# Anthropology 104:
# Human Language and Communication

(Section 8011, On-line, 3 units - UC/CSU transferable)

Mary Hardy, Adjunct Assistant Professor

**Office hour**:  Wednesdays, 6:00-7:00 pm, Pacific Standard Time (PST) in the Chat Room, & by appointment

**Email:  hardymp@wlac.edu**

To contact me during our course, please use the **Private Message (PM)** feature in ETUDES, rather than my West email.  From the left hand menu, click on "Discussions and Private Messages."  Then click on "Private Messages" at the top.

# Course Description

In this intensive 8-week introductory course in Linguistic Anthropology, we survey the variety of ways humans communicate both verbally and non-verbally. The course provides an overview of the evolution, history, structure, and function of language, and delves into how language, culture, society, and communicative meaning interconnect.

**Course Goals**

- To explore the many aspects and uses of language in cultures and societies
- To recognize and appreciate the diversity of communicative practices around the block and across the globe
- To learn how to interpret and assess anthropological texts
- To practice anthropology, by conducting a mini field project in a speech community, writing a brief report, and presenting findings to peers
- To improve communication skills

**Student Learning Outcome**

- Write using a phonetic alphabet to represent sounds in speech.

We will work toward the following **Institutional Student Learning Outcomes**:

**A. Critical Thinking: Analyze problems by differentiating fact from opinions, using evidence, and using sound reasoning to specify multiple solutions and their consequences.**  Students will apply critical thinking skills to comprehend and evaluate primary and secondary texts in linguistic anthropology.  The instructor will assess

students' progress toward this outcome through weekly required class discussions and tests (see course requirements for details).

**G. Cultural Diversity: Respectfully engage with other cultures in an effort to understand them.** Students will participate in activities designed to recognize and appreciate the diversity of communicative practices within their own communities and throughout the world. The instructor will assess students' progress toward this outcome through weekly required class discussions, tests, and one ethnographic project (see course requirements for details).

**Notice from Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSP&S)**

Students with disabilities who believe they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact the Disabled Students Programs and Services located in the Student Services Building, Room 320. For information, contact DSP&S at (310) 287-4450 as soon as possible to better ensure such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion. DSP&S webpage: http://www.wlac.edu/dsps/index.html

# Course Requirements

## Discussions

Three categories of discussions are available for student participation. All discussions can be accessed from the left hand menu in our class site. Click on "Discussions and Private Messages" to see two 'Main' discussion categories, "Required Class Discussions" & "Questions" and one 'Other' category, "Student Lounge."

**1) "Required Class Discussions"** is the place for you to participate in eight graded class discussions on topics posed by me, covering readings, modules, and videos. This forum allows us to interact and build a community of scholars. To earn up to 10 points each week you will need to participate in the following discussions by the due dates:

> **Discussion (Part One):** post a thoughtful reply to my query, following the directions I provide *no later than Saturday at 2:00 pm PST*. I suggest writing your response in a word processing program and then pasting your answer into the appropriate textbox for submission. Please adjust your margins to fit in the text box (i.e., left = standard; right = 2.5 inches). (worth 7 points each)

> **Discussion (Part Two):** in a separate submission, comment on a classmate's response *no later than Sunday at 2:00 pm PST*. You may reply to questions posed, reflect on, and/or agree or disagree with a classmate's comments. Please

always be respectful and polite.  Back up your position with data.  For example, if you agree with someone's commentary, explain why and add to the strength of the student's remarks, or provide a new wrinkle on a theme, by offering new corroborating or confounding information. (worth 3 points each – Please note:  you will not earn all 3 points by writing, "I agree!" or "Great idea!")

Submit both your response to my original question and your reply to a student's comment by the due dates. **After Sunday at 2:00 pm, the discussion will be locked, submissions cannot be accepted, and no points can be awarded.**  If you wish to engage in a more extended dialogue with others, feel free.  (For example, you may want to respond to a person's comments on your original submission.)  After I grade each set, be sure to return to your discussion to read my remarks.

**2) "Comments and Questions**" is a place for you to ask questions about or comment on course logistics and content.  Please use this forum to ask all class questions (with the exception of those related to your grades or other private matters, which should be sent to me using a Private Message).  This will allow others to benefit from your questions and comments and to contribute responses.

