

Eastern Oregon University Course Syllabus

Number of Course:

ANTH 356

Name of Course:

Language and Culture

Catalog Description:

Introduction to anthropological linguistics: cross-cultural approaches to descriptive and comparative linguistics; primate communication and ape language studies; children's acquisition of language; ethno-linguistics; and language and the socio-cultural construction of reality.

Credit Hours:

5

Required Texts or Suggested Materials:

Link to the EOU Bookstore: [Eastern Oregon University Bookstore](#)

Prerequisites:

ANTH 203 recommended. Student must have at least sophomore standing to register for this course.

Learning Outcomes:

PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES: Communication (C), Civic Engagement (CE), Critical Thinking (CT), Inquiry (I), and Integrated Learning (IL). See EOU Academic Catalog for more detail on these Learning Outcomes. Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to demonstrate:

1. An understanding of the major areas of anthropological linguistic study. (I)
2. An understanding of how human language is metaphoric, and how this shapes the ways in which humans perceive and think about the world. (CT, I)
3. An understanding of some of the connections between language and culture, and how language underlies cultural phenomena like gender, race/ethnicity, social class, and age and generational differences. (CT, I)
4. An ability to conduct original linguistic ethnographic or media research and discuss the results with colleagues. (C, CE, CT, IL)

Course Requirements, Means of Assessment, and Grading Policies:

Grades will be based on four Quizzes (40% [4x10%]), a set of Language Variation Exercises (10%), a Final Paper Topic (5%), a six-page Final Paper (25%), an in-class presentation on your Final Paper (10%), and class attendance and participation (10%).

1. Quizzes (40% [4x10%]):
 - Periodically throughout the term you will complete a brief quiz that will assess your knowledge of material in the book and supplementary readings (see the Course Schedule section below). These quizzes will be administered via Canvas and should be completed by the scheduled due date/time. No late quizzes will be accepted. You will have 60 minutes to complete each test. You will not be able to stop and return to the test after you have begun taking it. Once you begin taking a quiz you must finish it. (C, CT, I)
2. Language Variation Exercises (10%):
 - There are three exercises in the “Gender and Language Variation” chapter written by Walt Wolfram and Natalie Schilling-Estes. No late exercises will be accepted. (C, CE CT, IL)
3. Final Paper Topic (5%):
 - A brief description of your Final Paper project should be turned in through the Canvas “Assignments” area. It should include a description of a topic of linguistic relevance on which you plan to do detailed research. The topic of your Final Paper can be one of those addressed over the course of the term or a novel topic of your own choosing, so long as it is in line with the overall themes of the course. (We will discuss in class the types of topics that are appropriate for this assignment.) For the Final Paper Topic assignment, you should provide a one-page (single-spaced) summary of your proposed topic as well as a list of three relevant academic sources from outside of the course materials. No late Final Paper Topic assignments will be accepted. (C, CT, I)
4. Final Paper (25%):
 - These papers should offer a rigorous exploration of a topic of linguistic relevance. They should be six pages long (not counting the REFERENCES section), double-spaced, with one-inch margins on all sides, using 12-point Times New Roman type. All pages should be numbered in the lower right-hand corner. All works referenced in this paper should be formatted according to Chicago style, which is the style adhered to by the American Anthropological Association (a link to a “Quick Guide” for Chicago style is available on the Home page of the course Canvas site [be sure to click the “AUTHOR-DATE” tab on the Quick Guide page]). Final Papers should be turned in to the appropriate Canvas “Assignments” folder by the due date. No late Final Papers will be accepted. (C, CT, I)
5. In-class Final Paper Presentation (10%):
 - The course exam period will be a Language and Culture Class Conference (LandC³) in which each class member will give a presentation on their Final Paper project. (C, CT, I)
6. Class attendance and participation (10%):

- Class attendance and participation grades will be based on attendance taken periodically throughout the term and on your level of engaged participation in class discussions and exercises.

Grading Scale:

- 90–100 = A
- 80–89.9 = B
- 70–79.9 = C
- 60–69.9 = D
- ≤59.9 = F

Brief Outline of Course:

Lecture format.

General Education Category and Outcomes:

N/A

University Writing Requirement Outcomes:

N/A

Writing Center Statements:

The EOU Writing Center provides a place — physical or virtual — where every EOU student can find an interested, responsive reader. Writing tutorials are free of charge for EOU undergraduate and graduate students and are available for writing at any course level and for writing resumes, job letters, and graduate applications. For drop-in hours or to schedule in-person, synchronous online, or asynchronous online tutoring, please visit the EOU Writing Center: [Writing Center – Eastern Oregon University](#).

Classroom Decorum:

Instruction is the most valuable function at Eastern Oregon University. To assure that all students gain full benefit of instruction, the University insists that appropriate classroom decorum be maintained. Minimum elements of appropriate classroom decorum include: punctuality, courtesy, civility, purposefulness, and integrity.

Accommodations/Students with Disabilities Policy:

Any student who feels they may need accommodation for any type of disability must contact the Disability Services Office in Loso Hall, Room 233. Phone: 541-962-3081.

Disclaimer:

This standard syllabus provides only general information on the course. For those enrolled in the course a detailed syllabus will be provided by the Instructor at the beginning of the term. Please keep in mind that not all courses are offered every year.

Syllabus Prepared By:

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Date:

4/10