

## Linguistic Field Methods

### Graduate Independent Study

Anthropology 8695

**Instructor:** Dent-Kuipers

**Time:** T 11am-1:30PM

**Location:** HAH 202

**Instructor Email:** asdent@gwu.edu

**Phone:** 202.994.5084 (but I recommend email)

**Office Location:** 2110 G. St. Rm. 302

(Hortense Amsterdam House)

**Office hours**

Or by appointment

### Introduction

This course seeks to explore the relationship between language and thought in dialogue with the study of a particular foreign language (including, but not limited to Spanish, Russian, Arabic, or Portuguese). Each student will take a language class here at GW, while using that course to reflect on the ethnographic study of language and cognition and the application of linguistic theory and method to anthropological research. We will consider concepts such as typologies, syntax, analogical process, situated activity structures, and classification, as treated in the works of Charles Frake, Harold Conklin, Charles Briggs, Benjamin Lee Whorf, Edward Sapir, Dell Hymes and Alessandro Duranti.

This three credit class will be taken concurrently with a class in a language department at GW, or at a consortium school. The class is intended to prepare students for fieldwork in linguistically diverse circumstances. The class may be repeated up to four times for credit.

### Course Requirements

**1) Class participation, and attendance – 20 %**

Attendance is mandatory; students will meet with their allotted language class according to that class's schedule.

IN ADDITION – students will meet every other week with Dent-Kuipers to discuss the translational issues that learning a new language is bringing up, and to anticipate linguistic issues in fieldwork.

**2) Bi-Monthly Assignments – 80%**

At each meeting (a total of 7 meetings) the student will present a 2-3pp. paper reflecting on the language they are learning, bringing this reflection into alignment with the readings listed below.

### Academic Integrity

All students must practice academic integrity. This means doing your own work, and when you use *the words and ideas of others in any written work, you must:* 1) identify quotations with quotations marks; and 2) indicate the source of ideas that are not your own using social sciences notation form. If you have any questions at all about what this means, you should speak to the instructor. Plagiarism, and all breaches of academic integrity (for example, the sale of lecture-notes, or use of content from the internet as though it was your own), will be severely

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dealt with in accordance with the University's policies and procedures. For more information on The George Washington University's policies on academic integrity, consult: <http://www.gwu.edu/~ntegrity/code.html>

*The policy on academic integrity in this course is that if you are caught cheating on any assignment or exam, you will receive a zero for that assignment or exam. This infraction will be reported to the University's Academic Integrity Council. You will be **clearly** notified by the instructor in person or by email before the Council is informed.*

### **Reading**

Both required and recommended reading will be available in the GW bookstore. Other chapters and articles will be available on Electronic Reserves in Blackboard – hereafter referred to as **ER**.

#### **Required Books**

Briggs, Charles L. *Learning How to Ask*  
Duranti, Alessandro. *From Grammar to Politics*  
Gumperz, ed. *Rethinking Linguistic Relativity*.  
Paul, ed. *Theory and Method in Anthropology*.  
Sapir, Edward. *Language*.  
Tyler, S. *Cognitive Anthropology*.  
Whorf, Benjamin Lee. *Language, Thought, and Reality*.

#### **Weeks 1 & 2**

Sapir

#### **Weeks 3 & 4**

Whorf

#### **Weeks 5 & 6**

Tyler

#### **Weeks 7 & 8**

Gumperz

#### **Weeks 9 & 10**

Briggs

#### **Weeks 11 & 12**

Paul

#### **Weeks 13 & 14**

Duranti