



Department of Anthropology

ANTHRO 2245F-001: Anthropological Approaches to Language

BRIEF COURSE OUTLINE

Fall 2026

Date: 19 June 2026

Instructor and course information:

Instructor: Dr. K. Pennesi (she/her)

Method of delivery: in person

Credit value: 0.5

Antirequisites: None.

Prerequisites: None.

Please ensure you have the correct requisites by checking [the Academic Calendar](#).

Course Description:

This is an introduction to the general field of linguistic anthropology. The foundation of an anthropological approach to language is the idea that language use and linguistic variation are central to understanding the social lives of individuals and communities. Language and culture are bound together because it is through language that our values and our ways of behaving and thinking are passed on, negotiated and changed. Linguistic anthropology is concerned with the ways language shapes our understanding of the world and how people use languages in different ways to create multiple meanings and identities.

To achieve the learning outcomes, students will do weekly readings and participate in discussions, listen to lectures and podcasts, watch videos, and complete writing assignments. The assignments are designed to give students opportunities to think about what they are learning and apply new concepts and approaches to their analyses of language and culture.

A full course schedule including a week-by-week breakdown of topics and assigned readings will be available on the course’s OWL Brightspace site before the first day of class.

Course Materials:

Required textbook: Eric Henry, [Keep Talking: An Invitation to Linguistic Anthropology](#). University of Toronto Press. 2025. The book will be available for purchase at the Book Store or from other sellers. Students are welcome to purchase second-hand copies of the book.

Other required readings will be available through the Course Readings tool on the course site. Audio-visual materials will be available in digital format on the course site.

Evaluation:

Grades will be based on the following:

Weekly Quizzes	20%
Analytical Essay	30%

Critical Reflections (2 x 10%)	20%
Final Exam (mixed format)	30%

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