

Bellevue Community College
Winter 2008

Anth 200
Language, Culture and Society

T/Th: 12:30 – 2:40 p.m.
Room: D101
5 credits

Instructor: Katharine Hunt

Office: D200D

Office Hours: Before or after class, or by appointment. 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: D100 (Social Science Division Office)

Email: khunt@bcc.ctc.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 email homework assignments to me, except by prior arrangement.

Course Materials

- Textbooks:
Ottenheimer, Harriet.

The Anthropology of Language: An Introduction to Linguistic Anthropology Thomson, Wadsworth. 1st edition, 2006.

Linguistic Anthropology Workbook and Reader, Thomson, Wadsworth. 1st edition, 2006.

Textbook website: Our textbook has an associated website which will be useful to you. Go to the Wadsworth website (http://anthropology.wadsworth.com/ottenheimer_language), and select "Student book companion site" on the right. You can then select the chapter you are interested in, and choose from a list of resources relevant to that chapter, such as quizzes, flashcards and weblinks.

- Class handouts
- Readings on reserve in the library and/or on the web.
- Course website: I will post electronic copies of most class handouts on the course website, accessible via MyBCC.

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 phrase structure and 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.

Assessment

Grading

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

3 Exams:	210 points (70 points for each exam)
Project:	100 points
In-class lab assignments:	40 points (8 group assignments @ 5 points each)
Group presentations/research projects OR service learning:	40 points
Attendance:	<u>10 points</u>
TOTAL:	400 points

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

Up to 15 points of extra credit may be earned by meeting with learning communities outside of class. Details are provided later in the syllabus.

Dates of Exams

Exam 1: Tuesday, January 22

Exam 2: Tuesday, February 19

Exam 3: Thursday, March 20, **11:30 – 1:20**

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 the Course Evaluation

Exams:

- Part of each exam will include 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.
- Part of each exam will involve 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.
- 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 activities or discussions conducted during class time. They will usually occur during the second hour of class on Thursdays. Since the hands-on learning in labs cannot be replaced, it is important not to miss labs. In addition, lab worksheets will be turned in for credit.

Independent Projects:

Over the course of the quarter each student will work on an independent project, which will be turned in three times during the quarter. Students will be able to choose one of the following:

- Language creation:** This project will involve making up a language of your own, focusing on the different elements of language we cover in the course, such as sounds, words, syntax, writing system and social rules.
- Language analysis project:** This 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, grammar and social rules.

More details will be provided during class on Tuesday, January 8.

Group Presentation or Service Learning

Each student will also participate in either a group research project leading to a short class presentation, or in a service learning project. More details will be provided on January 8.

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.

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. 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 later in the syllabus.

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.

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 assigned readings before you come to class and be prepared to discuss them. I will call on students to answer questions about assigned 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, look at the reading tips later in the syllabus. 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 don't know you need help or want 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.

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.

Students participating in learning communities typically report that the experience has enhanced their learning, improved their grades in the class and made their class experience more enjoyable. I hope many of you will choose to participate.

Guidelines for group formation

Students will be responsible for forming their own learning communities, but I will do anything I can to facilitate this process. I will allow time at the end of class on January 10 for students to exchange schedules, as well as email addresses and/or phone numbers. Please contact me if you have any problems or questions about finding a learning community.

Please consider the following points when forming groups:

- Group membership will be determined largely by scheduling.
- Groups should have 4 -6 members.
- Groups must be inclusive: i.e. any class member may join any group which forms.
- Groups should ideally mix native speakers of English with native speakers of other languages.

Finding a place to meet:

Groups can meet in any mutually convenient location. Groups wishing to meet on campus may book a room in the library (D240A). Contact one of the librarians about scheduling this room for your meetings.

Getting credit for your meetings:

Students can receive up to 18 points (3 points per meeting) of extra credit for participating in a learning community, subject to the following rules:

- a. To get credit for a meeting, three or more members meet for at least 30 minutes outside of class.
- b. After each meeting one member must send me an email (khunt@bcc.ctc.edu) stating what time you met, what topics were discussed and which students were present. All group members should be copied on the mail to ensure the list of students present is accurate. Please also turn in a sign-in sheet at the next class meeting listing the names of those present.
- c. To Meetings must be spread out across the quarter – 1-2 meetings before Exam 1, 1-2 meetings before Exam 2 and/or 1-2 meetings before Exam 3.
- d. Topics discussed must relate to class topics. Ask me if you want suggestions.
- e. There will be a maximum of 18 points (i.e. 6 meetings). Of course you are free to meet more frequently, but you will not get extra credit for these meetings.

→ more guidelines on next page...

Guidelines for participation:

- If you commit to a learning community, be sure to go the meetings. If you cannot make it, contact the other group members so that they don't wait for you.
- Be on time.
- Bring materials such as paper, pencils and texts.
- Be respectful of all group members.
- Share notes taken during class or handouts.
- Focus on the topic/s being discussed.
- If during the study group session you are unclear about a topic, write it down and bring it to the next class session or email me with the question.

Please let me know if you feel that your group is not working out well, and I will try to help you resolve any problems, or reassign you to a different group if necessary.

Anth 200 Class Expectations

1. Make-up work

Prior approval to miss an exam or other class assignments is necessary. You must take the first step by contacting me either by email (khunt@bcc.ctc.edu) or by telephone (425-564-4189) to explain the nature of your absence. Talking to me before or after class is not sufficient as I cannot give your request my full attention at that time. When you contact me, be sure to leave adequate contact information so that I can respond to 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.

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 (D100). 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 policies set forth in these two items.

Some tips for better reading

When you have a lot of material to read, it can be challenging, especially for students for whom English is not a native language. Here are some tips to help you with reading:

1. **Preview:** Before you start to read, preview the reading. This means that you should look over the reading to get some idea of what it is about. Look at the title, section headings, pictures, captions and diagrams. Read the first and last paragraphs.
2. **Scan:** Often you do not really need all the information in an article – you just need certain kinds of information. In this case, you can SCAN for particular information.
3. **Skimming:** You may want to know everything that is covered in an article, but you may not have time to read it all carefully. Or maybe you have already read the article, but you want to reread it to remind yourself about the main ideas. In this case you might want to SKIM the article. Sometimes it is useful to skim an article before you read it carefully, so that you know the main ideas it will cover.

Active reading:

If you have to read a long article in detail, it can be hard to stay focused! Here are some tips to help make you an **active** reader.

1. **Preview (see above)**
2. **Question:** For each section, write a question you expect to be able to answer after reading it.
3. **Read to answer the questions:** Read the section, trying to find the answer to the questions. You may need to write a different question to answer after you read the section.
4. **Underline/Highlight:** As you read, underline or highlight important parts and note key words in the margins if you have a photocopy or your own copy of a book! Otherwise, take notes of important words and ideas.

PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCE DIVISION
Revised Fall 2007

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 Center (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 DSS 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 Support Services, 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.*

Syllabus Receipt Form

Anthropology 200
Winter Quarter 2008
Instructor: Katharine Hunt

I, _____, acknowledge that I have read and understood the syllabus for this course. I agree to abide by the policies outlined in the syllabus.

Signature: _____

Date:

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