Anthropology 4
Language and Culture
3 units; 3 hours lecture
Recommended Preparation: English 1 or eligibility for English1Aor qualification by appropriate assessment
Degree applicable Transfer CSU, UC

This course introduces students to the anthropological study of language. Using a cross-cultural approach, students will examine the relationship between language and social factors such as gender, ethnicity and class. Topics will also include structural linguistics, language change, language extinction, language acquisition in children, cognitive aspects of language, language varieties and non-verbal communication.

Course Objectives:

1. Identify the key differences between the approaches, perspectives and methods used by linguistic anthropologists and linguists.
2. Identify and distinguish between the various fieldwork and data collection techniques used by linguistic anthropologists.
3. Compare and contrast some of the features of human and animal communication systems.
4. Explain the biological basis for speech and the critical period for language acquisition.
5. Identify and describe the following as they pertain to the branch of structural/descriptive linguistics known as phonology: phone, phoneme, allophone and minimal pair/set.
6. Compare and contrast phonemics and phonetics, as two forms of phonological analysis.
7. Define the concept morpheme and identify various types that are used in language along with their functions (i.e. root morpheme, bound morpheme, free morpheme)
8. Explain how syntax functions in a language, and contrast it briefly with grammar.
9. Compare and contrast the fundamental ideas behind the early theories of language acquisition (e.g. behaviorist psychology theory) with later theories such as sociocultural theory.
10. Describe the premise behind the Sapir-Whorf hypothesis and assess the criticisms against it.
11. Explain what cognates from various related languages reveal about the relationships between these languages.
12. Assess and discuss how language is correlated with social factors such as gender, ethnicity and class.
13. Compare and contrast the concepts dialect and accent.
14. Using a cross-cultural approach, identify and describe some examples of kinesics and proxemics.
15. Identify and contrast among the cultural, historical, and political factors that lead to language change in a society.
16. Identify and discuss some of the key differences between alphabetic and logographic writing systems.
17. Examine the various cultural factors that contribute to language loss and evaluate the preservation efforts applied to languages targeted for extinction.
18. Describe the role of linguistic anthropologists in dealing with a society's language use problems and explain how this is an example of applied anthropology.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLO):

1. Language Extinction
   In a written assignment or objective exam question(s), students will demonstrate an understanding of language extinction by identifying the various cultural and historical factors that contribute to language loss and describing the preservation efforts applied to languages targeted for extinction.
2. Language ad Social Factors

In a written assignment or objective exam question(s), students will demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between language and social factors such as gender, ethnicity and class.

3. 'Pidgin'

In a written assignment or objective exam question(s), students will demonstrate an understanding of the language variety known as 'pidgin' by identifying several features regarding its structure (as compared to a standard language) and identifying the social and historical conditions under which a pidgin develops.

ADA Statement:

El Camino College is committed to providing educational accommodations for students with disabilities upon the timely request by the student to the instructor. A student with a disability, who would like to request an academic accommodation, is responsible for identifying herself/himself to the instructor and to the Special Resource Center. To make arrangements for academic accommodations, contact the Special Resource Center.

Student Code of Conduct

https://www.elcamino.edu/administration/board/2019-policies/AP%205500%20Student%20Conduct%20.pdf

Student Rights and Grievances Procedure 5530

https://www.elcamino.edu/administration/board/boarddocs/AP%205530%20STUDENT%20%20RIGHTS%20AND%20GRIEVANCES.pdf