





Anthropology (ANTH) 354

Language and Culture (Revision 9)

Status:

Replaced with new revision, see the [course listing](#)  for the current revision 

Delivery mode:

Individualized study online 

Credits:

3

Areas of study:

Arts or Social Science

Prerequisites:

None. **ANTH 275** is recommended.

Precluded:

None

Challenge:

ANTH 354 is not available for challenge.

Faculty:

[Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences](#) 

Overview

Anthropology 354: Language and Culture is a three-credit course that investigates topics found in the field of linguistic anthropology and linguistics—one of four subfields of anthropology. (The other three subfields are cultural anthropology, biological anthropology, and archaeology.) Culture cannot be studied without language, but linguistic anthropology provides much more to anthropology than the means to study culture. It covers the entire scope of humans and languages, from the biological basis of language to the role of language in culture, and describes the major techniques and methods used by linguistic anthropologists to study languages in cultures all over the world.

Learning outcomes

1. Describe the various levels of linguistic analysis and apply these levels to such topics as language classification, language history, language change, and sociolinguistics.
2. Critically discuss the relationship between language and world view, and how languages vary in the ways they categorize cultural experience.
3. Understand and describe the complexities in the relationship between speech and the social context in which it is generated.
4. Discern the role of language in forming social identity and expressing group membership.
5. Discuss and evaluate the various theories for language acquisition.



Outline

ANTH 354 is divided into the following 13 units:

- Unit 1: Linguistic Anthropology and Linguistics—Overview, Definitions, and Approaches
- Unit 2: The Nature of Communication
- Unit 3: Origins of Human Language
- Unit 4: Language, Culture, and Thought
- Unit 5: Phonetics
- Unit 6: Phonology

- Unit 7: Words and Sentences
- Unit 8: Nonverbal Communication
- Unit 9: Writing and Signing
- Unit 10: Semantics, Pragmatics, and Discourse Analysis
- Unit 11: Sociolinguistics and Linguistic Anthropology
- Unit 12: Language Acquisition
- Unit 13: Historical Linguistics and Language Change

Evaluation

To **receive credit**  for ANTH 354, you must complete all quizzes and essays. You must achieve a minimum of 50 percent on the final examination and a minimum composite course grade of **D (50 percent)** .

Activity	Weight
Quiz 1	10%
Essay 1	25%
Quiz 2	10%
Quiz 3	10%
Essay 2	25%
Final Exam	20%
Total	100%


The **final examination** for this course must be requested in advance and written under the supervision of an AU-approved exam invigilator. Invigilators include either ProctorU or an approved in-person invigilation centre that can accommodate online exams. Students are responsible for payment of any

invigilation fees. Information on exam request deadlines, invigilators, and other exam-related questions, can be found at the [Exams and grades](#) section of the Calendar.

To learn more about assignments and examinations, please refer to Athabasca University's [online Calendar](#).

Materials

This course either does not have a course package or the textbooks are open-source material and available to students at no cost. This course has a [Course Administration and Technology Fee](#), but students are not charged the Course Materials Fee.

Rowe, Bruce M., and Diane P. Levine. 2023. *A Concise Introduction to Linguistics*. 6th edition. New York: Routledge.  (Print)

Other Materials

All other course materials are available online, including additional required readings, a Course Information manual, and a Study Guide.

Important links

- › [Academic advising](#)
- › [Program planning](#)
- › [Request assistance](#)
- › [Support services](#)

Athabasca University reserves the right to amend course outlines occasionally and without notice. Courses offered by other delivery methods may vary from their individualized study counterparts.

Opened in Revision 9, January 9, 2023

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View **previous revision** 
