

# ANTH 028: Introduction to Linguistic Anthropology Spring 2010

Lecture: T/Th 2:30-3:45pm; Fleming 101

Instructor: Dr. Emily Manetta

Department of Anthropology

Williams 501

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Office Hours: 10:30-11:30am Tuesday, 1:00-2:00pm Wednesday (online)

Teaching Assistants:

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TA Office Hour (rotating): TBA

This course is an introduction to linguistic anthropology, which investigates the relationship between language and culture. The course asks how language is shaped by social and cultural processes, how people use language in their daily lives, and the interaction between language and identity. We will initially work to explore the building blocks of human language, in order to better understand its role in social context. A major goal of this course is for students to work to examine their own linguistic beliefs and attitudes, and to appreciate linguistic and cultural diversity. This course will make extensive use of media resources, natural language examples, and recent scholarship in linguistic anthropology.

## Readings:

The required readings for this course will be provided online through Blackboard.

## Requirements:

Weekly quizzes/homeworks 25%

First Exam 25%

Research paper 25%

Second Exam 25%

## Weekly Homework/Quiz:

Each week you will either receive a homework assignment (due the following week), or take a short, online quiz (on Blackboard) based on reading and lecture material. Your homework must be typed and written in clear prose (full sentences and paragraphs) unless otherwise specified. Late homeworks can receive no greater than half credit, without exception. Late quizzes are not accepted (lowest will be dropped).

**Research Paper:** You will be required to write a final paper (5-7 pages) on specific theme from the course. This paper will require original library research (described

below). The due date for this paper is Tuesday May 11 at 5pm. The paper will be submitted electronically.

### **Sources and Resources:**

In this course you will be asked to do original library research. You are responsible for learning how to get sources for your paper in a timely manner. Remember: library research TAKES TIME. Leaving it until the last minute will make writing your paper very difficult.

In this course, you will be asked to refer ONLY to scholarly sources. Scholarly sources DO NOT include: newspapers/magazines, wikipedia or any other encyclopedia or dictionary (online or in print), personal, political, or organizational webpages, or your own textbooks. Scholarly sources DO include peer-reviewed journals, edited volumes, published books, and academic conference presentations or panels.

This course has a NO WIKIPEDIA policy. This means that Wikipedia or any other online encyclopedia is not a valid source. You may not use text from Wikipedia or quote from Wikipedia (whether you have cited it or not) at any time, in any context.

### Weekly Topics and Readings

#### **Week 1** (Jan 19, 21) –

*Introduction: What is language? What is linguistics? What is linguistic anthropology?*

Readings: Language Files; Shankar: “Speaking like a Model Minority: “FOB” Styles, Gender, and Racial Meanings among Desi Teens in Silicon Valley”

Reading Quiz (available Thursday afternoon through Sunday at midnight)

#### **Week 2** (Jan 26, 28)-

*The Building blocks of Language: sounds, forms, and meanings*

Readings: Napoli, Macaulay Ch. 6-8

Homework (due by Sunday Jan 31 at midnight)

#### **Week 3** (Feb 2, 4) –

*Language birth, language death, and language change*

Readings: Macaulay Ch 25-27; Garrett, Paul: “‘Say it like you see it’: Radio Broadcasting and the Mass Mediation of Creole Nationhood in St. Lucia”

Reading Quiz (available Thursday afternoon through Sunday at midnight)

#### **Week 4** (Feb 9, 11) –

*Variation, language/dialect, and the speech community*

Readings: Macaulay, Ch 12-14, Labov: The Social Stratification of English in New York City (Ch 3, Ch 13)

Homework (due by Sunday Feb 14 at midnight)

#### **Week 5** (Feb 16, 18) –

*Language Ideology*

Readings: Agar pp. 211-241

Hill, J. 1993 “Is it really ‘no problemo’?: Junk Spanish and Anglo

Racism.”

Schieffelin BB, Doucet RC. 1994. The "real" Haitian Creole: ideology, metalinguistics and orthographic choice.”

