

An Introduction to Linguistic Anthropology

70:108 • Rutgers • Spring 2017 • T-TH 2:15-3:35 • RAB-001
Becky Schulthies

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Recitation Sections

2 Monday 10:55 AM – 12:15 PM	BIO 206
3 Monday 12:35 PM – 1:55 PM	BIO 206

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

We all engage and utilize language daily, whether through conversation, reading or writing. We also use it to define ourselves in relation to each other: our identities, social relations, and interpretations of our own and others' behavior. Language is one of the features unique to our species and meaning-making through language is a central project of human history. Yet we often take language for granted, despite its importance to all human societies.

This course offers an introduction to the foundational relationship between language and culture by examining *anthropological approaches* to the study of language. In

this course, you will learn how language both *reflects* and *creates* thought, culture, and power relations. You will also learn how to apply the concepts we study to your own everyday experiences with language. How does language produce social realities? How does language construct us as individuals and mark us as members of groups? What role does language play in processes like socialization, globalization, and domination? These are some of the questions we will grapple with over the course of the term. The topics we will cover include theories of language, linguistic relativity, language diversity and inequality, gender, language shift, and the creative use of language in performance, and mass media. We also consider language use in specific social contexts, such as courtrooms, medical and scientific settings, and political campaigns.

INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

The key goals of this class are:

- to explore theories about the relationships between language and culture
- to acquaint students with the diversity and complexity of languages
- to introduce students to linguistic anthropology methods and theories
- to expand students' research, analysis, and writing skills

ASSIGNMENTS (see Sakai for details)

- Lecture/Section Attendance/Activities 30 points
- Semiotics Assignment 15 points
- Interview Essay 15 points
- Midterm 20 points
- Language Autobiography 20 points
- Final Exam 20 points

Grades will be determined based on grading rubrics distributed in advance and by dividing the total points earned by the total points possible.

Core Curriculum Learning Goals Met by this Course

C: Arts and Humanities **q. Understand the nature of human languages and their speakers.**

Anthropology Department Learning Goals Met by this Course

- Students gain knowledge that will allow them to identify, explain, and historically contextualize the primary objectives, fundamental concepts, modes of analysis, and central questions in their major field and demonstrate proficiency in their use of this knowledge.
- Students are able to demonstrate proficiency in the use critical thinking skills.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

- Gilmore, Perry. 2015 *Kisisi (Our Language): The Story of Colin and Sadiki*. Malden MA: Wiley-Blackwell.
- Recommended: Ahearn, Laura M. 2017 *Living Language: An Introduction to Linguistic Anthropology*. 2nd Edition. Malden MA: Blackwell
- Readings on Sakai

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Classroom Procedures

- Class meetings will be a mix of lecture, discussion, and application activities. My lecture style is interactive and I encourage you to ask questions and participate in class. While this is an introductory course requiring no background, my expectations of you will be high. **You are expected to complete the assigned readings before class, to attend all class meetings (lecture and sections), and to come prepared to actively engage with course material by thinking critically and creatively about the assigned texts and the issues they raise.** To that end, every class will have an application activity. *Students are expected to attend all classes; if you expect to miss one or two classes, please use the University absence reporting website <https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/> to indicate the date and reason for your absence. An email is automatically sent to me.* In cases where you must miss class for periods longer than one week, you will as per university policy be directed to see a Dean of Students for assistance to help verify these circumstances.
- As this is a four credit course, you should plan up to three hours of reading and preparation for each lecture. You will need to pace yourself so you aren't cramming before class.
- Assessments (exams, writing assignments, in-class application activities, etc.) are designed to evaluate your knowledge and abilities to accomplish the intended learning outcomes. Please take advantage of all the assessment opportunities you will have in this course by using them to reflect on the depth and value of your learning. You will receive points by emailing me that you have read the syllabus.
- This course will have materials available through Sakai.

Please note also the following policies:

- **Late submission is not accepted** without prior permission of the instructor.
- *Online Assignment Submission:* For ease of reference and grading, include your name in the beginning of your document title when you submit on Sakai. For example: Schulthies Semiotic Observation 108.doc
- *Incompletes* will not be permitted, except under extraordinary circumstances and with proper documentation.
- *Special arrangements* for students with documented needs or disabilities should be made well in advance of assignment due-dates. Follow the policies outlined here <http://disabilityservices.rutgers.edu/> and discuss this with me as soon as possible.

Rutgers Policies: Please make yourself aware of the student code of conduct, especially the academic code of conduct. <http://studentconduct.rutgers.edu/university-code-of-student-conduct>

Plagiarism: In preparing assignments a student often needs or is required to employ outside sources of information or opinion. All such sources should be listed in the bibliography. *Citations and footnote references are required for all specific facts that are not common knowledge and about which there is not general agreement.* New discoveries or debatable opinions must be credited to the source, with specific references to edition and page even when the student restates the matter in his or her own words. Word-for-word inclusion of any part of someone else's written or oral sentence, even if only a phrase or sentence, requires citation in quotation marks and use of the appropriate conventions for attribution. Please follow the American Anthropological Association style guide in the bibliography and in-text referencing. Paraphrasing or summarizing the contents of another's work is not dishonest if the source or sources are clearly identified (author, title, edition, and page), but such paraphrasing does not constitute independent work and may be rejected by the instructor. Students who have questions about accurate and proper citation methods are expected to consult Rutgers' policies on plagiarism.

Course Schedule

Week 1 Language and Social Life	Jan 16 No recitation section	Jan 17 What is an anthropological approach to language?	Jan 19 Ahearn, Laura M. 2017 <i>Living Language: An Introduction to Linguistic Anthropology</i> . 2 nd Edition. Malden MA: Blackwell, 3-20. AND Macauley, Ronald 2006 <i>The Social Art: Language and Its Uses</i> . Oxford University Press, 11-19. (Sakai)
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			Optional: Streeck, Jürgen 2009 <i>Gesturcraft: The Manu-facture of Meaning</i> . Amsterdam: John Benjamins, 1-9. (Sakai)
Week 2 Forms, Functions, and Frameworks	Jan 23 Recitation section <i>Assignment to prepare for Jan 30: Semiotic observation</i>	Jan 24 Ahearn, Laura M. 2017 <i>Living Language: An Introduction to Linguistic Anthropology</i> . 2 nd Edition. Malden MA: Blackwell, 21-28. (Sakai) AND Jones, Graham, and Bambi Schieffelin 2009 Talking text and talking back: “My BFF Jill” from boob tube to YouTube <i>Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication</i> 14(4): 1050-1079 (Sakai)	Jan 26 Duranti, Alessandro 1997 <i>Linguistic Anthropology</i> . Cambridge University Press, 14-19. (Sakai) AND Schulthies, Becky 2014 Deposed Leaders, You Tube, and the Contested Language of Arab Uprisings. In <i>Everyday Life in the Muslim Middle East</i> , 3 rd edition, Donna Lee Bowen, Evelyn Early, and Becky Schulthies, eds. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 391-405. (Sakai) Optional: Bauman, Richard 2004 “What Shall We Give You?”: Calibrations of Genre in a Mexican Market. In <i>A World of Other’s Words: Cross-Cultural Perspectives on Intertextuality</i> . Malden: Blackwell Publishing, 58-81. (Sakai)
Week 3 Semiotic Battles: Theories of Signs	Jan 30 Recitation Section <i>Semiotic Assignment Due</i>	Jan 31 Avineri, N., Johnson, E., Brice-Heath, S., McCarty, T., Ochs, E., Kremer-Sadlik, T., Blum, S., Zentella, A.C., Rosa, J., Flores, N. and Alim, H.S., 2015 Invited Forum: Bridging the “Language Gap”. <i>Journal of Linguistic Anthropology</i> 25(1):74-79. AND Ahearn, Laura M. 2017 <i>Living Language: An Introduction to Linguistic Anthropology</i> . 2 nd Edition. Malden MA: Blackwell, 28-32. (Sakai) AND Kohn, Eduardo 2013 <i>How Forests Think: Toward an Anthropology Beyond the Human</i> . Berkeley, University of California Press, 27-37. (Sakai)	Feb 2 Graham, Laura 1995 <i>Performing Dreams: Discourses of Immortality Among the Xavante of Central Brazil</i> . Austin, TX: University of Texas Press, 175-206. (Sakai) Intro to Graham’s book: weblink Optional: Peirce, Charles Sanders 1955[1940] Logic as Semiotic: The Theory of Signs. In <i>The Philosophical Writings of Peirce</i> , Justus Buchler ed. New York: Dover Publications, 98-103. (Sakai)
Week 4 Everyday Indexicality: Identity	Feb 6 Recitation Section	Feb 7 Peterson, Mark Allen 2011 <i>Connected in Cairo: Growing Up Cosmopolitan in the Modern Middle East</i> . Bloomington IN: Indiana University Press, 97-134 (Sakai) AND Olmsted-Dean, Evelyn	Feb 9 Basso, Keith 1999 Wisdom Sits in Places. In <i>Senses of Place</i> , Keith Basso and Steven Feld, eds. Santa Fe, NM: School of American Research Press, 53-90. (Sakai) OR Smith, Andrea and Anna Eisenstein

