

# Language, Culture, and the Human Animal

ANTH 110 Section 501 – Spring 2019  
Valencia Arts & Science 131 12:00 - 1:15 p.m.

## COURSE SYLLABUS

### **Instructor**

Andrew Carey  
acarey1@unm.edu

### **Office Hours:**

**A&S 113**  
Monday 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.  
*or by appointment*

## COURSE MATERIALS

### Required Textbook

1. *Living Language: An Introduction to Linguistic Anthropology*, by Laura M. Ahearn. Wiley-Blackwell Publishers:UK. ISBN 978-1-4051-2441-6

**Changes in Course Schedule and/or Content:** Any changes made in the course schedule and/or course content will be announced in class. In addition, all students will be notified of any changes via email.

### COURSE CONTENT

#### Course Description and Objectives

This is an introductory course that provides an overview of the discipline of Linguistic Anthropology. We will discuss the implications of language within anthropology, as well as within the sciences and social sciences more generally. The course explores the core concepts and methods of linguistic anthropology that are used to understand what it means to be human and the role of language in human societies. Each topic is presented via lectures, readings, films and discussions that focus on specific case studies that present a broad range of perspectives from various cultural groups.

**Student Learning Objectives (SLO)**

By completing this course, you will:

**SLO #1.** Understand what the discipline of anthropology is and how linguistic anthropology is situated within the discipline, as well as among the social sciences more generally.

*Assessment:* Students will read articles on linguistic research each month and write brief reports identifying how it relates to anthropology and . (Corresponds to Core Area 3, Competency #2)

**SLO #2.** Become familiar with the methods and theories utilized in linguistic anthropology.

*Assessment:* Exam questions present students with situations and students will identify which concepts and theory are represented. (Corresponds to Core Area 3, Competency #2)

**SLO #3.** Have a broader understanding of how anthropology examines all aspects of language what it means to be human and how linguistics contributes to that understanding.

*Assessment:* Student will participate in class discussion about how various questions of human language and the possibility of non-human language and the meaning of these questions for (Corresponds to Core Area 3, Competency #5)

**SLO #4.** Access resources and case studies that will offer new and/or varied perspectives on various linguistic and cultural issues and world views that can facilitate increased inter- and intra-cultural understanding and appreciation.

*Assessment:* Students will analyze how language principles apply to them and the world around them in class discussion and exam essay questions. (Corresponds to Core Area 4, Competency #1)

**COURSE EVALUATION**

Exams (3)	100 points each	<b>300 points</b>
3 article reports (3)	33 points each (+1)	<b>100 points</b>
1 class project	100 points each	<b>100 points</b>
Participation	100 points	<b>100 points</b>
		<b>600 Total Points for the Course</b>

Letter Grades:

540-600 points.....	A
480-539	.....B
420-479	.....C
360-419	.....D
0-359	.....F

**Exams:** There will be 3 exams administered during the course. Each exam will cover material presented in the lectures, textbooks and assigned readings. All of the exams are *noncumulative*. Each exam will consist of multiple choice, short answer and essay questions. The three exams will count for 50% of your final grade.

**The final exam for this course is scheduled during Finals Week**

**Make-up Exams:** You are expected to take the exams for this course when they are administered. I will allow you to make up an exam *only* in the case of a medical or family emergency for which you must **inform me in advance** of missing the exam. If you become extremely ill or encounter an emergency during the period of the exam, it is your responsibility to contact me within 24 hours to schedule a make-up exam. You will also be required to provide a form of written verification (e.g., doctor's note, police report, hospital discharge form, etc.) in order to receive permission to take a make-up exam.

**Writing Assignments (3):** 3 Article reports will count for 17% of the final grade. Grading is based on content, format and style. The class project involves doing library or field research, summarizing the data collected, and presenting the results in a formal essay and necessary attachments. The class project will count for another 20% of the final grade.

**Research Assignment:** One project will count for 17% of the final grade. Grading is based on content, format and style. The project involves doing field research, summarizing the data collected, and presenting the results in a formal essay and necessary attachments.

**Class participation:** You are expected to attend class and discuss the material of the week. You will get three absences without penalty, but each additional absence will knock 5 points off your participation grade. Likewise, you must take part in class discussion.

**Extra Credit:** You can earn a maximum of 20 extra credit points that count toward your final point total for the semester. Extra credit points will be added to your total points earned at the end of the semester to determine your final grade. In order to receive extra credit, you must complete an extra credit assignment as described in the Extra Credit Options handout that is available on the course Learn website. You can choose from a list of several extra credit assignment options that detail what is required for each assignment. Each extra credit assignment is worth 10 points. Extra credit assignments will be accepted up to the last regular class period on May 2. You can receive **no more** than a maximum of 20 extra credit points for the course. Refer to the Extra Credit Options on the class website for more details.