**3) "Student Lounge"** provides you with a forum to chat amongst yourselves about the course and other topics of interest.  Please be aware that I may lurk in the lounge on occasion, though I do not plan to participate actively.

## Tests

Every week, **except week one**, you will need to complete a 20- to 25-point test covering material presented in the readings, modules, and discussions.  Click on "Assignments, Tests and Surveys" section in the left hand menu to find the tests.  All tests are objective (True/False, Multiple Choice, Matching, and/or short answer).  The tests are not timed, but they must be completed by the lock dates listed in the course outline.  You may stop taking a test and continue it at a later time.  However, please be aware that if you click on "Finish," even accidentally, you will be submitting your answers for grading and cannot go back to make changes.  Moreover, if you have not clicked on "Finish" by the lock date, you will be locked out of the test and the system will automatically grade your test.  I cannot offer "redo" or "makeup" tests.  Please do not click on "Finish" until you are absolutely certain you are indeed finished.  (To allow you to work at your own pace and give you some wiggle room on tests, I give you "on track" (i.e., due) dates and lock dates.  The system will automatically mark tests late if you submit them after the "on track" date, but you will not lose any points as long as you submit your tests by the "lock" date.  After the lock date, the answer key will be available for you to review your work.)

## Ethnographic Project

A detailed description of the ethnographic project is posted in the "Assignments, Tests and Surveys" section in the left hand menu.

**Required Texts**

Bonvillain, Nancy. (2014/2011). *Language, Culture, and Communication: The Meaning of Messages. Seventh or Sixth Edition.* Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Prentice Hall.

The seventh edition of the text is available at West's online bookstore. Go to **http://www.wlac.edu/online** - From the left hand menu, click on "Student Services" and scroll down to "Bookstore."

Supplemental readings will be attached to course modules as PDF files and/or links. To read these files, you will need Adobe Reader software, which can be downloaded for free at **http://get.adobe.com/reader**

**Videos**

One optional video (see course outline for title), which you can have streamed to you for 21 days @ $4.99 each, are available from New Day Films. To register and purchase a stream for your individual use, go to **http://newdaydigital.com**. I may suggest other videos from New Day as the course progresses. To screen a video, you will need Adobe Flash Video Plug In, which you can download at the New Day Films website for free. Also, I found that the browser, Mozilla Firefox, interacts best with the video website. You can download Firefox for free at: **http://www.mozilla.com/en-US/firefox/ie.html**

**Course Requirements and Grades**

- Weekly required class discussions……….....………….........................80
- Seven objective tests (multiple choice, true/false, matching, short answer)..160
- One Ethnographic Project..........................….……...……...………..60

                                    Total……...........……………....300

Your final grade is based on the percentage of points you accumulate (i.e., your total points divided by 300); 90-100% is an A; 80-89% is a B; 70-79% is a C; 60-69% is a D; and anything lower than 60% is an F. I cannot assign 'Incompletes' and I do not offer extra credit.

**Chat Room Office Hour**

In the live chat room, accessible from the left hand menu, I will hold a group office hour on Wednesdays, 6:00-7:00 pm, PST. Keep in mind that everyone who chooses to sign in during that time will be able to read your comments and questions, which are also archived and accessible to all class members. If you have private matters to discuss, please send me a message via "Private Messages."

# Student Conduct

Please interact respectfully and honestly with all class members.

Read and adhere to the WLAC Standards of Student Conduct (published in the college catalog and schedule).  Go to **http://www.wlac.edu/academics/catalog.html** - go to "Policies:  Student and Academic"

***Important:***  you must cite any outside sources you consult and always put direct quotes in quotation marks.  I will assign zero points to assignments that are plagiarized or involve cheating or dishonesty of any other kind.  In addition, I will report all instances to College disciplinary officials.

# Course Outline

Weekly topics and assignments are listed below.  This is a fast-paced, 8-week course.  Please keep up with the readings, modules, discussions, and tests.  The modules are designed to replace traditional classroom activity.  Work through modules in conjunction with the assigned readings.

