University of Colorado, Colorado Springs
Center for Cognitive Archaeology

ANTH 4800: Advanced Topics in Linguistics:
Language, Cognition and Social Discourse

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Course Description
This course addresses the intersection of language, cognition and social discourse. Students will read a set of key books and articles around these topics to develop insights about how social context and cognitive processing shape language.

Grade Scale
Your grade will be determined by weekly exams, each of which will cover information presented in the lecture and in assigned readings. Your final grade will be determined by the number of points that you receive out of a possible 410 points, noting that the bottom 10% in each category may be awarded a minus, and the top 10% in each category may be awarded a plus.

Method of Evaluation
There are weekly tests that consist of 3 to 5 essay-response reading questions for each unit, as well as 3 to 4 essay OR 15 to 30 multiple-choice questions (i.e., either essay or multiple-choice questions, but usually not both) on five module tests. The exams comprise all (100%) of the undergraduate grade in the course.
### Topics and Tests

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module</th>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Course Introduction: Toward the Relative Non-Arbitrariness of the Linguistic Sign</td>
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<td>Introduction to Language in Relation to Social Discourse</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Indexical Parameters of Language</td>
<td>25</td>
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<td>Module 1 Test</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Language Universals and Linguistic Typology</td>
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<td>Language Universals</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Morphological Typology</td>
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<td>Linguistic Typological Features</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Language in Social Discourse—More on Situational Contexts</td>
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<td>Module 2 Test</td>
<td>30</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Applications/Case Studies</td>
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<td>General Case—Language Typology and Some Discourse Parameters in Native American Languages</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Case Study—Relational Terminology at Zuni Pueblo</td>
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<td>Module 3 Test</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Language and the Brain</td>
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<td>Two Perspectives (Chomsky and Bybee)</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Cognitive Processing in Language</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>The Role of Perception</td>
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<td>Module 4 Test</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Origin Hypotheses and Methodologies</td>
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<td>Origin Theories: Social Grooming (Dunbar) and Gestural Origins (Corballis) Hypotheses</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Origin Theories: Protolanguage (Bickerton and Chomsky)</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Rara and Rarissima; Methodologies</td>
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<td>Module 5 Test</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Concluding Thoughts</td>
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<td>Conclusions and Course Integration</td>
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**TOTAL 410**

As an undergraduate student, your final grade will be determined by the number of points that you receive out of a maximum of 410 points on the reading questions and module tests:

- **A** 90.0–100.0% (369–410 points)
- **B** 80.0–89.9% (328–368 points)
- **C** 75.0–79.9% (307–327 points)
- **D** 70.0–74.9% (287–306 points)
- **F** Below 69.9% (below 286 points)
Readings

Required Books (please purchase or access):


Weekly Readings: Required and suggested supplementary articles are available in pdf format online, under the individual unit assignments.

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<th>Wk.</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td><strong>Saussure</strong> (entire book).</td>
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| 3   | **Comrie**, Ch. 1: Language universals.  
**Comrie**, Chs. 2 and 4.  
Supplemental reading: **Comrie**, Ch. 10: Typology and historical linguistics.  
Fillmore, Charles J. 1967. The case for case.  
| 5   | **Comrie**, Chs. 3 and 5–9.  
Cambridge University Press.


Supplemental readings: Kroeber, Alfred L. 1916. *Zuni kin and clan*. Whitefish, MT: Kessinger Publishing. (Ch. 1)
Bybee, Chs. 1–3.

Bybee, Chs. 4–6.

Bybee, Chs. 7–8.
Numerosity, lexical numbers, and grammatical number (Overmann, 2013, draft article submitted for publication).

Corballis, Michael. 1999. The gestural origins of language: Human language may have evolved from manual gestures, which survive today as a “behavioral fossil” coupled to speech. *American Scientist* 87(2):138–45.
Supplemental readings: Givón, Talmy. 2002. The visual information-processing system as an evolutionary precursor of human language. In *The evolution of language out of pr-


15 Bybee, Ch. 11
Due Dates and Deadlines

The syllabus in Blackboard contains the deadline for each unit and module and specifies the dates by which tests must be completed. For each deadline, you have until 11:59 PM on the deadline day. Remember, these are DEADLINES. You are encouraged to stay well ahead of these deadlines. The sooner you complete the work, the sooner you'll be done with the course.

You must complete each unit by the specific date in the Blackboard version of the syllabus. Once that date has passed, you can still access the material in the unit, but you can no longer take the test associated with that unit. For example, if Unit 3 must be completed by Thursday, September 16, if you don't take Test 3 by 11:59 PM on September 16, you will receive a 0 for that test.

Your Professors Expectations of You

During completion of this course, you must abide by the UCCS Student Conduct Code. This code specifies what is considered proper and improper student conduct, including matters such as cheating and inappropriate behavior. Students who do not abide by the code can receive sanctions ranging up to expulsion from the course or the university.

Remember that this is a 3 credit-hour course. Please plan on spending a lot of time working on just this class. This time will include reviewing lesson plans, completing online lectures, reading from your textbook, answering practice problems, verifying your work, and completing test. We suggest that you plan to spend at least 10 hours per week on average.

Of course, the amount of time spent does not guarantee you any particular grade. Your letter grade will reflect the amount of material that you learned, as reflected in your test scores and the overall quality of your contributions to the course.

Solving Technical Difficulties

When you're having technical difficulties (pages not loading, connectivity problems, not able to view images, things not working as they should, etc.), please contact the Blackboard Helpdesk toll-free at 877.654.8309 or online at the UCCS Blackboard Support page. The Blackboard Helpdesk is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Please note this service is separate from the UCCS IT Helpdesk.

Help Understanding Course Material

When you have questions regarding course policies, grading criteria, test administration, or course content, please email your professors for assistance.