Field methods in anthropological linguistics – Fall 2025

ANG 6930 (**26154**) LIN 6165 (**25677**) ANT 4930 (**26155**) LIN 4760 (**25675**)

Meeting times: T4 R 4-5 (3 credit hours)

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Office Hours: Wed 1-3 or by appointment

Course Prerequisites: This is an advanced course in linguistics. You should have the equivalent of two previous classes in linguistics before taking this classes.

Catalog Description: Special Topics in Anthropology, Rotating content in anthropology.

Course Overview

Linguistic fieldwork is foundational to much linguistic research, providing key data on the syntactic, phonological, semantic, and pragmatic range of human language. Much of the earliest research done in Linguistics in America was linguistic fieldwork, and the founders of the field were fieldworkers. Finally, fieldwork is critical to contemporary efforts to document and revitalize endangered languages. In this course, students will be exposed to linguistic fieldwork through practice, working collaboratively in a semester-long fieldwork exercise working along with a language consultant to produce linguistic documentation and analysis. Each iteration of this class focuses on a new language.

Course Goals

In this course, students will learn the basic methods of linguistic fieldwork and practice them through semester-long collaboration with a language consultant.

Student Learning Outcomes

- Understand how to gather and analyze linguistic information from speakers of other languages
- Collaboratively create a database of sounds, words, and phrases in the language for the semester.
- Analyze the phonological, morphological, syntactic and other patterns seen in the data gathered.

Textbook and materials

There is no assigned textbook for this class. You must purchase a dedicated notebook for your data collection. Our class will be creating a joint database, and you must contribute your data to the database each week.

Requirements and grading

Grades for this course are based on:

1.) your elicitation notes (40%)

2.) two classroom presentations (20%, 10% each)

3.) a final paper (25%)

4.) class discussion and participation (15%)

There are no final or midterm exams.

Weekly upload of elicitation notes -- After approximately the 3rd week of class, you will have elicitation time with our consultant outside of class. You must type up your notes from this session and enter them into the class database. Your **weekly upload of your notes** is due at the end of each week. Detailed examples of the format for these notes

will be given in class. We'll evaluate whether your notes show that you have understood class discussion, made efficient use of your time, read other people's notes, and so on.

Classroom presentations -- There are two presentations: Sept. 30 - Oct. 2 and Nov 4-6 (dates subject to revision). The first presentation should be about 5 to 10 minutes; the second presentation 15 to 20 minutes, and each should tell the class what you've discovered about the topic(s) you've been investigating in your elicitation sessions.

Final paper -- The final paper for this class is due on Dec. 6th. Undergraduate papers should be about 10 pages long; graduate papers about 20 pages. The paper should cover the same ground as your second presentation. (It would be wise to use feedback from your presentation in writing up the final paper.) Joint final papers are permissible with prior approval from me; the page length for joint final papers will be about twice that of ordinary final papers. A first draft of the paper is due to me on Nov 10.

Class discussion and participation -- Most of our class time involves asking the consultant questions, discussing each other's notes and transcriptions, arguing for one or another analysis, and so on. It's important for you to participate in these discussions (and to interrupt them for clarification if you don't know what's going on). We make a lot of group decisions about how to write and analyze the language, and your input is important.

Policies

Class Policies

This course complies with all UF academic policies. For information on those polices and for resources for students, please see this link**.**

Make-up Work

Work, including in-class evaluation, can only be accepted late if arrangements have been made ahead of time with the professor, or if a documented emergency was responsible for the missing work. 'Extra-credit' work will not be available to make up for missing work.

The following grading scale will be used to determine final grades:

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E
92+	89-91	86-88	82-85	79-81	76-78	72-75	69-71	66-68	62-65	59-61	below 58

Procedure for conflict resolution

Any issues, disagreements or grade disputes should be discussed first between the instructor and the student. If the problem cannot be resolved, please contact Prof. John Krigbaum (krigbaum@ufl.edu, (352) 294-7540), Chair of Anthropology. Be prepared to provide documentation of the problem, as well as all graded materials for the semester. Issues that cannot be resolved departmentally will be referred to the University Ombuds Office (http://www.ombuds.ufl.eduLinks to an external site.; 352-392-1308) or the Dean of Students Office (http://www.dso.ufl.eduLinks to an external site.; 352-392-1261).

Library Resources

The UF Libraries provide access to numerous resources and services that will help you succeed in this course. Access thousands of online databases, books, and articles or visit one of the branch locations for additional resources, services, and study spaces. Further, as this class requires students to complete a bibliography, research paper, or project, both the Anthropology Library Guide and the Anthropology Assignment Guide may be of assistance. You can also contact the Anthropology Librarian directly for help with developing your research topic/question, searching for sources, and evaluating information. And you can also Ask A Librarian for help by email, chat, text, or phone.

Ginessa Mahar (Anthropology Librarian): gjmahar@ufl.edu, office: Library West Room 500

Plagiarism and Use of AI

The use of generative AI is prohibited in this course. If there is any evidence of violation of the Student Honor Code, that suggests the student *has not written the majority of the content on their own and is egregiously plagiarized*, the instructor may assign a *grade of zero* for the assignment. Offenses will be reported to the Anthropology department administration for review and could result in a report to the Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution Office.

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