

Las Positas College
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Course Outline for ANTR 4

LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

Effective: Fall 2018

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

ANTR 4 — LANGUAGE AND CULTURE — 3.00 units

This introductory course serves as a foundation for understanding language from an anthropological perspective, addressing such core questions as how, what, when, where, why and with whom we communicate. This course surveys three core areas in linguistic anthropology--structural linguistics: phonetics, phonology, morphology and syntax, as well as the biocultural basis of language; historical linguistics: origins and evolution/change, dialects, and language families; and sociocultural linguistics: language acquisition in cultural context, emphasizing the relationship between language and culture, and issues of language conservation and loss.

3.00 Units Lecture

Strongly Recommended

- Eligibility for ENG 1A -

Grading Methods:

Letter or P/NP

Discipline:

- Anthropology

	MIN
Lecture Hours:	54.00
Expected Outside of Class Hours:	108.00
Total Hours:	162.00

II. NUMBER OF TIMES COURSE MAY BE TAKEN FOR CREDIT: 1

III. PREREQUISITE AND/OR ADVISORY SKILLS:

Before entering this course, it is strongly recommended that the student should be able to:

A. -Eligibility for ENG 1A

1. Respond critically to a text through class discussions and writing
2. Write effective summaries of texts that avoid wording and sentence structure of the original
3. Respond to texts drawing on personal experience and other texts
4. Organize coherent essays around a central idea or a position
5. Provide appropriate and accurate evidence to support positions and conclusions
6. Produce written work that reflects academic integrity and responsibility, particularly when integrating the exact language and ideas of an outside text into one's own writing
7. Utilize effective grammar recall to check sentences for correct grammar and mechanics

IV. MEASURABLE OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to:

- A. Explain the anthropological approach to language and communication.
- B. Analyze and exemplify how language and culture are acquired and interrelated.
- C. Identify the structural properties of language.
- D. Analyze non-verbal communication cross-culturally.
- E. Describe the biocultural origins and development of language through time.
- F. Describe the ways in which beliefs about languages and speakers have social consequences.
- G. Describe factors and consequences of language change (such as loss) over time.

V. CONTENT:

- A. Characteristics (definitions) of human language
- B. Structural linguistics (phonetics, phonology, morphology and syntax)
- C. Nonverbal communication
- D. Biological basis of language
- E. Historical linguistics (language change/evolution over time, language families)

- F. Sociocultural linguistics (the relationships among language, identity, and power including language variation)
- G. Language acquisition and socialization
- H. Language conservation and loss

VI. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

- A. **Research** - Student papers.
- B. Textbook reading assignments; additional reader or handouts will be assigned
- C. **Discussion** - Class and group discussions
- D. **Audio-visual Activity** - Presentation of audio-visual materials
- E. **Projects** - Group and/or individual research projects.
- F. **Lecture** - Presentation of background information and explication of reading assignments.
- G. **Classroom Activity** - Simulations, discussions, etc.
- H. **Demonstration** - Pronunciation, syntax, etc.
- I. **Research** - Research project

VII. TYPICAL ASSIGNMENTS:

- A. Read the chapter on "Societal segmentation and linguistic variation" in Bonvillian's Language, Culture, and Communication.
- B. Read the textbook chapter on "Language in action" and write an essay that describes how the ethnography of communication was a new approach to understanding meaning in its cultural context.
- C. Explain the seven basic areas of research in an ethnography of speaking as suggested by Dell Hymes.
 - 1. Choose one of the areas and give an example from your own experiences.
- D. Describe an example of code switching you do much of the time; what social setting triggers it?

VIII. EVALUATION:

A. **Methods**

- 1. Exams/Tests
- 2. Quizzes
- 3. Research Projects
- 4. Papers
- 5. Home Work

B. **Frequency**

- 1. Midterm and Final Examinations
- 2. Occasional quizzes
- 3. Mid-term and/or end-of-term research project
- 4. Mid-term and/or end-of-term paper
- 5. Homework assignments

IX. TYPICAL TEXTS:

- 1. Ottenheimer, Harriet, and Judith Pine. *The Anthropology of Language: An Introduction to Linguistic Anthropology*. 4 ed., Wadsworth, 2018.
- 2. Stanlaw, James, Nobuko Adachi, and Zdenek Salzmänn. *Language, Culture, and Society: An Introduction to Linguistic Anthropology*. 7 ed., Westview, 2017.
- 3. Ahearn, Laura. *Living Language: An Introduction to Linguistic Anthropology*. 2 ed., Wiley-Blackwell, 2016.
- 4. Bonvillian, Nancy. *Language, Culture, and Communication*. 7 ed., Pearson, 2013.

X. OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED OF STUDENTS: