

Bellevue Community College
Spring 2009

**Anth 208 (Formerly Anth 200)
Language, Culture and Society**

T/Th: 12:30 – 2:40 p.m.
Item number: 5157
Room: C208

Instructor: Katharine Hunt

Office: D200D

Office Hours: Before or briefly after class, or between 10:30 and 11:30 on Tuesday mornings. It is helpful to me if you call or send me an email ahead of time if you wish to meet with me.

Phone: 564-4189 (voice mail; messages are forwarded to my email account.)

Fax: 564-3108 (Social Science Division Office)

Mailbox: D110 (Social Science Division Office, which is usually open 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.)

Email: khunt@bellevuecollege.edu See note below:

If you send me an email, please include "Anth 208" somewhere in the subject line, to be sure that I give priority to reading it, and that it is not deleted along with all the junk mail that comes to that account! Please do NOT send homework assignments by email, except by prior arrangement.

Course Materials

• **Textbook:**

Ottenheimer, Harriet.

The Anthropology of Language: An Introduction to Linguistic Anthropology

Thomson, Wadsworth. 1st edition, 2006.

Blum, Susan.

Making Sense of Language: Readings in Culture and Communication.

Oxford University Press. 2008.

PLUS: additional readings as assigned.

• **Textbook website**

The Ottenheimer textbook has an associated [website](#) which will be useful to you. You can get to it by clicking on the above link, if you are looking at the syllabus online, or by doing a web search such as "companion site Ottenheimer language". At this site, you will find resources for each chapter, such as glossaries, crosswords, review quizzes, etc. Simply select the chapter you want to review and then choose from the list of resources on the menu on the left. We will use some of these exercises in class to check on your understanding of the readings from the textbook.

• **Readings on reserve in the library and on the web.**

Most assigned readings will be from the textbooks. However, there may be occasional readings to be accessed online or through the library. Readings will be announced in class and posted on the website.

• **Class handouts**

There will be a lot of important handouts in this course and you should keep them in your binder.

• **Course website**

I will post electronic copies of most class handouts and PowerPoints on the course website, accessible via MyBCC.

You will also need:

- A packet of Scantrons
- A binder to keep track of handouts
- A blue book for in-class writing assignments
- A manila folder

Course Outline: The course will cover the following topics:

I. Introduction

- What is language?
- Language study as a part of anthropology

II. Structure of Language

- Phonetics
- Phonology
- Morphology
- Syntax

III. Language and Culture

- Language and thought/categorization
- Sapir Whorf Hypothesis
- Ethnography of Communication

IV. Language and Society

- Language and social variables
- Language change
- Attitudes towards languages and dialects
- Language death and revitalization

General Education Ratings

This course is rated “3” in the areas “Critical Thinking” and “Cultural Diversity” and “2” in the area of “Lifelong learning”.

Course Outcomes

At the end of this course, successful students will be able to:

1. Recognize and give examples of the ways in which language and culture are interrelated.
2. Critically assess claims about the effect of language on perception and thought, in relation to the Sapir Whorf hypothesis.
3. Demonstrate basic understanding of the different levels of language structure exhibited by languages around the globe.
4. Apply a holistic ethnographic approach to describing language use in different cultural situations.
5. Describe how languages evolve over time, and how social and regional dialects may arise.
6. Recognize ethnocentric statements about language and be able to explain the value of taking a comparative, relativistic approach to the study of language.

Assessment

Grading

Grades will be calculated using points. Overall, 400 points will be awarded during the quarter, distributed as follows:

3 exams	195 points (3 exams @ 65 points each)
2 projects	100 points (50 points each)
In-class labs	45 points
Homework and writing assignments	45 points
Attendance and participation	<u>15 points</u>
TOTAL:	400 points

Extra credit:

Up to 6 points of extra credit may be earned by meeting with learning communities outside of class. Further details will be provided in class.

Grading scale

Final grades will be calculated based on the following grading scale:

95-100%	A	380 – 400 points
90-94%	A-	360 – 379 points
85-89%	B+	340 – 359 points
80-84%	B	320 – 339 points
75-79%	B-	300 – 319 points
70-74%	C+	280 – 399 points
65-69%	C	260 – 279 points
60-64%	C-	240 – 259 points
55-59%	D+	220 – 239 points
50-54%	D	200 – 219 points
below 50%	F	below 200 points

Dates of Exams

Exam 1: Tuesday, April 21

Exam 2: Thursday, May 21

Exam 3: Thursday, June 18, 11:30 – 1:30

Grade Checks

About half way through the quarter, each student will be informed of his/her class standing in terms of points accumulated so far. At this point in the quarter about one third of your grade will be accounted for. This progress report will allow you to evaluate your performance and make adjustments, if necessary, for the remainder of the quarter. Please feel free to ask me at any point during the quarter how to calculate your class performance.

For your own protection, you should keep copies of all of your exams and any other graded assignments to ensure that you have a record of your performance. If there is any discrepancy, you will have the necessary materials to resolve it.

COURSE PROJECTS

****Detailed handouts for each project will be posted on the course website.****

PROJECT 1

DUE DATE: Thursday, May 14

Students will choose ONE of the following options:

EITHER: Conversation partner project

This individual project will involve working with a native speaker of a language other than English, collecting data about the language, and analyzing different aspects of it, including the sound system and grammar. Instructions for this assignment will be posted on the website.

OR: Book review

Students will have the option of reading and reviewing a book about language. The book must be at least 150 pages in length. Instructions for this assignment, including a list of possible titles, will be posted on the website. Many suitable books are available in the BCC library, and most books on the list are available in the King County or Seattle Library System. If you wish to read any book NOT on this list, you need to get prior approval from me.

PROJECT 2

DUE DATE: Thursday, June 4

Students will choose ONE of the following options:

EITHER: Service Learning

Students will have the opportunity to participate in Service Learning on campus.

This will involve volunteering in an ESL classroom for 2-3 hours per week and writing about your experiences. Elaine Nutter (enutter@bellevuecollege.edu) from the Volunteer Literacy program will be coming to our class on April 7 to discuss this option. If you are interested in pursuing this, you will need to take the initiative to contact her by the end of the second week of the quarter. Full instructions for the writing component of this option will be posted on the website.

OR: Ethnography project

Students will have the option of doing a linguistic ethnography project. This will involve observing and recording language use in the society around you. You will describe your observations, and relate them to linguistic issues discussed in class. Full instructions will be posted on the course website.

OR: Book review (see above)

*****This option is only available if you did NOT do a book review for project 1.**

Components of course assessment

Exams:

- Part of each exam will consist of multiple choice and true/false questions, so you will need to bring a scantron and a number 2 pencil to each exam. Scantrons are available from the cashier at the BCC Bookstore.
- Exams 1 and 2 will also include questions which require problem-solving, short answers, and short essays.
- The last exam will NOT be comprehensive, but will cover only material not covered in previous exams. The last exam will consist solely of multiple choice or true/false questions.
- You will be allowed the full class period to complete each exam. However, most students will not need the full time. On exam days, you are free to leave as soon as you have completed the exam.
- I will post a review sheet before each exam, summarizing the topics to be covered on the exam.
- All exams are closed book, so you may not consult any other sources during the exam.
- All electronic devices must be turned off before the start of the exam. This includes MP3 players, computers, electronic dictionaries and cell phones.

Labs:

Labs are hands-on group activities or discussions conducted during class time. These will occur at least once a week. Lab worksheets will be turned in for credit.

Homework and Reading Responses

There will be regular homework assignments and in-class writing or quizzes to ensure that you are keeping up with the reading and understanding the course content.

Attendance/Participation

It is very important that you attend class regularly and participate actively. I will take attendance every day. Please email me to let me know if you will be unable to attend class on a particular day. Attendance counts towards a portion of your final grade. In addition, exams will focus on material covered in class, and labs are completed largely in class. Thus, your grade will suffer if you do not attend class regularly.

Learning Communities

All students in class are encouraged to join learning communities. These are small groups of about 4 students who will meet outside of class to review class material, especially before exams. Extra credit (up to 6 points) will be assigned for attending group meetings outside of class. More details will be provided on a separate handout.

What should you do to succeed in this class?

Since this is a survey course, we will be covering a lot of material. In order to succeed in the class, you will need to attend class regularly, and do the assigned readings and assignments on time, so that you do not fall behind. The following advice may help you be more successful.

1. Contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

I welcome your emails and questions at any time. Often a problem can be easily solved if it is addressed immediately. Too often, though, students delay in letting me know about a problem until the end of the quarter, and then it is often too late to resolve it. To help you get over this reluctance, I will offer **two points of extra credit** to everyone who comes to talk to me during my office hours during the quarter, or who sends me an email during the first two weeks of class. Your email can be a question or comment about anything related to the class.

2. Attendance

To do well in this class it is very important that you attend class regularly. Attendance counts towards a portion of your final grade. In addition, exams will focus on material covered in class, and labs are completed largely in class. Always email me to let me know if you need to miss class.

3. Participation in a learning community

Research has shown that participating in a learning community outside of class will help you be more successful in your classes. Details about learning communities for this class are given on a separate handout.

4. Participation in class

Participating actively in class will help you learn. Ask questions when you do not understand, and join in class or small group discussions. Participation figures in borderline grades.

5. Preparation

- Come to class well-prepared, with your notebook or binder, pens and pencils. You will not need to bring the Ottenheimer textbook to class, but you will need to bring the Blum reader on days when readings from that text have been assigned.
- Do readings when they are assigned, and come to class prepared to discuss them. There will be weekly assignments related to the readings. If you forget your book at home and want to do the readings while you are on campus, you can do the readings in the library, as there is a copy of each textbook on reserve.
- For every hour you spend in class, expect to spend about 2 hours at home studying, reading or working on projects.

6. Reading

Reading is a very important part of learning in this course. If you find that you are having trouble understanding or completing the assigned readings, ask me for extra help. Remember that material in the assigned readings which is not covered in class is fair game for testing.

7. Comprehension

If you are not understanding course material, come and see me right away. I want you to do well in this course, but I cannot help you if I do not let me know that you need help. To be successful, you must be an active participant in your own learning. Remember that there are tutoring services available on campus to help students succeed academically. Visit the following website - <http://bellevuecollege.edu/academicsuccess/> - or look at the separate handout being given out today for more information about what services are available to students. Among the free services available are tutoring and assistance with reading and writing.

Anth 200 Class Expectations

1. Social Science Division Guidelines and Procedures

You are responsible for reading the attached list of the guidelines and procedures of the Social Science Division, which apply to students in this class. Note especially the policies on cheating and plagiarism. If you have any questions about the meaning of these policies, please ask me.

2. Do not submit homework via email, except by prior arrangement

I will not accept homework submitted by email, except by prior arrangement. This class is not set up as an online class. It is a challenge for me to keep track of assignments if they are submitted in different ways by different students.

3. What happens if I know ahead of time that I will have to miss class on a day when there is an exam?

If you are requesting a make-up test, because you know in advance that you will have to be absent on the day of the exam, you will need to write me a note or email **ahead of time** explaining why you need to miss class, and **you will be required to provide appropriate documentation (e.g. medical or legal papers) to explain your absence.** Vacation, attendance at social activities, sleeping in, picking up someone from the airport, etc. are not valid excuses for missing exams and you will not be able to make up exams for these reasons.

4. What happens if I have a last-minute emergency on an exam day?

- If you are too sick to come to campus on the day of an exam, be sure to contact me as soon as possible. If you wait until you are back in class to explain your absence or ask for a make-up test, I will be unable to accommodate your request. Remember that medical papers, such as a doctor's note, are needed to support any such request.
- Any other kind of emergency request will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis. It is always important to contact me as soon as possible. To request an accommodation, you will need to write me a letter stating why you were unable to attend class, evidence to support your claim, and an explanation of why you think I should agree to your request.

5. Project due dates

- Projects must be handed in by the **beginning** of class on the due date. If you know that you will not be able to attend class on the due date, you can turn your project in early to one of the secretaries in the Social Science Division (D110).
- Projects turned in at the end of class on the due date will be docked 5%. Projects turned in after the due date will be docked 10% per day.
- If you believe you have a valid reason for turning a project in late, you may write a letter requesting an exception to the grade deductions. In your letter you should state why your project is late, provide evidence to support your claim, and give an explanation of why you think it is fair that you should get no grade penalty or a reduced grade penalty. There is no guarantee that I will agree to your request.

