

ANTH 208: Language, Culture and Society SPRING 2020

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WELCOME TO LANGUAGE, CULTURE AND SOCIETY

This course examines language and its particular role in culture and society. We will look at important concepts such as the difference between communication and language systems, non-verbal communication, how we learn language and how language changes. We will also look at the relationships between social variables such as gender, class and ethnicity and language, as well as the technical aspects of how a language system works (e.g. phonetics, morphology, syntax).

Course Objectives and Outcomes

Anthropology 208 is a 5-credit course that introduces you to the discipline of anthropology and specifically the role of language. You are exposed to the basic underlying principles, theories, and methods of anthropology and linguistics through Powerpoint lectures, textbook readings, articles, and visual materials. The following are the outcomes of this course

- Demonstrate basic understanding of the different levels of language structure exhibited by languages around the globe.
- Recognize and give examples of the ways in which language and culture are integrated.
- Critically assess claims about the effect of language on perception and thought, in relation to the Sapir-Whorf hypothesis.
- Apply a holistic ethnographic approach to describing language use in different social and cultural situations.
- Describe how languages evolve over time, and how social and regional dialects may arise.
- Recognize ethnocentric statements about language and be able to explain the value of taking a comparative, relativistic approach to the study of language.

General Education Ratings for Anth 208: Language, Culture, and Society

This course fulfills the General Education requirement of "Connections".

Books and Materials Required

- **REQUIRED TEXTBOOK**

1) Rowe, Bruce M. and Diane P. Levine 2014 *A Concise Introduction to Linguistics*, 4th edition. Routledge. ISBN 10: 0133811212 ISBN 13: 9780133811216.

2) Additional articles and visual materials will be assigned throughout the quarter and posted online

Course Overview

The course is divided into 4 units.

- **Unit 1, “The Nature of Language”**, introduces you to the subject of linguistic anthropology and deals with the question of how human languages, both spoken and signed, are similar to or different from other kinds of communication.
- **Unit 2, “Linguists’ Toolkit”**, introduces you to the tools linguists use to describe and analyze the structure of languages around the world.
- **Unit 3, “Language and Culture”**, looks at how language acquisition and use varies from culture to culture, and how the language we speak may reflect our culture and affect how we view the world.
- **Unit 4, “Language and Society”**, addresses the relationship between language and social identity, looking at factors such as age, gender and ethnic group.

The Syllabus: You are required to review this entire syllabus and the Procedures and Guidelines of the Social Science Division. Enrollment in the course constitutes an agreement to abide by the policies set forth in these items. You will be required to complete the Course Agreement/Syllabus Quiz as soon as possible.

WHAT YOU ARE GRADED ON:

1) Participation: A small part of your grade will be comprised of you completing tasks such as the syllabus quiz, course evaluation etc.

2) Discussions and Assignments

To enhance your learning, you will be participating in discussions and completing assignments. These will vary in format. You are expected to provide thoughtful, respectful submissions that are based on your educated opinion from course materials. They are graded for effort, understanding of material and evidence of critical thinking. It is essential that you tie in material from the course, such as referencing specific concepts and explaining their significance. This is how you can demonstrate critical thinking.

3) Ethnography Project

You will be completing a short ethnography project which involves observations. Those observations will be used to create an analysis based on principles from the Ethnography of Communication/Speaking PowerPoint lecture. This analysis can be done by viewing a scene from a television show/film or participating/observing some kind of online meeting.

4) Exams

There are four exams including a final exam. They are multiple choice exams with 40 questions each. Questions are derived from assigned readings, lectures, videos, exercises, discussions, and any other instructional material presented in class. Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated (see below). Conduct during tests will comply with the College policy for academic honesty.

