What is this course about?

Anthropology looks at humans and their place in the world. A big part of our world is the culture we grow up in and other cultures we meet along our way. Culture both shapes and is shaped by the language spoken. To truly understand humans and the diverse perspectives found among us, we need to understand how culture, language, power, and identity interact.

Why should I take this course?

This course fulfills 3 units of the GE Social Science requirement in earning your Associate Degree or transferring to CSU or UC. A few of you may also need it for your major. Yay Anthro majors!

More importantly, the more you know about how language influences our thoughts, behaviors, and interactions the better equipped you are to navigate a diverse and increasingly interconnected world.

After completing this course, you will be able to evaluate language and communication using an anthropological perspective.
What tools do I need for this class?

The book you need for this class is *Anthropology of Language* 3rd edition, by Harriet J. Ottenheimer, 2012. It is available from the LAVC bookstore, as well as online vendors and the publisher. This text is also on reserve in the library. Other things I’ll ask you to read will be posted in our Canvas site.

To access all the other class materials, like lectures and assignments, login to Canvas - [https://ilearn.instructure.com/login/canvas](https://ilearn.instructure.com/login/canvas). Your username is your student ID number and your password is 88 + month + day you were born (e.g., 880601 for June 1, 1988).

How is this class organized?

There are three units to this course. The first unit looks at how our culture shapes and is shaped by our language and the building blocks that create language. The second unit considers how language evolved and how our brains acquire and learn language. The third part of the course will look at the intersection between culture, identity, and power within our patterns of communication. Each unit will include several smaller weekly assignments or discussions and end with a unit exam to show me what you’ve learned. Arching across the three units are two larger projects that let you use your new knowledge in creative ways.

To keep you on track, all weekly material is located via the Course Content button on the home page. This will take you to the Modules (one for each week) that hold the lessons, links to the assignments, discussions, and when relevant, to the exam or project. You can also track the schedule of due dates and topics by clicking on the Syllabus link in the left hand column.

New Modules (with all the associated bits) will open each week at 8am on Sunday and are due the following Sunday at 11pm. Discussions also have a mid-week due date so that everyone starts talking by Thursday 11pm, with final contributions to the discussion due Sunday at 11pm. Canvas has a handy tool called “Course Stream” on the right hand side of the home page that shows upcoming due dates.
How does that translate into my grade?

- **Unit Exams (300 points):** Three unit exams, covering new material since the previous exam. Exams will consist of multiple-choice questions and short answer essay questions.

- **Two Projects (200 points):** Each project will be worth 100 points and be the result of several stages of work. More detailed instructions to come!

- **Discussions & Assignments (150 points):** Learning any new skill requires practice, and these smaller weekly activities will help you prepared for the exams and projects.

A total of 650 points may be earned. Final points required for specific final grades are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>585 – 650</td>
<td>90 – 100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>520 – 584</td>
<td>80 – 89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>455 – 519</td>
<td>70 – 79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>390 – 454</td>
<td>60 – 69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0 – 389</td>
<td>0 – 59%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

You will be able to see all the points you earn in Canvas and keep track of how you are doing in the class. Please ask if you have any questions and let me know if you are having trouble as soon as possible. I can’t help if I don’t know anything is wrong!

What if I need an accommodation?

If you are a student with a disability requiring classroom accommodations, and have not contacted SSD, please do so in a timely manner. SSD is located in the Student Services Annex, Room 175 or call SSD at (818) 947-2681 or TTD (818) 947-2680 to meet with an SSD counselor. If SSD has already sent the memo confirming the accommodations you need, please meet or email with me to discuss arrangements.

Where can I go for help?

There are many different programs available on campus to help students in different situations. Please visit the [LAVC Special Programs](http://www.lavc.edu/lavcspecialprograms) webpage for more information on these great programs.

LAVC offers tutoring in Anthropology (and other subjects) and help with writing assignments. Visit the [General Tutoring](http://www.lavc.edu/generaltutoring) webpage and the [Writing Center](http://www.lavc.edu/writingcenter) webpage for more information and schedules. Writing tutors can help via email, not just in person! Check out NetTutor via Canvas, as well.

**Service Learning** extra credit is available for this class. Please talk to me if you are interested and contact Dr. Brossman. [http://www.lavc.edu/servicelearning](http://www.lavc.edu/servicelearning)

**Financial Aid** is available! Call (818) 947-2412. Go to the Financial Aid Office in the Student Services Center. For more info: [http://www.lavc.edu/financialaid/index.html](http://www.lavc.edu/financialaid/index.html)

And don’t forget – I’m here to help you too! Anytime you have questions, need help, or want to chat, stop by or send me a message.
What are the rules?
In this class I hope everyone will feel comfortable sharing ideas, personal examples, and questions. To support everyone’s learning, please write and interact professionally as appropriate to a classroom setting. Stay focused on course material. Treat others with respect and generosity, even if you do not agree. I will speak privately with anyone who’s behavior is not following these guidelines.