## Week 1 (9/2-9/7)

**Reading:**  Bonvillain, Table of Contents, Preface & Chapter 1

**Module 1:**  Overview; Bonvillain, Chapter 1

**Discussion (Part One):** **due by Sat, 9/6, at 2 pm PST**

**Discussion (Part Two):** **due by Sun, 9/7, at 2 pm**

*Please note:  Test 1, covering the first <u>three</u> chapters is open, but not due until <u>next week</u>.  Make sure you do not submit your results until you have completed working on the chapters the test covers.*

*<u>Warning:  If you do not post a discussion you will be dropped from the class</u>*

## Week 2 (9/8-9/14)

**9/8 is the last day to: 1) drop without a fee/W; 2) file pass/no pass**

**Reading:**  Bonvillain, Chapters 2 and 3

**Module 2:**  The Form of the Message

**Module 3:**  Language and Cultural Meaning

**Video (30 min):**  *Carved from the Heart*, by Ellen Frankenstein, 1997. Go to http://newdaydigital.com

**Discussion (Part One):** **due by Sat, 9/13, at 2 pm PST**

**Discussion (Part Two):** **due by Sun, 9/14, at 2 pm PST**

**Test 1:  should be completed by 9/14 to stay on track; will lock on 9/21 at 2 pm**

## Week 3 (9/15-9/21)

**Reading:** Bonvillain, Chapter 4; Basso (PDF attached to Module Four); review ethnographic project assignment (see "Assignments" link in left-hand menu)

**Module 4:** Outline of An Ethnography of Communication

**Discussion (Part Two):** due by Sat, 9/20, at 2 pm PST (includes part I of ethnographic project assignment).

**Discussion (Part Two):** due by Sun, 9/21, at 2 pm PST

**Test 2:** should be completed by 9/21 to stay on track; will lock on 9/28 at 2 pm


## Week 4 (9/22-9/28)

**Reading:** Bonvillain, Chapters 5 & 6

**Module 5:** Communicative Interactions

**Module 6:** Digital Communication and Signed Languages

**Discussion (Part One):** due by Sat, 9/27, at 2 pm PST

**Discussion (Part Two):** due by Sun, 9/28, at 2 pm PST

**Test 3:** should be completed by 9/28 to stay on track; will lock on 10/5 at 2 pm


## Week 5 (9/29-10/5)

**Reading:** Bonvillain, Chapters 7 & 8

**Module 7:** Learning Language Social

**Module 8:** Acquisition of Communicative Competence

**Discussion (Part One):** due by Sat, 10/4, at 2 pm PST

**Discussion (Part Two):** due by Sun, 10/5, at 2 pm PST

**Test 4:** should be completed by 10/5 to stay on track; will lock on 10/12 at 2 pm

## Week 6 (10/6-10/12)

**Reading:** Bonvillain, Chapters 9 & 10

**Module 9:** Segmentation & Linguistic Variation:  Class and Race

**Module 10:** Language and Gender

**No Discussion this week; each student will receive 10 points!**

**Ethnographic Project: due by Sun, 10/12, at 11 pm PST**

**Test 5: should be completed by 10/12 to stay on track; will lock on 10/19 at 2 pm**


## Week 7 (10/13-10/19)

**Reading:** Bonvillain, Chapters 11 & 12; Zentella (PDF attached to Module 11)

**Module 11:** Multilingual Nations

**Module 12:** Bilingual Communities

**Discussion (Part One):  due by Sat, 10/18, at 2 pm PST**

**Discussion (Part Two):  due by Sun, 10/19, at 2 pm PST**

**Discussion:  Ethnographic Project summary, due by Sun, 10/19, at 11 pm**

**Test 6: should be completed by 10/19 to stay on track; will lock on 10/26 at 2 pm**


## Week 8 (10/20-10/26)

**Reading:**  Bonvillain, Chapter 13

**Module 13:**  Language and Institutional Encounters

**Discussion (Part One):  due by Sat, 10/25, at 2 pm PST**

**Discussion (Part Two):  due by Sun, 10/26, at 2 pm PST**

**Test 7:  will lock on 10/26 at 11:59 pm**