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		2012 Syrian Jewish Mexicans and the Language of Everyday Orientalism SLA Blog weblink	2015 <i>Rebuilding Shattered Worlds: Creating Community by Voicing the Past</i> . Lincoln NB: University of Nebraska Press, 1-3, 63-87. (Sakai)
Week 5 How we do it: data collection and analysis	Feb 13 Recitation Section	Feb 14 Briggs, Charles 1986 <i>Learning How to Ask: A sociolinguistic appraisal of the role of the interview in social science research</i> . Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 39-60. (Sakai) Optional: Ahearn, Laura M. 2017 <i>Living Language: An Introduction to Linguistic Anthropology</i> . 2 nd Edition. Malden MA: Blackwell, 52-68	Feb 16 Worthham, Stanton and Angela Reyes 2015 <i>Discourse Analysis Beyond the Speech Event</i> . New York: Routledge, 1-39. (Sakai)
Week 6 Language Socialization	Feb 20 Recitation Section <i>Assignment to submit Feb 27: interview essay</i>	Feb 21 Gilmore, Perry. 2015 <i>Kisizi (Our Language): The Story of Colin and Sadiki</i> . Malden MA: Wiley-Blackwell, 1-34	Feb 23 Ochs, Elinor and Bambi Schieffelin 1984 "Language Acquisition and Socialization: Three Developmental Stories and Their Implications." In <i>Culture Theory: Essays on Mind, Self, and Emotion</i> , Richard A. Shweder and R.A. LeVine (eds.). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 276-282 (just those pages) . (Sakai) OR Lo, Adrienne and Heidi Fung 2012 Language Socialization and Shaming. In <i>Handbook of Language Socialization</i> , Alessandro Duranti, Elinor Ochs, and Bambi Schieffelin, eds. Malden MA: Wiley-Blackwell, 169-189. (Sakai)
Week 7 Language, Thought, Culture	Feb 27 Recitation Section <i>Interview Essay Due</i>	Feb 28 Gilmore, Perry. 2015 <i>Kisizi (Our Language): The Story of Colin and Sadiki</i> . Malden MA: Wiley-Blackwell, 35-57 Optional: Ahearn, Laura M. 2017 <i>Living Language: An Introduction to Linguistic Anthropology</i> . 2 nd Edition. Malden MA: Blackwell, 69-86	Mar 2 Levinson, Stephen 2003 Language and Mind: Let's Get the Issues Straight! In <i>Language and Mind: Advanced in the Study of Language and Thought</i> , Dedre Gentner and Susan Goldin-Meadow, eds. Cambridge MA: MIT Press, 25-46. (Sakai) Optional: Ahearn, Laura M. 2017 <i>Living Language: An Introduction to Linguistic Anthropology</i> . 2 nd Edition. Malden MA: Blackwell, 87-116. Whorf, Benjamin 1941 The relation of habitual thought and behavior to language. In <i>Language, Culture and Society: A Book of Readings</i> , Ben G. Blount, ed. Prospect Heights, IL: Waveland Press, 64-84. (Sakai)
Week 8 Language, Thought,	Mar 6 Recitation Section	Mar 7 Mertz, Elizabeth 2007 <i>The Language of Law School: Learning to Think Like a Lawyer</i> .	Mar 9 <i>Midterm</i>