Plagiarism is the use of others’ words and/or ideas without clearly acknowledging their source. When you incorporate those words and ideas into your own work, you must give credit where credit is due.

Plagiarism, intentional or unintentional, is considered academic dishonesty and is not ok. Anyone found to be plagiarizing or cheating on assignments (e.g., copying or giving answers, using ‘crib’ sheets, cutting and pasting text from websites or copying text from written sources, paying someone to write a paper for you) will (1) receive a zero on the assignment, and (2) be referred to the Vice President of Student Services for further disciplinary action, following due process. For further information on plagiarism and how to avoid doing it please visit the Writing Center website: [www.lavc.edu/WCweb/plagiarism.html](http://www.lavc.edu/WCweb/plagiarism.html)

How do I stay in – or get out of – the class?
Since I will only be “seeing” you online, the way I can tell you are actively participating in the class is when you participate in the discussions and submit assignments. During the first two weeks of the semester these are particularly important! Please don’t miss any assignments – I won’t know you are still interested in the class and you will fall behind.

I will check in if I see you missing things, and may drop you if you don’t respond. But it’s ultimately your responsibility to drop any course you are not attending. If you stop participating in this class and do not officially drop the class through the Admissions and Records Office, you will receive an ‘F’ for your final grade. And I know neither of us wants that – let me know if things come up and you need help.

Important Campus Dates
Labor Day Holiday
Last day to drop classes without a fee or “w”/with refund Veteran’s Day Holiday
Last day to drop classes with a “w”
Thanksgiving Holiday
Final exams week

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Labor Day Holiday</td>
<td>Monday September 5th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last day to drop classes</td>
<td>Sunday September 11th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last day to drop classes with</td>
<td>Friday November 11th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“w”</td>
<td>Sunday November 20th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>November 24th – 27th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final exams week</td>
<td>December 12th – 18th</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What Happens When?
“Weeks” run from 8am Sunday to 11pm the following Sunday.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Reading</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1    | Aug 28  | Welcome & Introduction Language & Cultural Meaning pt1 | D: Introductions  
D: Cultural Models | Ot:Ch 1 & 2 |
| 2    | Sep 4   | Language & Cultural Meaning pt2            | D: Ethnosemantics                               |                       |
| 3    | Sep 11  | Language Sounds                            | A: Phonology & Phonetics  
D: Language Creation pt1 | Ot: Ch 3 |
| 4    | Sep 18  | Language Structure                         | A: Morphology & Syntax  
D: Language Creation pt2 | Ot: Ch 4 |
| 5    | Sep 25  | Nonverbal Communication & Signed Languages | D: Gesture & Body Language  
D: Language Creation pt3  
Exam 1 | Ch 5  
Hickey & Thompson |
| 6    | Oct 2   | Evolution of Language & Primate Comparisons | A: Design Features of Language  
D: Origins of Language | Ot: Ch 8  
NS: Instant Expert |
| 7    | Oct 9   | Language Acquisition                       | D: Language Acquisition Theories                |                       |
| 8    | Oct 16  | Language Learning Across Cultures          | A: Plagiarism Tutorial  
D: Learning Language | Ochs & Schieffelin |
| 9    | Oct 23  | Communicative Competence                   | D: SPEAK Analysis                               | Ot: Ch 6 |
| 10   | Oct 30  | Collecting data on language use            | A: Data Methods  
Exam 2 | TBA |
| 11   | Nov 6   | Language Change                            | D: Disappearing Languages  
A: Ethnolinguistic Proposal | Ot: Ch 9 to pg 312 |
| 12   | Nov 13  | Languages in Contact                       | D: Languages in Contact: Mock Spanish | Ot: Ch 9 pg 313 to end Hill |
| 13   | Nov 20  | Language & Power – Gender                  | D: Language & Gender  
A: Ethnolinguistic Transcripts | Ot: Ch 10 |
| 14   | Nov 27  | Language & Power – Race                    | D: Language & Race(ism) | Ot: Ch 10 |
| 15   | Dec 4   | Verbal Folklore                            | D: Folklore Fieldtrip  
A: Ethnolinguistic Paper | TBA |
| 16   | Dec 11  | Finals Week                                | Exam 3 |                       |