

ANTHROPOLOGY 1021B-650

Introduction to Sociocultural and Linguistic Anthropology

COURSE OUTLINE

Winter 2021

Instructors:

Sociocultural Anthropology

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Linguistic Anthropology

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Mode of delivery: For 2020/2021 this course will be conducted online. It is a mix of *asynchronous*, a variety of lesson materials and activities that can be done throughout the week, and *synchronous* activities, meetings (tutorials) that are scheduled at a specific time on Thursdays.

Credit value: 0.5 credit

Calendar Course Description:

An introductory course teaching basic concepts in the study of socio-cultural and linguistic practices worldwide. It underscores shared human experiences as well as our rich diversity. Topics include, changing socio-cultural and economic institutions, political and religious systems, and the role of language in the workings of power, indexicality and identity.

Antirequisites: Anthropology 1020 (formerly Anthropology 1020E), Anthropology 1025F/G.

Prerequisites: none.

Please note: if you are interested in pursuing a module in Anthropology, you should pair this course with Introduction to Biological Anthropology and Archaeology, either Anthropology 1022A/B (non-essay) or Anthropology 1026F/G (essay).

Course Syllabus:

This 0.5 credit non-essay course introduces basic concepts in the study of Sociocultural and Linguistic Anthropology. It focuses on aspects of social organization, culture and language that are shared by all humans, as well as on the diverse ways in which people in our own society and around the world live, organize themselves, use language, and understand what is 'normal'. Through lectures from specialists, engaging small-group tutorials, and practical applications of anthropological methods, students are given the unparalleled opportunity to study and reflect on the many ways of being human.

Specific questions addressed in this course include:

- What is culture, and what is the relationship between language and culture?
- How do social relationships and linguistic practice shape people's lives in different cultural contexts?
- How is language used to accomplish social goals?

- What is exchange, and how can it be understood as fundamental to both social and economic life?
- Why do social identities matter to people, and what role does language play in shaping people’s identities?
- How do sociocultural and linguistic anthropologists do their research, and in what ways is this research important and applicable in the world today?

Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

Sociocultural Anthropology:

- Appreciate the complexity and breadth of human behaviour around the world.
- Recognize that their own beliefs and ways of living are only some of the possibilities that exist among many equally valid ones.
- Examine critically their own assumptions about how the world works, how people should behave and what they should believe.
- Master key anthropological concepts such as culture, society, community, and kinship.
- Use cross-cultural comparison to analyze cultural commonalities and differences.
- Understand the connectedness among social processes such as: economic practices, political systems, social organization, belief systems, and other elements of social and cultural life.
- Apply anthropological concepts to the analysis of contemporary issues using specific case studies.

Linguistic Anthropology:

- Understand language as a system and specify how it differs from other forms of communication.
- Illustrate how language and culture influence each other.
- Articulate the relation between language and identity in social and cultural contexts.
- Explain how language is used to accomplish social goals.
- Identify various areas of social life where concepts and approaches from linguistic anthropology can be applied.

Course Materials:

The text for Sociocultural Anthropology: Monaghan, John and Peter Just (2000) Social and Cultural Anthropology: A very short introduction. New York: Oxford University Press. Supplemental readings will be available on OWL.

Required readings for Linguistic Anthropology will be available on OWL.

Registered students will be able to access additional course readings through the course site in OWL before the first day of class.

Evaluation:

Quizzes (10 quizzes, Weeks 2-6, 8-12 (lowest 2 marks dropped)	30%
Two Kinship Assignments (worth 5% each Due 1/28 and 3/12)	10%
Two Sociocultural Anthropology Assignments (worth 15% each Due 2/8 and 2/22)	30%
Two Linguistic Anthropology Assignments (worth 15% each Due 4/1 and 4/9)	30%
Total	100%

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and [Turnitin.com](https://www.turnitin.com). *All assignments are required to have a Turn-It-In score below 15%.*

Course Specific Conditions Required to Pass this Course

All Assignments in both Sociocultural and Linguistic portions of the course, worth 15% each, must be submitted in order for students to pass the course.

Collective Access. In this course we are all "in it" together. It is our shared responsibility to ensure that everyone has access to information and needed supports to be successful this course. This may mean describing images, making sure videos are captioned, taking notes collectively, etc. Collective access needs vary from course to course, so we will let you know of any specific access guidelines that we need for this course. This site discusses some examples of [collective access](#). We would suggest briefly describing any photos you post and make sure any videos you post (including ones you personally make) are captioned. Auto-Captioning is very easy to do on [YouTube](#).

If you have access needs or concerns feel free to contact us, and we will be happy to meet to discuss how to best support your success in this course.

Statement on Seeking Academic Consideration:

It is important that you please contact me as soon as possible **in advance of any due dates** if you are seeking academic consideration. Please consult [university policies on procedures for seeking academic consideration](#).

Statement on Plagiarism:

Students must write their assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing. It is also a scholastic offence to submit the same work for credit in more than one course. **Plagiarism is a major scholastic offence.** See link below for more details on the penalties for plagiarism. All assignments will be evaluated using Turn-It-In in the Assignments portal (video/audio submissions must include a transcript). **All assignments are required to have a Turn-It-In score below 15%.**

Institutional Statements and Policies:

All students should familiarize themselves with Western's current academic policies regarding accessibility, plagiarism and scholastic offences, and medical accommodation. These policies are outlined in Western's academic policies by clicking on this link: [Western's academic policies](#).