6. Labs and reading homework:

Worksheets from labs and homework assignments will not be accepted late, except in exceptional circumstances. However, you will be able to miss one lab and one homework assignment without penalty.

7. Students with Disabilities

If you have medical information to share with me in the event of an emergency, please contact me via email or call me. Emergency preparedness is important.

If you need course modifications / adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, I can refer you to our Disability Resource Center (DRC).

If you prefer, you may contact them directly by going to B132 or by calling 425.564.2498 or TTY 425.564.4110. Information is also available on their website at <http://bellevuecollege.edu/drc/>

8. Syllabus Review

You are required to review this syllabus and the attached Social Science Division Procedures and Guidelines. Enrollment in the course constitutes an agreement to abide by the procedures and guidelines set forth in these two items. You will need to sign an agreement that you have read and understood all the procedures and guidelines outlined here.

PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCE DIVISION

Revised Spring 2009

Cheating, Stealing and Plagiarizing*

Cheating, stealing and plagiarizing (using the ideas or words of another as one's own without crediting the source) and inappropriate/disruptive classroom behavior are violations of the Student Code of Conduct at Bellevue Community College. Examples of unacceptable behavior include, but are not limited to: talking out of turn, arriving late or leaving early without a valid reason, allowing cell phones/pagers to ring, and inappropriate behavior toward the instructor or classmates. The instructor can refer any violation of the Student Code of Conduct to the Dean of Student Services for possible probation or suspension from Bellevue Community College. Specific student rights, responsibilities and appeal procedures are listed in the Student Code of Conduct, available in the office of the Dean of Student Services.

Incomplete

If a student fails to complete all the required work for a course, an instructor may assign the grade of Incomplete ("I"). The student must complete the coursework by the end of the next quarter, or receive the assigned letter grade (usually an "F").

F Grade

Students who fail a course will receive a letter grade of "F."

Final Examination Schedule

The Social Science Division will adhere to the final examination schedule as stated in the BCC Schedule. Final examinations will be held at the end of each quarter at fixed times. Instructors will not give examinations in advance of the regular schedule. A student who is absent from any examination held at any time during the quarter may forfeit the right to make up the examination. If, for illness or some other circumstance beyond the student's control, the student is unable to be present at any scheduled examination and has contacted the instructor on a timely basis, the student may be permitted to take such examination at a time designated by the instructor.

Withdrawal From Class

College policy states that students must formally withdraw from a class by the end of the seventh week of the quarter (Registration Office, B125). If a student has not withdrawn by that date, an appropriate letter grade will be assigned for the course.

Hardship Withdrawal

Instructors may assign the grade of "HW" (hardship withdrawal) at their discretion in the event that a student cannot complete the coursework due to extreme and exceptional circumstances. Students may also contact the Enrollment Services office BEFORE grades are assigned in cases of hardship.

Students Who Require Disability Accommodations:

Students with disabilities who have accommodation needs are encouraged to meet with the [Disability Resource Centre](#) (DRC) office located in B132 (telephone 425.564.2498 or TTY 425.564.4110), to establish their eligibility for accommodation. The DRC office will provide each eligible student with an accommodation letter. Students who require accommodation in class should review the DRC accommodation letter with each instructor during the first week of the quarter.

Students with mobility challenges who may need assistance in case of an emergency situation or evacuation should register with [Disability Resource Centre](#), and review those needs with the instructor as well.

Distribution of Grades

Grades will not be posted in the Social Science Division or in faculty offices, and secretaries will not give out grades. Students should access their grades through the BCC Web site.

Return of Papers and Tests

Paper and/or Scantron score sheet returns will be arranged in the following ways ONLY: by mail, if student supplies the instructor with stamped, self-addressed envelope (with appropriate postage); or by the instructor designating a time and place whereby the student may retrieve his/her papers. Unclaimed papers and/or Scantron score sheets must be kept by the instructor for a minimum of sixty (60) instructional days following the end of the quarter.

**If you are accused of cheating, stealing exams and/or plagiarism, there is a Bellevue Community College Student Discipline and Appeals Procedure (the right to due process) which you may pursue. Contact the office of Division Chair (D110), the Dean of Student Services (B231A) or the Associated Student Body (C212) for information regarding the appeals process.*