Subject Description Form

Subject Code	APSS1820
Subject Title	Anthropology and Language
Credit Value	3
Level	1
Pre-requisite/ Co-requisite/ Exclusion	Nil

Assessment Methods			
	100% Continuous Assessment	Individual Assessment	Group Assessment
	Diary / Coursework	25 %	
	Written Assignment	50 %	
	Performance in Collaborative Tasks		25 %

- The grade is calculated according to the percentage assigned;
- The completion and submission of all component assignments are required for passing the subject; and
- Student must pass all component(s) if he/she is to pass the subject.

| **Objectives** | This course introduces anthropological concepts and approaches and applies them to the study of language in sociocultural contexts. It is hoped that this course stimulates students to think of anthropology as an exciting subject that can illuminate upon thoughts, feelings and experiences that might otherwise be taken-for-granted.

More specifically, this course explores such matters as how language does not simply reflect the world (or 'reality') but instead conditions, and perhaps even shapes, how the world 'out there' is perceived. We will also be concerned with how, although we are born with the ability to learn languages, the contexts in which we learn and use them are culturally and socially mediated. Accordingly, in order to understand the role of language in people's lives, it is insufficient to study their grammar. Instead, it is important to consider how words, and other forms of language, are embedded in, and constitutive of, sociocultural and discursive contexts. |
|---|---|
| **Intended Learning Outcomes** *(Note 1)* | Upon completion of the subject, students are able to:
a) Possess some familiarity with anthropological theories and concepts, especially those relating to the study of language in sociocultural contexts;
b) Apply concepts & theories in order to describe, and assess, how language works in 'real' situations; and
c) Have begun to critically engage with anthropological approaches and communicate viewpoints both orally and in written form. |

Subject Synopsis/ Indicative Syllabus *(Note 2)*	1. An Invitation to Anthropology & Course 2. Semiotic / Linguistic Landscapes 3. Listening to and for What is not Said 4. Why Words Might Matter 5. The Ethnography of Communication 6. Introducing Discourse & Discourse Analysis: The Power of, and behind, Discourse 7. Analyzing Conversations / Research Project Simulation 8. Multilingualism 9. Individual Research Projects 10. Individual Research Projects 11. Does language create identities for persons or do persons create identities through language? 12. Do the limits of my language mean the limits of my world? 13. Why does Language Matter to Anthropology and Why Might Anthropology Matter?
Teaching/Learning Methodology *(Note 3)*	There will be a "lecture" each week. This will seek to clarify the main points of the unit / key readings. Sometimes student discussion and / or short audio-visual resources will be incorporated into this lecture when they might facilitate learning outcomes. There will also be a tutorial class. Students will take roles in leading the discussion. Classes will also contain a session reviewing and developing ideas from the previous class. The core of the class will be interactive tutorials. These will include some of the following activities: • Reviewing & developing ideas from the lecture • Discussions summarizing key / core readings • Watching, and reflecting upon, videos • Guided applied exercises • Realistic (or simulation) exercises to facilitate students' understanding of, and ability to use, and apply, specific methods / concepts

Specific assessment methods/tasks	% weighting	a	b	c	
1. Diary / Coursework	25%	√	√	√	
2. Written Assignment	50%	√	√	√	
3. Performance in Collaborative Tasks	25%	√	√	√	
Total	100 %				

Assessment Methods in Alignment with Intended Learning Outcomes *(Note 4)*

Explanation of the appropriateness of the assessment methods in assessing the intended learning outcomes:

For diary / coursework, students should make a weekly report to summarize, develop and apply the points discussed in lectures & tutorials. Although this should be submitted as one document in the final week, students should upload their ideas to a discussion board on blackboard each week. There is no specific word requirement, but students should aim to write at least 300 words. At the very least, students should submit entries for at least half of the units covered on the course.

For written assignments, students are required to construct one mini research paper. This requires students to describe, analyze, interpret and reflect upon language they see, hear or observe but record in a 'natural' setting.
For performance in collaborative tasks, groups will be given materials to record and self-assess their own engagement with the course. Students will also be assigned roles / responsibilities in tutorial classes. Individual effort will be considered. Put differently, positive contributions by individual students will be rewarded.

The completion and submission of all component assignments is required in order to pass the subject.

Student Study Effort Required

Class contact:	
▪ Lecture / tutorial	39Hrs.
Other student study effort:	
▪ Class Preparation / Review	39 Hrs.
▪ Assignment Preparation	40 Hrs.
Total student study effort	118 Hrs.

Medium of Instruction

English

Medium of Assessment

English

Reading List and References	**Essential**
	Agar, M. (1994). *Language Shock: Understanding the Culture of Conversation*. New York: HarperCollins.
	Ahearn, L.M. (2012). *Living Language: An Introduction to Linguistic Anthropology*. Malden and Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell.
	Duranti, A. (ed.) (2001). *Key Terms in Language and Culture*. Malden and Oxford: Blackwell.
	Ottenheimer, H.J. (2013). *The Anthropology of Language: An Introduction to Linguistic Anthropology*. Belmont: Wadsworth.
	Salzmann, Z.; Stanlaw, J.; and Adachi, N. (2012). *Language, Culture and Society: An Introduction to Linguistic Anthropology*. Boulder: Westview.
	Supplementary
	Bonvillain, N. (ed.) (2016). *The Routledge Handbook of Linguistic Anthropology*. New York: Routledge.
	Duranti, A. (2004). *A Companion to Linguistic Anthropology*. Oxford: Blackwell.
	Enfield, N.J.; Kockelman, P. and Sidnell, J. (eds.) (2014). *The Cambridge Handbook of Linguistic Anthropology*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
	Journals
	Discourse and Society
	Journal of Linguistic Anthropology
	Language in Society
	Online Resources
	All about Linguistics (http://all-about-linguistics.group.shef.ac.uk/)
	Linguistic Anthropology Teaching Resources (http://teach.linguisticanthropology.org/)

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