

Language and Social Diversity

70:312 ♦ Rutgers ♦ Fall 2016 ♦ Schulthies

2:15pm-3:35pm T, TH ♦ 207 RAB

Instructor: Becky Schulthies, Ph.D.

Office: 312 RAB

Office Hours: 3:45-5pm Tue-Thu or by appointment

Email: becky.schulthies@rutgers.edu

COURSE OBJECTIVES



Language is something we use every day to signal and interpret identities and social alignments. In this course we are going to explore some of the processes by which humans use language, in coordination with other representational systems, to mark social diversity: social, political, and economic cohesion and division. We will be delving into some of the philosophical and theoretical developments that anthropologists use to understand this topic, addressing questions such as:

- What role do sign systems, such as language, play in marking sameness and difference, inclusion and exclusion, domination and marginalization, collective political action at interpersonal, local, national, transnational scales?
- How do we use forms of language to construct or comment upon gender, race, ethnicity, class, culture, sexuality, nationalism, personhood, and species?
- How can multimodal sign coordination (clothes, make-up, hairstyle, gesture, bodily comportment, music, school pictures) be considered part of language and social diversity?
- What kinds of social work do written forms of language convey about kinds of persons in specific contexts and their ideas about how the world is or should be?
- How do communicative technologies (Facebook, Whatsapp) expand or constrain relational possibilities?

Course Prerequisite: Introduction to Linguistic or Cultural Anthropology (70:108, 70:101), or instructor approval.

INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

The key goals of this class are:

1. To gain a deeper knowledge of the semiotic theories and mechanisms for constructing and reflecting social diversity
2. To enhance your understanding of ethnography as a writing genre and analytical method
3. To learn how to critically engage anthropological theories and texts
4. To expand your research, analysis, writing, and oral presentation skills

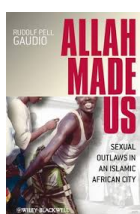
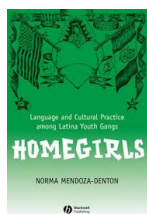
ANTHROPOLOGY DEPARTMENT GOALS:

This course fills the following department learning goals:

1. 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.
2. Students are able to demonstrate proficiency in the use critical thinking skills.
5. Students are able to express themselves knowledgably and proficiently in speaking about central issues in their major field.

ASSIGNMENTS (see Sakai):

- Reading questions 20 pts
- Book review 10 pts
- Discussion Leader 10 pts
- Multimodality video essay 40 pts (proposal 5 pts, transcription 5 pts, analysis 10 pts, oral presentation 5 pts, final product 10 pts)



REQUIRED READINGS

- ♦ Mendoza-Denton, Norma. 2008. *Homegirls: Language and Cultural Practice Among Latina Youth Gangs*. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing.
- ♦ Gaudio, Rudolf Pell. 2009. *Allah Made Us: Sexual Outlaws in an Islamic African City*. Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell Publishing.