



ANTH 4: LANGUAGE AND CULTURE – Spring 2010



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DEAR STUDENTS: It's your responsibility to familiarize yourself with the class policies, grading procedures and course requirements stated in this syllabus, and to notify me if you're having a difficult time understanding topics. Don't hesitate to contact me with your questions and concerns throughout the semester, but please don't wait until the last minute when it may be too late for me to help you.

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

- *Language, Culture & Society: An Introduction to Linguistic Anthropology (4th ed.), Zdenek Salzman.* Two copies are available at the Periodicals/Reserve desk in the college library (for check-out up to two hours).
- *Four Scantron 882 forms.*

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course introduces students to linguistic anthropology – a subdiscipline of anthropology that focuses on the relationship between cultural knowledge and language and communication. We'll examine cross-cultural comparisons of human language, and draw comparisons between human and animal communication. We'll consider both past and present languages, the structure of languages and how language can be studied to interpret human social behavior.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

After taking this course, students will have expanded their knowledge of the social sciences and the nature of linguistic anthropology. Students will have a broader understanding of the diversity of human language, and the relationship between culture and communication. Throughout the semester we will explore various questions, such as: *To what extent does language determine the way we think? Are animals capable of learning language? How does nonverbal communication reflect cultural rules? How does language relate to social factors such as ethnicity, gender and class?*

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Identify and examine the key differences between the fields of linguistic anthropology and linguistics.
2. Differentiate between the various fieldwork methods used by linguistic anthropologists.
3. Compare and contrast human and animal communication systems.
4. Recognize and explain the biological basis for speech, and origins of language, in humans.
5. Identify and describe the branches of linguistics dealing with sound, meaning and structure.
6. Differentiate between the cultural and biological factors contributing to language acquisition.
7. Describe the premise behind the Sapir-Whorf hypothesis, and assess the criticisms against it.
8. Analyze and compare cognates from various related languages, using techniques of lexical reconstruction.
9. Assess and discuss how language is correlated with social factors such as gender, ethnicity and class.
10. Compare and contrast dialects, hybrids, slang, pidgins and creoles, and identify the cultural significance of each.
11. Identify and contrast among the cultural, historical and political factors that lead to language change.
12. Compare and contrast kinesics, proxemics and other aspects of nonverbal communication in various societies.
13. Relate language to the development of writing systems.
14. Examine the various cultural factors that contribute to language loss, and evaluate the preservation efforts applied to languages targeted for extinction.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Student learning outcomes are behavioral objectives - what a student should know, value and be able to demonstrate or perform after the class is completed. Below is an example of a student learning outcome for this class:

In a written assignment, and objective exam question(s), students will demonstrate an understanding of language extinction by identifying some of the cultural and historical factors that contribute to language loss, and describing, recognizing and/or evaluating the revitalization efforts applied to languages that are targeted for extinction.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Allow plenty of time to prepare for assignments and exams. As a college student, it's your responsibility to discover how much time you require to study for exams, complete reading assignments, write papers, etc. When in doubt, start early! Students who invest a lot of time in completing assignments and studying for exams, are usually the ones who earn the highest grades.

WEEKLY READING: Don't fall behind! Reading is critical to your success in this class because it prepares you for the lectures, exams and assignments. Reading is an essential part of a college education, as it improves critical thinking and comprehension skills. Reading is an essential part of a college education - it improves critical thinking and comprehension skills. Make it a habit to keep up with assigned reading every week so you don't fall behind.

PLAGIARISM QUIZ (no credit, but required): This quiz isn't worth any points, but students must complete it, and earn 100%, in order to qualify for submitting the Critical Thinking assignments, the Development Anthropology paper and extra credit. These assignments will not be accepted if you don't complete the Plagiarism Quiz. The quiz will be distributed in class and is due the second week of the semester. If you don't earn 100% on it the first time, you can retake it until you do. To prepare for this quiz, read ALL the information on the *Plagiarism Handout* (distributed in class) and the following website: <http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml>. This link is also available on my website (under the "Language & Culture" link, top left).