**Grading:** You can email or arrange to meet with me at UNM's Valencia campus (if you live nearby) to find out how you are doing in the course at any time throughout the semester. If you are receiving the NM Lottery Scholarship, please check with me by mid-term to monitor your grade so that you are not at risk of losing the scholarship at the end of the semester. Your final grade will consist of your 3 exam scores, your project score, and your participation scores plus any extra credit points.

## COURSE POLICIES

**Withdrawal:** In accordance with University of New Mexico policy, you can withdraw from this course at any time before April 12. After that date, you may still withdraw from the course with permission from the Dean (See UNM Valencia course schedule or Catalog).

**Note: Faculty and instructors are NOT responsible for dropping students who do not attend. It is the student's responsibility to monitor their own progress in the course and to submit a withdrawal request only if necessary.**

**Incomplete:** Only under special circumstances will a grade of Incomplete (I) be granted to a student in this course. If you will not be able to complete the final course requirements, you must meet with me as soon as possible to make arrangements. You must also provide written documentation that verifies why you will not be able to complete the course requirements on time. An Incomplete grade must be completed within one year of the last day of class or it is automatically converted to a final grade of F. An Incomplete will not be given to any student because they have fallen behind in the course materials and/or they want to repeat the course for a better grade.

**Accommodation of Learning Disabilities/Special Needs:** If you have a learning disability or special need that would affect your ability to master the material presented in this course and/or take the exams as described above, please email or see me as soon as possible to arrange for special accommodations. Students with disabilities must officially register with UNM Valencia's Equal Access Service (EAS) prior to receiving special accommodations in this course. The EAS is located in the Advisement and Counseling area of the Student Services Building. Talk to Jeanne Lujan at 925-8910 or [jmlujan@unm.edu](mailto:jmlujan@unm.edu).

**Dishonesty in Academic Matters:** According to UNM policy, each student enrolled in this course is expected to maintain the highest standards of honesty and integrity in academic and professional matters. UNM reserves the right to take disciplinary action, including dismissal, against any student who is found responsible for academic dishonesty. Any student who has been judged to have engaged in academic dishonesty in this course may receive a reduced or failing grade for the work in question and/or for the course. Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to: dishonesty in (cheating on) quizzes, tests or assignments; claiming credit for work not done or done by others (plagiarism) and hindering the academic work of other students.

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

## WEEK 1

**Jan. 14 - 16**    **Class Introduction--What is Anthropology?**

## WEEK 2

**Jan. 21 - 23**    **Language and Society**

Reading: Living Lang: *Chapter 1*

## WEEK 3

**Jan. 28 - 30**    **What is Language**

Readings: Living Lang: *Chapter 2*

## WEEK 4

**Feb. 4 - 6**    **Phonology--sound**

Readings: Living Lang: *Chapter 3*

**\*\*\*Article Report #1 Due Feb. 6**

## WEEK 5

**Feb. 12 - 13**    **Creating meaning--Words and Sentences**

Readings: Living Lang *Chapter 4*

## WEEK 6

**Feb. 18 - 20**    **Sign language and non-verbal communication**

Readings: Living Lang: *Chapter 5*

**\*\*\*EXAM #1 Feb. 20**

## WEEK 7

**Feb. 25 - 27**    **Language in Action**

Readings: Living Lang: *Chapter 6*

## WEEK 8

**Mar. 4 - 6**    **Literacy practices**

Readings: Living Lang: *Chapter 7*

**\*\*\*Article Report #2 Due Mar. 6**

## WEEK 9

**Mar. 12 - 16**    **Spring Break!!!**

WEEK 10

**Mar. 18 - 20 The possibility of Language**

*Readings: Living Lang: Chapter 8*

WEEK 11

**Mar. 25 - 27 Language and Gender**

**\*\*\*EXAM #2 Mar. 27**

WEEK 12

**Apr. 1-3 Language and Culture Change**

*Readings: Living Lang: Chapter 9*

WEEK 13

**Apr. 8 - 10 Language Death and Revitalization**

WEEK 14

**APR 15 - 17 Doing Linguistic Research**

*Readings: Living Lang: Chapter 10*

**\*\*\*Article Report #3 Due Apr. 17**

WEEK 15

**Apr. 22 - 24 Language, Thought and Culture**

WEEK 16

**Apr. 29 - May 1 Conclusion**

**\*\*\*\*FINAL EXAM MONDAY MAY 6, 11:30 – 1:30**