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

Anthropology is a rich, diverse and exciting subject—it asks (and tries to answer) some of the big questions arising from human existence albeit while deriving many insights from careful attention to and observation of small places, often through intensive, immersive and embodied methods. This course introduces students to some of the central concepts, theories and methods that animate anthropology, especially focusing upon those relating to sociocultural and linguistic anthropology. This course provides opportunities to link these concepts, theories and methods to "real" life. Specifically, students may think anew, and afresh, about things they might otherwise have taken-for-granted and seen as "normal", and "natural".

This course introduces anthropological concepts and approaches, and specifically applies them to the study of language in sociocultural contexts, although our definition of "language" on this course is very broad. This course explores such matters as how language does not simply reflect the world (or "reality") but instead conditions, and perhaps even shapes, how persons perceive the world 'out there'. Most importantly, this course asks students to appreciate that in order to understand language it is insufficient to study grammar. Therefore, we must break the "circle around language", as Michael Agar puts it (1994: 20). Specifically, 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 will be able to: a) Possess some familiarity with anthropological theories, concepts and methods, especially those relating to the study of language in sociocultural contexts; b) Apply concepts & theories in order to describe, and assess (as well as interpret), how language works in real situations; and c) Have started to think anthropologically and be able to communicate viewpoints both orally and in written form.
Subject Synopsis/ Indicative Syllabus *(Note 2)*	**Part 1: Getting Started, Learning the Craft** 1. What is Anthropology? Introduction to Course 2. How to do Anthropology 1? Special focus upon Participant Observation (and fieldnotes). Why do Anthropology? **Part 2: Encountering / Exploring Language** 3. Language 1: Information, Gossip, Narrative and the Social / Linguistic Construction of Reality 4. Language 2: Breaking the Circle, and Tracing Connections between language and "the world" 5. What is not said: Reading Space, Bodies, Clothing, Gazes (or Staring / Avoidances) and Silences 6. How to study Language in Social Contexts: The Ethnography of SPEAKING **Part 3: In-depth Studies of Language outside the Circle** 7. Assignment Preparation Workshop 8. Reading Week 9. Reading "Space" and "Place" 10. Language and Identity 1: An Introduction 11. Language, Ideology and Discourse in Media (and the Mediated Construction of (Hyper)-Reality): Introducing Critical Discourse Analysis 12. Language and Identity 2: Gender / Ethnicity 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 interactive tutorial classes. These will include some of the following activities: • Reviewing & developing ideas from the lecture • Discussions summarizing key / core readings • Student-led discussions • Guided applied exercises • Realistic (or simulation) exercises to facilitate students' understanding of, and ability to use, and apply, specific methods / concepts

Assessment Methods in Alignment with Intended Learning Outcomes *(Note 4)*	Specific assessment methods/tasks	% weighting	a	b	c	
	1. Ongoing assessment	25%	√	√	√	
	2. Written Assignment	50%	√	√	√	
	3. Performance in Collaborative Tasks	25%	√	√	√	
	Total	100 %				

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

For ongoing assessment, 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. Students should submit four of these reports.

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 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	26 Hrs.
	▪ Tutorial	13 Hrs.
	Other student study effort:	
	▪ Class preview / review	39 Hrs.
	▪ Assignment preparation	40 Hrs.
	Total student study effort	118 Hrs.

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

Note 1: Intended Learning Outcomes
Intended learning outcomes should state what students should be able to do or attain upon completion of the subject. Subject outcomes are expected to contribute to the attainment of the overall programme outcomes.

Note 2: Subject Synopsis/ Indicative Syllabus
The syllabus should adequately address the intended learning outcomes. At the same time over-crowding of the syllabus should be avoided.

Note 3: Teaching/Learning Methodology
This section should include a brief description of the teaching and learning methods to be employed to facilitate learning, and a justification of how the methods are aligned with the intended learning outcomes of the subject.

Note 4: Assessment Method
This section should include the assessment method(s) to be used and its relative weighting, and indicate which of the subject intended learning outcomes that each method purports to assess. It should also provide a brief explanation of the appropriateness of the assessment methods in assessing the intended learning outcomes.