

Bellevue Community College  
Fall 2008

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

T/Th: 12:30 – 2:40 p.m.  
Item number: 5157  
Room: A109  
5 credits

**Instructor:** Katharine Hunt

**Office:** D200D

**Office Hours:** Before or after class, or by appointment on Tuesday mornings. Call me 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](mailto:khunt@bellevuecollege.edu) See note below:

*If you send me an email, please include "Anth 200" 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. 1<sup>st</sup> edition, 2006.

PLUS: additional readings listed on a separate handout

• **Textbook website**

Our 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.**

These are listed on a separate handout.

• **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 on the course website, accessible via MyBCC.

**You will also need:**

- A packet of Scantrons
- A binder to keep track of handouts

## **Course Description**

The goal of this course is to increase your understanding of human language and the role it plays in our lives. We will be considering a wide range of issues related to language, including the following: the structure of language (at the level of sounds, words and sentences), the role of language in human society, the origin of language and how languages change over time, the relationship between language and culture, how language is acquired by children, and whether other species have languages. By the end of the course I hope you will have an appreciation of the importance of language in our lives, some understanding of the unity and diversity in language systems around the world, and the ability to analyze linguistic data and think critically about linguistic issues.

## **Course Outcomes**

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

1. Distinguish prescriptive from descriptive statements about language.
2. Associate phonetic symbols with sounds, and describe sounds using the parameters of articulatory phonetics.
3. Analyze phonological data in terms of phonemes and allophones.
4. Analyze morphological data in terms of different morpheme types and word formation processes
5. Analyze simple sentences in terms of grammatical function.
6. Explain the problem of assigning meaning to words
7. Identify the role of context in determining the meaning of utterances, and provide examples.
8. Identify and give examples of language variation according to region, social group and register.
9. Explain how non-linguistic factors affect social judgments of regional and social dialects.
10. Explain the relationship between language and culture, and give examples.
11. Explain the comparative method of linguistic reconstruction and apply it to simple data sets.
12. Define what it means for languages to be genetically related, and interpret a tree illustrating genetic relationships among languages.
13. Compare and contrast human and animal communication systems.
14. Identify the problems related to the question of language origin, and describe current approaches to this question.
15. Provide examples of language characteristics which are universal vs. language specific.
16. Describe the stages children pass through when acquiring language, and relate evidence from language acquisition to the issue of universal grammar.

## **General Education Ratings**

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

## Assessment

### Grading

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

<b>3 Exams:</b>	<b>195 points (3 exams @ 65 points each)</b>
<b>Conversation partner project:</b>	<b>55 points</b>
<b>Lab assignments:</b>	<b>45 points</b>
<b>Book review or service learning or ethnography project:</b>	<b>55 points</b>
<b>Reading quizzes:</b>	<b>40 points</b>
<b>Attendance and participation:</b>	<b><u>10 points</u></b>
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>400 points</b>

### Extra credit:

Up to 18 points of extra credit may be earned by meeting with learning communities outside of class. Further details will be provided in class. This will be the only extra credit available for this course.

### 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 – 300 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, October 14

Exam 2: Thursday, November 6

Exam 3: Tuesday, December 9, **11:30 am-1:20 pm**

### 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 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.

## 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. You will write your answers in the spaces provided, so you will not need a blue book.
- 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 pass out 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 will be 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.

### 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.

*More details will be provided during class on Thursday, September 25.*

### Students will choose ONE of the following options:

#### ➤ 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. Tess HelesHunt ([theleshu@bcc.ctc.edu](mailto:theleshu@bcc.ctc.edu)) will be coming to our class 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.

#### ➤ Book review

Students will have the option of reading and reviewing a book about language. The book must be at least 200 pages in length. A list of possible titles will be given out in class. 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. Full instructions will be given on a separate handout.

#### ➤ Ethnography project

Students will have the option of doing a linguistic ethnography project. This will involve doing some library research, and then observing and recording language use in the society around you. You will describe your observations, and relate them to linguistic issues discussed in class. You may work in pairs for this project. Full instructions will be given on a separate handout.

**Reading Quizzes**

To ensure that everyone is keeping up with the assigned reading, there will be weekly quizzes about the readings. Some of these will be taken from the textbook website, and others will be questions written by me or by students in the class.