CRITICAL THINKING PAPERS (80 points, 23%): Five articles will be distributed in class throughout the semester on various controversies pertaining to language and culture. Each article will include a set of five-to-seven critical thinking questions, which are to be answered in a typed paper. Students may miss one paper without affecting their grade (if you complete all five, you'll earn 10 extra credit points towards your class grade). Papers are due at the beginning of class on the due dates listed in the class schedule, and answers will be discussed in class that day. Therefore, **no late papers will be accepted. No exceptions.**

LANGUAGE EXTINCTION REPORT (60 points, 17%): Students will write a three-to-four page paper on about a language that is targeted for extinction (you'll select from a list). Detailed instructions will be provided.

EXAMS (210 points total, 60%): There will be four exams which cover material from readings, lectures, films and some in-class activities. Each one includes multiple-choice, true/false and matching questions. The final exam will be partially cumulative (i.e. include some "review topics" from previous exams). Study guides will be available for each exam. **BE ON TIME FOR EXAMS!** Each one starts at the beginning of class. Your exam grade will be marked down 5% if you're more than 10 minutes late, and you won't be given extra time to finish it. Students are required to purchase four Scantron 882 forms for exams.

EXAM MAKE-UP PROCEDURES: Make-ups will only be given at the instructor's discretion if an emergency, or other serious situation, arises that prevents you from attending class on the exam date. **YOU MUST FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS BELOW TO BE CONSIDERED FOR A MAKE-UP:**

- 1) notify me by email or phone no later than 24 hours after the scheduled exam/essay, AND:
- 2) when you return the following class meeting provide the instructor with a written or typed explanation of why you had to miss the exam (written by you), along with some form of "proof" for your absence if you have it (e.g. doctor's note, police report, letter from your supervisor, funeral notice, etc.). I don't contact doctor's offices or supervisors; it's your responsibility to obtain a letter from them and bring it to me.

Make-ups aren't automatically approved – it depends on the nature of your situation. If you provide proof/evidence of your absence, you stand a better chance of having your request approved. You'll be notified within a week as to whether you can complete a make-up. All make-ups will be scheduled at a date and time determined by the instructor. *Grades on all make-ups will be marked down regardless of the excuse (10%/one full letter grade).* Only one make-up will be allowed per student. No exceptions.

EXTRA CREDIT:

Students may earn up to 15 extra points (approx. 4% towards your grade). Extra credit is a privilege and I reserve the right to refuse extra credit assignments from anyone (e.g. students who are continually tardy, exceed the maximum number of absences, plagiarize assignments or are discourteous to their classmates).

GRADING SCALE:

The following scale will be used to calculate your class grade:

90 - 100%	A	315-350 points
80 - 89%	B	280-314 points
70 - 79%	C	245-279 points
60 - 69%	D	210-244 points
0 - 59%	F	209 and below

KEEPING TRACK OF YOUR GRADE

Record your points in the table below to help you calculate your grade throughout the semester (e.g. at anytime during the semester add up your total points and divide by the total number of points accumulated in class so far):

	Your points:	Points possible	% of Grade
Exams	-----	210	60%
1		50	
2		50	
3		50	
Final		60	
CT Papers (you may miss one)	-----	80	23%
1		20	
2		20	
3		20	
4		20	
5		20	
Language Extinction Report		60	17%
Extra Credit		(15)	(~4%)
TOTAL		350	100%

ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY:

Students are expected to abide by ethical standards in preparing and presenting material that demonstrates their level of knowledge, and which is used to determine grades. **PLAGIARISM, CHEATING OR FURNISHING MATERIALS IN ORDER TO ENABLE OTHER STUDENTS TO DO SO WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.** This sort of behavior violates Section I.B.1 of El Camino College's Board Policy 5138, Standards of Student Conduct.

The following cases constitute **PLAGIARISM**: 1) submitting under one's own name papers or reports which have been prepared by others (including the use of commercial term paper companies); 2) copying word for word, an author's sentences or paragraphs and including them in your paper as your own work; 3) paraphrasing published material without acknowledging the source; and 4) improperly paraphrasing material.