Reading Quiz (available Thursday afternoon through Sunday at midnight)

**Week 6** (Feb 23, 25) –

*Language Socialization*

Readings: Ochs and Schieffelin. 2001 “Language Acquisition and Socialization”

Reading Quiz (available Thursday afternoon through Sunday at midnight)

FIRST EXAM REVIEW (Feb 25, in class)

**Week 7** (Mar 2, 4)

*When saying is doing: Language as a Social Act*

Readings: Agar pp. 140-163, Macaulay Ch 19-21

FIRST EXAM (Mar 4, in class)

**Week 8** (Mar 9, 11) SPRING BREAK

**Week 9** (March 16, 18)

*Linguistic Relativism and the Sapir-Whorf Hypothesis*

Readings: Whorf (1939), Bloom and Keil (2001), Pullum (1991), Macaulay Ch 29

Reading Quiz

**Week 10** (March 23, 25) –

*Linguistic Relativism at work: the Case of Pirahã*

Readings: Everett, Nevins et al

Homework (due Sunday March 28 at midnight)

**Week 11** (March 30, April 1) –

*Language and Society in the US: A focus on Appalachian English*

Readings: Wolfram, Walt, & Donna Christian. 1976. *Appalachian Speech*.

Film

Homework (due Sunday April 4 at midnight)

**Week 12** (April 6, 8) –

*Topics in language and gender*

Readings: Eckert, Macaulay Ch. 18

Reading Quiz (available Thursday afternoon through Sunday at midnight)

**Week 13** (April 13, 15) –

*Bilingualism and Multilingualism*

Readings: Zenetella (1997), Macaulay Ch. 23

SECOND EXAM REVIEW

**Week 14** (April 20, 22) -

*Language Policy and Language Rights: Case study India*

Schiffman, H. 2006. “Language Policy and Linguistic Culture”. In *An Introduction to Language Policy: Theory and Method*

Second Exam Part I (April 22)

**Week 15** (April 27, 29)

Second Exam Part II (April 27)

Paper research guidelines/requirements (April 29)

**Week 16** (May 4)

Course summary, Return of exams, return of rough drafts

## Research Paper due electronically on Tuesday May 11 by 5pm

### Welcome to the paperless classroom!

Our classroom is (nearly) paperless. Please join me in conserving by learning to read your assignments online. For information about assistive technologies on campus to help you do this (e.g. glare reduction, type magnification) visit the computer lab on the first floor of Bailey Howe Library. We will also take quizzes online (through Blackboard) and you will hand in all of your assignments and your final research paper electronically. If you have questions about going paperless or require accommodation through ACCESS, please let me know.

### Course Policies:

- Plagiarism is defined as any time that you present another's work as your own, and it will not be tolerated in this course. Be sure to give credit or cite sources whenever necessary. If you have any questions about how to avoid plagiarism, please ask me, or consult UVM's Code of Academic Integrity.
- Late homework: Late homework can receive no greater than half credit. There are no exceptions. You are encouraged to work together to complete your homework assignments. They are designed to be too challenging to do an excellent job alone.
- Accommodations in the course can be provided with documentation of a learning disability or other disability (including a chronic health problem) through the ACCESS office. Please discuss any special requirements with the instructor during the first two weeks of class.

### Attendance Policy

Attendance at class meetings is required, and *you will be considered responsible on quizzes and exams for all information conveyed in lecture, whether verbally, through PPT slides, in class discussion or written on the blackboard.* I recognize that it is impractical to take attendance in a class of this size, so I will leave it up to you to ensure that you attend regularly and absorb all information conveyed in the classroom. Note that *material will be covered in class that is not contained in readings or available in any other format.*

I strongly recommend securing a note-taking buddy so that in the event you cannot attend class you will have notes to copy. I also encourage you to drop by the TA office hours to go over missed material. Please do NOT send me an email asking if "anything important was discussed in class". EVERYTHING we discuss is important! If you do miss class here are the steps to take:

1. First, read the assigned reading.
2. Second, review the PPT slides from the missed lecture online.
3. Third, copy your note-taking buddy's notes
4. Finally, drop in to the TA office hours to review any questions.

5. If ONLY after doing all that you would like to further discuss the material, please email me or come visit my office hrs!