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Culture		<p>New York: Oxford University Press, 7-11. (<i>Sakai</i>)</p> <p>AND</p> <p>Barrett, Rusty, Hilaria Cruz, and Maria Luz Garcia</p> <p>2016 Difficult Interpretations: Linguistic Anthropology and Access to Social Services. <i>SLA Blog</i>, August 23, weblink</p> <p><i>Optional</i>: Cohn, Carol</p> <p>1987 Sex and death in the rational world of defense intellectuals. <i>Signs: The Journal of Women in Culture and Society</i> 12:687-718. (<i>Sakai</i>)</p>	
Spring Break Mar 11-19			
Week 9 Language and Community	Mar 20 Recitation Section	<p>Mar 21</p> <p>Mendoza-Denton, Norma</p> <p>2008 Hemispheric Localism: Language, Racialized Nationalism and the Politicization of Youth. In <i>Homegirls: Language and Cultural Practice among Latina Youth Gangs</i>. Malden, MA: Blackwell, 101-147. (<i>Sakai</i>)</p> <p><i>Optional</i>:</p> <p>Labov, William</p> <p>1972 The Social Stratification of (r) in New York City Department Stores. In <i>Sociolinguistic Patterns</i>, Philadelphia, PA: University of Pennsylvania Press, 43-69. (<i>Sakai</i>)</p>	<p>Mar 23</p> <p>Gilmore, Perry.</p> <p>2015 <i>Kisizi (Our Language): The Story of Colin and Sadiki</i>. Malden MA: Wiley-Blackwell, 58-92</p> <p><i>Optional</i>: Ahearn, Laura M.</p> <p>2017 <i>Living Language: An Introduction to Linguistic Anthropology</i>. 2nd Edition. Malden MA: Blackwell, 119-135.</p>
Week 10 Mobile Resources	Mar 27 Recitation Section	<p>Mar 28</p> <p>McIntosh, Janet</p> <p>2010 “Mobile Phones and Mipoho’s Prophecy: The Powers and Dangers of Flying Language,” <i>American Ethnologist</i>, 37(2): 337-353. (<i>Sakai</i>)</p>	<p>Mar 30</p> <p>Gilmore, Perry.</p> <p>2015 <i>Kisizi (Our Language): The Story of Colin and Sadiki</i>. Malden MA: Wiley-Blackwell, 93-136</p>
Week 11 Language Shift	<p>Apr 3 Recitation Section</p> <p><i>Assignment to turn in Apr 10: Language Autobiography</i></p>	<p>Apr 4</p> <p>Don Kulick</p> <p>1998 Anger, Gender, Language Shift, and the Politics of Revelation in a Papua New Guinean Village. In <i>Language Ideologies: Practice and Theory</i>, B. B. Schieffelin, K. A. Woolard, & P. V. Kroskrity (eds.). Oxford: Oxford University Press, 87-102. (<i>Sakai</i>)</p> <p><i>Optional</i>: Perley, Bernard C.</p> <p>2012 Zombie Linguistics: Experts, Endangered Languages, and the Curse of Undead Voices. <i>Anthropological Forum</i> 22(2):133-149 (<i>Sakai</i>)</p>	<p>Apr 6</p> <p>Faudree, Paja</p> <p>2013 <i>Singing for the Dead: The Politics of Indigenous Revival in Mexico</i>. Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 104-140. (<i>Sakai</i>)</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Hoffman, Katherine</p> <p>2006 Berber Language Ideologies, Maintenance, and Contraction: Gendered Variation in the Indigenous Margins of Morocco. <i>Language & Communication</i> 26(2):144-167 (<i>Sakai</i>)</p> <p><i>Optional</i>: Ahearn, Laura M.</p> <p>2017 <i>Living Language: An Introduction to Linguistic Anthropology</i>. 2nd Edition. Malden MA: Blackwell, 255-272.</p>
Week 12	Apr 10	Apr 11	Apr 13