CHEATING is defined as: 1) using notes, aids or the work of other students on exams or papers in ways other than those expressly permitted by the instructor; 2) misreporting or altering the data in research projects involving the collection of data; 3) submitting an assignment which is identical to that of another student's (i.e. sentences and/or paragraphs are the same, word for word, and/or results from data collection are identical).

Academic dishonesty may be dealt with in one or more of the following ways: 1) the student may receive an appropriate academic penalty such as an oral reprimand; 2) an "F" may be assigned on all or part of a particular paper or exam; or 3) the student may be suspended from all classes for that term and the following term if deemed appropriate.

ABSENCES/TARDIES:

According to college policy "a student may be dropped from class when the number of hours absent exceeds the number of units assigned to the course." *The maximum number of absences allowed in my class is FOUR.* Once you reach five, the professor will likely drop you from the class regardless of the reason for the absences (e.g. domestic, medical, work- or school-related, or otherwise). *I strongly advise you keep your absences to well below four so that you don't miss lectures, in-class work and other important information you need to successfully complete the class.* In the event of an absence, it's your responsibility to check with another student about what you missed. I recommend you copy lecture notes from another student when you return (outside of class time).

Make it a habit to come to class on time. Your tardies create distractions for your classmates and the instructor. *Excessive tardies will affect your class grade (points will be deducted from your Participation score).* The same holds true for those who make it a habit to leave class early. It's your responsibility to notify me if you arrived after roll was taken; do this at the end of class on the day of your tardy. Failure to do so, or late notification of a tardy, will result in being marked absent. Occasionally our system allows students to enroll in back-to-back classes. If you're enrolled in one that ends the same time this class begins you must drop one, as I won't make exceptions.

DROPPING THE CLASS:

Although instructors may drop students, the college views dropping as the student's responsibility. Sometimes students stop attending class near the final drop deadline and the instructor doesn't catch it in time (in which case the student winds up with an "F" in the class). Don't assume you'll automatically be dropped due to non-attendance. If you need to drop, you can go to Admissions on campus or drop online through MyECC.

CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR AND CONDUCT:

Anthropology deals with some controversial topics that may challenge one's belief systems. You're expected to practice courtesy and respect at all times, regardless of whether or not you agree with information presented in class. This is the nature of anthropology: to respect (and attempt to understand) ways of life and beliefs that are different from your own. Anyone who is disrespectful or disruptive will be asked to discontinue participation and may be required to leave the room. Behaviors that disrupt the learning process will not be tolerated.

When you attend my class, you're expected to come prepared and fully participate. This doesn't necessarily mean raising your hand and verbally participating in class discussions (though that would be great!), but that you're alert, actively taking notes during lectures, films, etc. and participating in class activities. Non-participation will affect your grade. Examples of non-participation include: talking to others during lectures or films, passing notes to another student, sleeping, reading textbooks or completely homework for other classes, text messaging. *Points will be deducted from your grade if you regularly engage in these, or similar, behaviors.*

Please don't make it a habit to come and go during class because this is also very disruptive to your classmates and the instructor. Students who do so on a regular basis, will be marked absent for the day and/or points will be deducted from their grade. If, on occasion, you know ahead of time that you'll need to excuse yourself temporarily from class or leave early, please take a seat near the door to avoid disrupting others.

AMERICAN DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) STATEMENT:

According to the American Disabilities Act, any student with an identified disability is eligible to be registered with the Special Resource Center (1-310-660-3593, X3296). El Camino College is committed to providing reasonable accommodations upon request of the student (in a timely manner) and upon verification of the disability.

SERVICES AVAILABLE TO ECC STUDENTS (first dial 1-310-660-3593, then the extension below):

ASSESSMENT/TESTING CENTER	X6536	SSC 217
CAREER SERVICES CENTER	X6137	SSC 1 st floor
COUNSELING SERVICES DIVISION	X3458	SSC 1 st floor
EOP&S	X3464	SSC 202 & 203
FINANCIAL AID	X3493	SSC 215
HEALTH CENTER	X3643	
LEARNING RESOURCE CENTER (includes Tutoring)	X6494	LIBRARY
LIBRARY (includes computer lab)	X3519	
TRANSFER CENTER	X3408	SSC 1 st floor
WRITING CENTER	X3873	COMM 202