Grading	
Participation	(2%)
Discussions	(20%)

Assignments (20%)

Exams (44%)

Ethnography of Speaking Project (14%)

Grading scale

Final grades will be calculated based on the following grading scale:

94-100%	A
90-93%	A-
87-89%	B+
83-86%	B
80-82%	B-
76-79%	C+
65-75%	C
60-64%	C-
55-59%	D+
50-54%	D
below 50%	F

Details of the Bellevue College grading policy can be found at:

http://bellevuecollege.edu/policies/3/3000_grading.asp

A Note About Course Content

Since anthropologists examine just about every aspect of the social world, we talk about provocative material. Please be advised that we will likely explore controversial topics, they will always be framed within an academic context. Please be respectful in your comments and questions but also keep an open mind. When we find ourselves in a space outside of our comfort zone, it provides a great example of our own cultural constructs and is a powerful opportunity for learning. If you have any questions or concerns about content or climate send me an email.

Bellevue College E-mail and access to MyBC

- You will **need** access to MYBC and your BC email. Your student network account can be used to access your student e-mail, log in to computers in labs and classrooms, connect to the BC wireless network and log in to MyBC. To create your account, go to: <https://bellevuecollege.edu/sam>
- Class materials, and important updates will be posted on MyBC.

IMPORTANT CLASS POLICIES

***Late work: DON'T HAND IN WORK LATE.** It is unfair to other students who hand in work on time. As a generally policy I do not accept late work. *I know that life can present unexpected challenges, and I am willing to take these into account to possibly accept late work. If you feel that you have an exceptionally valid reason for needing to submit work late, you may write an email requesting that I make an exception. You should always do this as soon as possible, normally BEFORE the due date. In your email you should state why your assignment is/will be late, and provide **evidence** you can to support your claim. I will consider these requests on a case by case basis. Vacations are not a valid excuse. If you will be out of town on due dates, you should complete the work before you leave. Again, as a general rule, late work is NOT accepted.

Classroom Learning Atmosphere: General Class Conduct and Discussions

It is important to make sure that the classroom environment is as conducive to scholarship as possible, and

also a safe environment for all students. You are encouraged to participate in discussions of the theories and concepts that will be presented to the class, as long as they pertain to class material. Class discussions and group work, while enriching, can also be challenging. This is a college level class, I expect a mature level of behavior and mutual respect. You may find that your fellow students hold beliefs and opinions that conflict with your own. This is an opportunity to exercise your listening skills, perfect your critical reasoning skills, and learn to examine claims based on supporting evidence. **It is imperative that this learning environment be safe and open for all students regardless of age, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, religion, gender, disability, or perspective.** Students who do not adhere to this code of conduct will be asked to leave the class. This behavior will be reported to the Dean of Student Services. Discussion guidelines:

1. We are **NOT here to persuade others to our point of view**; rather to examine the merits of each position, based on evidence.
2. We can respect the person even if we don't share his/her opinions.
3. We will question the evidence or the claim; not the person.
4. We will remain open to corrective feedback as to our views and/or the impact of our communication style.
5. We will remain aware of the time and seek to **not dominate** the discussion. (No more than two comments/questions before yielding the time to others.)
6. No one should be understood to be 'representing' the **entire** racial/ethnic, gender, class, etc. group to which he or she belongs. You speak only for yourself.
7. Remember for online discussions, sarcasm or jokes may not be interpreted as such so please keep this in mind and choose your words carefully.

Please review BC's policy in the Student Handbook as well as the policies for this class. All infractions of policies will be reported to the Dean of Student Services, with the recommendation that the Dean take further action.

Classroom Learning Atmosphere: Cheating and Plagiarism

Cheating or plagiarism is legitimate grounds for failing the course and dismissal from class.

Tests:

Cheating behavior on tests includes, but is not limited to, looking at someone else's test, asking another student for answers, assisting another student with cheating, passing notes, writing on the desk, talking during the testing period or otherwise being disruptive, using sources for information, etc. For open book tests, you cannot have other people complete your tests for you.

Written Work:

Preventing Plagiarism: Plagiarism is a form of academic dishonesty occurring when students use information or material from outside sources and do not properly cite those sources. This is grounds for disciplinary action. It is your responsibility to understand plagiarism and its consequences. Plagiarism occurs if:

- a. You do not cite quotations and/or attribute borrowed ideas.
- b. You fail to enclose borrowed language in quotation marks.
- c. You do not write summaries and paraphrases in his/her own words and/or doesn't document his/her source.
- d. You turn in work created by another person.
- e. You submit or use your own prior work for a current or past course, or work from one current course in another course *without express permission* from your instructors. This may also be considered academic dishonesty.
- f. Consequences: If it is determined that you have plagiarized or engaged in other forms of academic dishonesty, you will likely fail the assignment and possibly the course, despite points earned through other work. Acts of academic dishonesty are reviewed for disciplinary action.

