a laptop, I will permit it but please stick to note-taking to avoid distracting your classmates.

One of the biggest mistakes students make is waiting too long to talk to me about classroom issues, subjects they don’t quite understand, or difficulties they may be having with an assignment. Please bring your questions or concerns to me during office hours or in an e-mail. The sooner we address them, the sooner they can be remedied.

Assignments

Written assignments (except for those done in class) must be **typed** and double-spaced, employ a standard 10-12 size font and 1-inch margins. Reference any sources cited in a bibliography following the body of the document, using AAA citation style (<http://www.aaanet.org/publications/guidelines.cfm>). If you are unsure how to properly cite or reference published works in your writing, please see me.

I encourage you to use EIU's Writing Center located at 3110 Coleman Hall. This free service provides one-to-one conferences with writing center consultants who can help you with brainstorming, organizing, developing support, documenting your papers, and working with sentence-level concerns. The writing center is open to help any student from any major at any stage of his or her writing process, and its system of one-to-one conferences demonstrates value and respect for individual writers, all of whom can benefit from feedback about their works in progress. To schedule an appointment, you can drop by the center (3110 Coleman Hall) or you can call 581-5929. The writing center is open Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., and 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. On Friday hours of operation are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Your written assignments must reflect your own original work. I will not tolerate plagiarism. If you misrepresent another’s work as your own (from the internet, Wikipedia or anywhere else), you risk receiving an F for the entire semester, not to mention incurring other disciplinary action.

Disabilities Statement

Students with documented disabilities are encouraged to contact the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) if they wish to discuss any necessary academic accommodations.

Medical Emergency Statement

For medical emergencies, go to the nearest phone and call 911. All faculty offices have telephones and during normal business hours (8-12 & 1-4:30), the Sociology Office (Blair 3170) is open. Be sure to state the floor and room number of the emergency to the 911 operator. If possible, someone should go to the central entrance of Blair Hall to direct EMS personnel to the medical emergency scene. If the medical emergency is on the second or third floor, someone else should hold the elevator on the first floor for EMS use.

Tornado Statement

In case of a tornado warning, proceed to the center of the hallway on the first floor, near the posted severe weather signs. Under no circumstances should you attempt to leave the building.

Building Fire Statement

In case of fire, activate the fire alarm and exit the building. When a fire alarm sounds, everyone must exit the building and cannot re-enter the building until allowed by the building coordinator or fire department official. Fire alarms are located at the north and south ends of the corridors just inside the fire doors. The closest exits for all classrooms in Blair are on the north and south ends of the building. Under no circumstance should the elevator be used. Group assembly areas for all classes in Blair are either on the patio area between Blair and Old Main or on the southeast corner of the North Quad. As you exit the building, continue moving well away from the exits so that you do not impede the progress of other students or the work of fire officials. Move a safe distance away from the building.