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Speaking Like a State	Recitation Section <i>Language Autobio- graphy Due</i>	Briggs, Charles 1997 Notes on a Confession: On the Construction of Gender, Sexuality, and Violence in an Infanticide Case. <i>Pragmatics</i> 7(4):519-546 (<i>Sakai</i>)	Blommaert, Jan 2009 Language, Asylum, and the National Order. <i>Current Anthropology</i> (50)4:415-441 (<i>Sakai</i>)
Week 13 Language Inequality	Apr 17 Recitation Section	Apr 18 Hill, Jane H 2007 Mock Spanish: A Site for the Indexical Reproduction of Racism in American English. In <i>Race, Ethnicity, and Gender: Selected Readings</i> , Joseph F. Healey, Eileen O'Brien, eds. Thousand Oaks, CA: Pine Forge Press, 270-285. (<i>Sakai</i>) <i>Optional</i> : Ahearn, Laura M. 2017 <i>Living Language: An Introduction to Linguistic Anthropology</i> . 2 nd Edition. Malden MA: Blackwell, 230-254. (<i>Sakai</i>)	Apr 20 Hiramoto, Mie 2011 Is Dat Dog You're Eating?: Mock Filipino, Hawai'i Creole, and Local Elitism. <i>Pragmatics</i> 21(3):341-371 (<i>Sakai</i>) <i>Optional</i> : Shankar, Shalini 2008 Speaking like a Model Minority: "FOB" Styles, Gender, and Racial Meanings among Desi Teens in Silicon Valley. <i>Journal of Linguistic Anthropology</i> 18(2): 268-289 (<i>Sakai</i>)
Week 14	Apr 24 Recitation Section <i>Final Exam Essay Discussed</i>	Apr 25 Roth-Gordon, Jennifer 2016 From Upstanding Citizen to North American Rapper and Back Again: The Racial Malleability of Poor Male Brazilian Youth. In <i>Raciolinguistics</i> , H. Sami Alim, ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 51-64. (<i>Sakai</i>) AND Alim, H. Samy 2016 Who's Afraid of the Transracial Subject: Raciolinguistics and the Political Project of Transracialization. In <i>Raciolinguistics</i> , H. Samy Alim, ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 33-50 (<i>Sakai</i>)	Apr 27 Nuhurat Yağmur, Marcie Patton, Donna Lee Bowen, and Becky Schulthies 2014 Reinserting Race as a Relevant Social Category in Turkish Football. In <i>Everyday Life in the Muslim Middle East</i> , 3 rd edition, Donna Lee Bowen, Evelyn Early, and Becky Schulthies, eds. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 420-431 (<i>Sakai</i>) AND Ansell, Aaron 2016 Taking Full Accountability and None of the Blame. SLA Blog, March 14, weblink
Week 16	May 1 Recitation Section	May 2 <i>Final Essay Due on Sakai</i>	