ANTH 681: Keywords in Linguistic Anthropology
Professor Jennifer Roth-Gordon
University of Arizona
Spring, 2017

Course Information:

Class Time/Location: Wednesdays 11:00–1:30
Haury 310

My Contact Information: Email: jenrothg@email.arizona.edu
Office: Haury 301
Phone: 626-0696

Course Description:

This advanced graduate seminar will delve into six critical themes (or “keywords”) in linguistic anthropology: culture, community, identity, heteroglossia, power, and ideology. We will be reading from the works of influential social theorists such as Mikhail Bakhtin, Michel Foucault, and Pierre Bourdieu and drawing heavily on recent articles by leading linguistic and cultural anthropologists. This class is designed for two main audiences: 1) linguistic anthropology graduate students who want a strong grounding in social theory and 2) cultural anthropology graduate students who would like to acquire familiarity with recent work in linguistic anthropology through a discussion of theoretical points of overlap. Graduate students from other departments and programs who are interested in similar issues are welcome as well. To emphasize our shared concerns, we begin with a study of one of the discipline’s most recognizable – and controversial – terms: culture.

Course Requirements:

● Attendance and Participation:

In a graduate-level seminar, it goes without saying that your active and informed participation is expected. As a courtesy, please let me know ahead of time if you will be late or unable to attend a session of class. Also, if, for whatever reason, you find it difficult to participate in class as often as you would like, please make efforts to contribute to the class in alternate ways, such as by contributing more frequently to the online discussion board. All students are asked to take an active role in working towards the success of this class. Auditing will only be permitted in exceptional cases. Frequent absences (3 or more) will negatively impact a student’s grade and may constitute grounds for dismissal from the class.

● Online Discussion:

In order to make the most of our class time together, all students will be required to participate in an online discussion of the readings. Each student is required to submit 10
**online posts** over the course of the semester, during 10 separate weeks. This means that you can skip 2 weeks of your choosing. Each post should be at least two long paragraphs in length and should contribute a **cultural or linguistic example** that pertains to the readings for the week. I especially encourage students to make use of the online format of this discussion, providing links to websites and videos that we may further analyze during class discussion. Please present the necessary background to contextualize your example, as well as providing the connections you see to the topic for the week. The purpose of this forum is: 1) to stimulate our discussion for the week 2) to allow me to track student progress and 3) to allow you to digest and build on fellow classmate’s insights. This is an especially good forum for students who have trouble speaking up in class and who prefer to more carefully craft their comments. Please allow enough time for thoughtful reflection of the readings! Posts may be submitted no later than **Tuesday by 8 pm**. All students will need to carefully read the comments of fellow students (though you may not have time to follow all of the links provided). Online discussion and debate is strongly encouraged!

**Mid-term Paper:**

For your first paper, you will explore one of the keywords we have covered in a short paper of 8-10 pages. Outside reading is not required, as I am most interested in your thoughtful synthesis of the readings at hand. Working through data you have from ongoing or past research is always welcome and generally most productive for students, though you are also able to take examples from popular culture, social media, “regular” media, etc. (this includes developing the analysis of one of your weekly examples). *Please note that you are expected to cite generously from class readings and feel free to consult with me before the paper deadline.* In order to allow me to offer you detailed feedback on your paper in a timely fashion, I only accept electronic copies (word doc preferred). This paper is due on Friday, **March 3rd**.

**Final Paper(s):**

For your final paper, you have the option of focusing on one or more of the remaining keywords in a long paper (16-20 pages) or completing two additional short papers, each on different keywords (8-10 pages). Based on mid-term papers, some students may be encouraged to take the three-paper option. Should you choose one final paper, an abstract of your proposed topic is due **March 31st**. This final paper is due on **May 3rd**. Shorter papers will likewise be due on **March 31st** and **May 3rd**. *All students are advised to meet with me at least once during the semester to discuss your progress in the class.*
Grading:

Attendance, Participation, Online Posts: 25%
Mid-term Paper: 25%
Final Paper: 50%
(or two short papers, 25% each)

Course Readings:

All readings will be made available on the d2l class website. If you have trouble accessing the site for any reason, please email me. Readings are subject to change; please check the d2l site.

Class Schedule:

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<th>Culture</th>
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**Week One: Introductions**

**January 11**

**Week Two: De/reconstructing the Concept of Culture**

**January 18**


**Week Three: Cultural, National, and Linguistic Difference**

**January 25**


**Community**

*Week Four: Community Across Time and Space*

**February 1**


*Week Five: Belonging*

**February 8**


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### Identity

*Week Six: Authenticity and the “Self”  
February 15*


*Week Seven: Bodily Techniques  
February 22*


*Week Eight: Culture, Community, and Identity – Connections*

March 1

⇒*Paper #1 due Friday March 3rd (emailed to jenrothg@email.arizona.edu)*

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<th>Heteroglossia</th>
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*Week Nine: The Dialogic Imagination*

March 8


*Spring Break*

March 15

*Week Ten: Heteroglossia and Intertextuality*

March 22


**Power**

*Week Eleven: Language and Symbolic Power*

**March 29**


→*Paper #2, or abstract for the final paper, due by Friday March 31st.*

*Week Twelve: Power and Resistance*

**April 5**


**Ideology**

*Week Thirteen: Ideology*

**April 12**


Week Fourteen: Language Ideologies
April 19


Week Fifteen: Concluding Thoughts
April 26

Week Sixteen: No class
May 3

Final papers due