



Common Course Outline for: Human Language: An Introduction to Linguistic Anthropology
– ANTH 1130

A. Course Description:

1. Number of credits: 3
2. Lecture hours per week: 3
Lab hours per week: None
3. Prerequisites: None
4. Co-requisites None
- 5 MnTC Goal 5: History and the Social and Behavioral Sciences
MnTC Goal 8: Global Perspective

Catalog Description: January, 2018

This course is a comparative study that explores the relationship between language and culture and introduces students to the field of linguistic anthropology. This course will focus on the following questions: What do linguistic anthropologists do? How do they do it? Why is it important? Students will become familiar with the standard discussions and arguments of the field and engage in self-reflection about their own relationship with language. By the end of the semester, students will understand the role that language plays in our lives and appreciate the dynamic relationship between language and culture.

B. Date last revised: New course proposal

C. Outline of Major Content Areas:

1. identification of the unique features of human language in relation to other animal systems of communication
2. explanation, in scientific terms, of how human languages developed, how languages are learned, and how languages change and die
3. application of students' own knowledge and use of language to compare common features and functions of language
4. basic linguistic analysis of a sample transcript or text collection in order to illuminate the social and cultural meanings encoded in a particular language event
5. examples from different languages to illustrate how language and culture mutually influence one another (e.g., show how speakers' knowledge and use of classification systems, rules for asking questions, or use of speaking conventions such as honorifics shape and reflect their worldview)

6. the role of language in creating cultural communities and negotiating social relationships (e.g., show how a speaker's language articulates with ethnic identity, gender, and class in different cultural contexts)

D. Course Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of the course, the student will be able to:

1. Use terms, concepts, and intellectual frameworks important in describing and analyzing human language (Goals 5a, 5b, 5c, 5d, 8a)
2. Critique the basic conceptual and theoretical underpinnings of linguistic anthropology (Goals 5c, 5d, 8a)
3. Explain how languages mutually interact with the social, cultural, and conceptual worlds (5b, 5c, 5d, 8a, 8b)
4. Evaluate linguistic anthropology as it has developed and seeks to evaluate the historical, socio, and structural aspects of language usage in cultures (Goals 5a, 5b, 5c, 5d, 8a, 8b)
5. Evaluate displacement in human language and describe how it allows us to discuss the past, present, and future, thus allowing for important developments in human thinking, including the capacity for abstract thought, generalization and classification (Goals 5c, 5d, 8a)
6. Examine and discuss projections for language in the future, including the use of technological advances in human language (Goals 5b, 5c, 5d, 8a, 8b, 8d)
7. Use information and concepts acquired in order to interpret case material. Both films and written case studies or readings are important for this purpose. (Goals 5a, 5b, 5c, 5d, 8a, 8b, 8d)

E. Methods for Assessing Student Learning:

Assessment methods may include, but are not limited to, the following formats: exams, essay exams, quizzes, journals, research papers, oral presentations, written assignments, reflection essays, group work, and/or any other assessment measures based on the discretion of the instructor.

F. Special Information None