For all of your written work: Submit proofread work **only**. If you need help with your writing, please make use of the following student support services at the Academic Success/Tutoring Center or Writing Lab.

Classroom Learning Atmosphere: Testing Expectations

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated, per the regulations of this syllabus and the Social Science Division. However, all tests are open book. You may use your textbook but you will only have limited time to do so, so knowing the material ahead of time is essential.

Student Code

"Cheating, stealing and plagiarizing (using the ideas or words of another as one's own without crediting the source) and inappropriate/disruptive classroom behavior are violations of the Student Code of Conduct at Bellevue College. Examples of unacceptable behavior include, but are not limited to: talking out of turn, arriving late or leaving early without a valid reason, allowing cell phones/pagers to ring, and inappropriate behavior toward the professor or classmates. The professor can refer any violation of the Student Code of Conduct to the Vice President of Student Services for possible probation or suspension from Bellevue College. Specific student rights, responsibilities and appeal procedures are listed in the Student Code of Conduct, available in the office of the Vice President of Student Services."

The Student Code, Policy 2050, in its entirety is located at:

http://bellevuecollege.edu/policies/2/2050_Student_Code.asp

HOW CAN YOU SUCCEED IN THIS CLASS?

1. **ATTEND CLASS:** Attending class (keeping up online) helps you gain a better education and better grades.
2. **TAKE NOTES:** Notes will highlight what the instructor has emphasized. Take notes that you can understand and use. Review your notes right after class and before the next class meeting to reinforce learning.
3. **READ:** all assigned chapters in the textbook (keep up with the reading). Material that is not covered in class, but is found in the reading assignments, is fair game for testing. You are responsible for your own reading and comprehension of material.
4. **PARTICIPATE:** Be prepared for every class by reading the assignments *ahead of time*. This preparation will help you to more fully comprehend material presented and feel more confident participating in class discussions. Appropriate participation is both speaking and listening respectfully.
5. **STUDY FOR TESTS.** Prepare for exams by reading the text ahead of time and reviewing class notes.
6. **APPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR:** Obtain a copy of the BC Student Handbook to familiarize yourself with policies and behaviors that are appropriate to the college environment. Lewd, abusive, disruptive, or harassing behavior will not be tolerated. Turn off all electronic devices before entering the classroom. Arrive to class on time.
7. **COMPREHENSION:** If you are not understanding course material, come and see me right away. I want you to do well in this course, but I cannot help you if I don't know you need help or want help. Student success is important to me, but you must be serious and an active participant in your own learning.
8. **ACCOMMODATION:** "If you need course adaptations or special accommodations because of a disability, or if you have medical information that needs to be shared with me in the event that the building needs to be evacuated, please contact me during the first week of the quarter. If you require accommodations due to a diagnosed disability, please contact the Disability Resource Center. Phone: 425-564-2498 (Voice) TTY: 425-564-4110." I will be glad to help you.

Disability Resource Center (DRC)

The Disability Resource Center serves students with a wide array of learning challenges and disabilities. If you are a student who has a disability or learning challenge for which you have documentation or have seen someone for treatment and if you feel you may need accommodations in order to be successful in college, please contact us as soon as possible.

If you are a person who requires assistance in case of an emergency situation, such as a fire, earthquake, etc,

please meet with your individual instructors to develop a safety plan within the first week of the quarter.

If you are a student with a documented autism spectrum disorder, there is an additional access program available to you. Contact asn@bellevuecollege.edu or (425) 564-2764. ASN is located in the Library Media Center in D 125. www.bellevuecollege.edu/autismspectrumnavigators/. The DRC office is located in B 132 or you can call our reception desk at (425) 564-2498. Deaf students can reach us by video phone at (425) 440-2025 or by TTY at (425) 564-4110. Please visit our website for application information into our program and other helpful link at www.bellevuecollege.edu/drc/.