**Attendance**

It is very important that you attend class regularly. 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 18 points) will be assigned for attending group meetings outside of class. More details are 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. 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.

### **2. 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.

### **3. 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.

### **4. Preparation**

- Come to class well-prepared, with your notebook or binder, pens and pencils. You will usually not need to bring your textbooks to class. I will let you know when it will be necessary.
- Do readings when they are assigned, and come to class prepared to discuss them. There will be weekly quizzes about the readings.
- For every hour you spend in class, expect to spend about 2 hours at home studying, reading or working on projects.

### **5. 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 readings which is not covered in class is fair game for testing.

### **6. 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/> - for more information. Among the free services available are tutoring and assistance with reading and writing.

## Anth 200 Class Expectations

### 1. Make-up work

#### i. Getting approval

- **Prior** approval to miss an exam or other class assignments is necessary. You must take the first step by contacting me to explain the nature of your absence as soon as possible.
- You can contact me in any of the following ways:
  - by email ([khunt@bcc.ctc.edu](mailto:khunt@bcc.ctc.edu))
  - by telephone (425-564-4189)
  - by a written request given to me in class or handed in at the Social Science Division in D110
- When you contact me, be sure to leave adequate contact information so that I can respond to your request.
- Talking to me before or after class is not sufficient as I cannot give your request my full attention at that time.
- Do not wait until after the fact to ask for an extension or to explain your absence from an exam. You need to contact me as soon as a problem arises, prior to the due date, in order to have your request considered.

#### ii. Supporting your request

- If you are requesting a make-up test or assignment, **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 class work and you will not be able to make up class assignments for these reasons.
- If you are too sick to come to campus on the day of an exam, be sure to contact me right away. 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.

### 2. Projects and homework

Projects and any other homework 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).

Late work will not be accepted, except in exceptional circumstances where **prior** approval has been granted. Follow the procedures in the "make-up work" section if you feel you have a valid reason to request an extension.

### 3. 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.

### 4. 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/>

**5. 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.



**Calendar of due dates and special events, and TENTATIVE schedule of topics**

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>
<b>9/23 – 9/25</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction to the course</li> <li>• Group formation</li> <li>• Reading: Chapter 1 plus reading 1 from list</li> <li>• Phonetic alphabet</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Language and Culture</li> <li>• Introduction to class projects</li> <li>• Discuss Learning Communities</li> <li>• Lab 1</li> <li>• Reading: Chapter 2 plus reading 2 from list</li> </ul>
<b>9/30 – 10/2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chapter 1 quiz</li> <li>• Language and Culture</li> <li>• Lab 2</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lab 3 - In-class debate: <b>The Sapir Whorf Hypothesis</b></li> <li>• Phonetics</li> <li>• Reading: Chapter 3, pp. 33-46</li> <li>• Chapter 2 quiz</li> </ul>
<b>10/7 – 10/9</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Phonology</li> <li>• Reading: Chapter 3, pp. 46-55</li> <li>• Lab 4</li> </ul>	<b>Exam 1</b>
<b>10/14 – 10/16</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Morphology/Syntax</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Syntax</li> </ul>
<b>10/21 – 10/23</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ethnography of Communication</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Language and Society: regional dialects</li> </ul>
<b>10/28 – 10/30</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Conversation partner project due</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Language and Society: Ebonics</li> </ul>
<b>11/4 – 11/6</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Exam 2</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Language and Society: gender and social class</li> </ul>
<b>11/11 – 11/13</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>NO CLASS</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Language change over time</li> </ul>
<b>11/18 – 11/20</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Language Acquisition</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Properties of language</li> </ul>
<b>11/25 – 11/27</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sign Language/Language and Animals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NO CLASS</li> </ul>
<b>12/2 – 12/4</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Book reviews/service learning write-ups/ethnographies due</b></li> <li>• <b>Short presentations about your project</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Doing Linguistic Anthropology</li> </ul>
<b>12/9</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>EXAM 3: 11:30 – 1:20</b></li> <li>• Note that exam is one hour earlier than regular class time.</li> </ul>	

**PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCE DIVISION**  
**Revised Spring 2008**

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.

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*\*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.*