

ANTH 514 / LING 598

ANTHROPOLOGICAL LINGUISTICS

FALL 2025 Tu+Th 3:00-3:15 STON 217
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OBJECTIVES—After surveying the philosophy, evolution, structure, function, content, and varieties of human cognition and meaning-making, this course focuses on: (1) the role of language and languaging (speech, sign) in all socio-cultural research; and (2) the types of research on and with language and languages and languaging (speech, sign), and linguistics, as these are realized in, and realizing, culture, society, cognition. Emphasis is given to the nature and uses of classification in general, on universal patterns evident in language, in languaging, on translation and translatability, and on the nondeterminate properties of emergence in dynamical systems generally.

TOPICAL SYNOPSIS—

INFORMATION, LANGUAGE, COMMUNICATION, and SIGNIFICATION (MEANING-MAKING).
INTERFACE OF LANGUAGE, CULTURE, SOCIETY, BEHAVIOR, and COGNITION.
LANGUAGE IN RESEARCH; RESEARCH ON LANGUAGE.

APPROACHES OF 'HYBRID' LINGUISTICS and CONTEMPORARY ISSUES, INCLUDING:

Ontogeny and phylogeny of language and speech; Space and time, continuity and change, markedness and emergence; Socioculturological construction of 'reality', 'subjectivity', 'objectivity', and 'power'; Orality and literacy, hegemonic structures and functions; Relativity and universality in language, culture, and cognition; Semiotic considerations of induction, deduction, and abduction.

SOME TEXTS WHICH MAY BE SELECTIVELY OR COLLECTIVELY TAPPED—

- Anthony, David W. (2007) The horse, the wheel, and language: How bronze-age riders from the Eurasian steppes shaped the modern world. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Battistella, Edwin L. (1990). Markedness: The evaluative superstructure of language. Albany: SUNY.
- Briggs, Charles L. (1986) Learning how to ask: A sociolinguistic appraisal of the role of ... Cambridge: CUP.
- Deacon, Terrence W. (1997). The symbolic species: The co-evolution of language and the brain. NY: W.W. N.
- Durst-Andersen, Per, and Elsebeth F. Lange, editors (2009) Mentality and thought: North, south, east, and west. Copenhagen: Copenhagen Business School Press.
- Fernyhough, Charles (2016) The voices within: The history and science of how we talk to ourselves. London: PB.
- Foley, William A. (1997). Anthropological linguistics: An introduction. London: Blackwell.
- Goody, Jack (1999). The power of the written tradition. Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution Press.
- Halliday, M.A.K. (2007) Language and society. Volume 10, Collective Works of M.A.K. Halliday. NY: Continuum.
- Harrison, K. David (2008) When languages die: The extinction of the world's languages and ... Oxford: OUP.
- Heller-Roazen, Daniel (2008) Echolalias: On the forgetting of language. Cambridge: MIT Press (Zone Books).
- Howes, David (2009) The sixth sense reader. Oxford: Berg.
- Jackendoff, Ray (2012) A user's guide to thought and meaning. Oxford: Oxford U. Press.
- Lakoff, George, and Mark Johnson (1999) Philosophy in the flesh: The embodied mind... New York: Basic.
- Lee, Benjamin (1998) Talking heads: Language, metalanguage, and the semiotics of subjectivity. Raleigh: DU.
- McNeill, David (2012) How language began: Gesture and speech in human evolution. NY: Cambridge UP.
- Ostler, Nicholas (2005) Empires of the word: A language history of the world. NY: HarperCollins.
- Polkinghorne, Donald E. (1988) Narrative knowing and the human sciences. Albany: SUNY Press.
- Quinn, Naomi, ed. (2005) Finding culture in talk: A collection of methods. New York: Macmillan.
- Ramachandran, V.S. (2011) The tell-tale brain: A neuroscientist's quest for what makes us human. NY: W.W.N.
- Sheets-Johnstone, Maxine (2012) The roots of morality. University Park: Penn State University Press.
- Tomasello, Michael (2008) Origins of human communication. Cambridge: MIT Press.
- Wierzbicka, Anna (2006) English: Meaning and culture. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Wilden, Anthony (1980/1972) System and structure: Essays in communication and exchange. NY: Methuen.
- Williams, Raymond (1983/1976) Keywords: A vocabulary of culture and society. New York: Oxford UP.
- Wilson, Frank (1998) The hand: How its use shapes the brain, language, and human culture. NY: Pantheon.