Public Safety

The Bellevue College (BC) Public Safety Department's well trained and courteous non-commissioned staff provides personal safety, security, crime prevention, preliminary investigations, and other services to the campus community, 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. Their phone number is 425.564.2400. The Public Safety website is your one-stop resource for campus emergency preparedness information, campus closure announcements and critical information in the event of an emergency. Public Safety is located in K100 and on the web at: <http://bellevuecollege.edu/publicsafety/>

PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCE DIVISION

- http://bellevuecollege.edu/socsci/student_policies.asp
- **Cheating, Stealing and Plagiarizing**^[1]
- Cheating, stealing and plagiarizing (using the ideas or words of another as one's own without crediting the source) and inappropriate/disruptive classroom behavior are violations of the Student Code of Conduct at Bellevue College. Examples of unacceptable behavior include, but are not limited to: talking out of turn, arriving late or leaving early without a valid reason, allowing cell phones/pagers to ring, and inappropriate behavior toward the instructor or classmates. The instructor can refer any violation of the Student Code of Conduct to the Dean of Student Services for possible probation or suspension from Bellevue College. Specific student rights, responsibilities and appeal procedures are listed in the Student Code of Conduct, available in the office of the Dean of Student Services.
- **Incomplete**
- If a student fails to complete all the required work for a course, an instructor may assign the grade of Incomplete ("I"). The student must complete the coursework by the end of the next quarter, or receive the assigned letter grade (usually an "F").
- **F Grade**
- Students who fail a course will receive a letter grade of "F."
- **Final Examination Schedule**
- The Social Science Division will adhere to the final examination schedule as stated in the BC Schedule. Final examinations will be held at the end of each quarter at fixed times. Instructors will not give examinations in advance of the regular schedule. A student who is absent from any examination held at any time during the quarter may forfeit the right to make up the examination. If, for illness or some other circumstance beyond the student's control, the student is unable to be present at any scheduled examination and has contacted the instructor on a timely basis, the student may be permitted to take such examination at a time designated by the instructor.
- **Withdrawal From Class**
- College policy states that students must formally withdraw from a class by the end of the seventh week of the quarter (Registration Office, B125). If a student has not withdrawn by that date, an appropriate letter grade will be assigned for the course.
- **Hardship Withdrawal**

- Instructors may assign the grade of “HW” (hardship withdrawal) at their discretion in the event that a student cannot complete the coursework due to extreme and exceptional circumstances. Students may also contact the Enrollment Services office BEFORE grades are assigned in cases of hardship.
- **Students Who Require Disability Accommodations:**
- Students with disabilities who have accommodation needs are encouraged to meet with the Disability Resource Center (DRC) office located in D125 inside the library (telephone 425.564.2498 or TTY 425.564.4110), to establish their eligibility for accommodation. The DRC office will provide each eligible student with an accommodation letter. Students who require accommodation in class should review the DRC accommodation letter with each instructor during the first week of the quarter.
- Students with mobility challenges who may need assistance in case of an emergency situation or evacuation should register with Disability Resource Center, and review those needs with the instructor as well.
- **Distribution of Grades**
- Grades will not be posted in the Social Science Division or in faculty offices, and secretaries will not give out grades. Students should access their grades through the BC Web site.
- **Return of Papers and Tests**
- Paper and/or Scantron score sheet returns will be arranged in the following ways ONLY: by mail, if student supplies the instructor with stamped, self-addressed envelope (with appropriate postage); or by the instructor designating a time and place whereby the student may retrieve his/her papers. Unclaimed papers and/or Scantron score sheets must be kept by the instructor for a minimum of sixty (60) instructional days following the end of the quarter.
- *[1] If you are accused of cheating, stealing exams and/or plagiarism, there is a Bellevue College Student Discipline and Appeals Procedure (the right to due process) which you may pursue. Contact the office of Division Chair (D110), the Dean of Student Services (B231A) or the Associated Student Body (C212) for information regarding the appeals process.*