ANT 320L-4  
American Indian Languages and Cultures  
SAC 4.118  
TTH 12:30-2:00

**Instructor Information:**
Anthony K. Webster  
SAC 4.154  
Office Hours: T 2:00-3:30 OR by appointment  
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**Course Description:** This course explores the myriad of indigenous languages of the North America and how they are intertwined with culture. The focus of this course is both descriptive and anthropological. That is, the indigenous languages of the Americas will be considered with respect to their phonologies, complex morphologies, discursive structures, and historical relations as well as their place within the sociocultural milieu of speakers. Language is made real in use. We will look to the uses and users of language.

**Requirements:** Each student will lead discussion on a reading at least twice during the semester (this is dependent on the number of students in the class). A handout covering the reading should be prepared by the student(s). Students should present a brief summary of the reading and then focus on the key ideas in the reading. At the end of the handout should be two or three discussion questions based on the readings. Each student not presenting that week will turn in a set of weekly questions on the assigned readings for that week. These weekly questions should be posted to the class on Canvas by Monday night (so that they are available before class Tuesday morning). There should be at least 1 (one) question per reading. The questions can range from the informational to the more theoretical. These questions compose 10% of your grade.

There are three longer writing assignments. There are **two book reviews** (20% each). These should be from 5-7 pages and should both describe and evaluate the work. Comparisons with class readings when relevant may also be included. The first book review is of Barbra Meek’s *We Are Our Language* and is due Oct. 27th. The second book review will be chosen by the student in consultation with Dr. Webster from the list at the end of this syllabus. *No students will review the same book for their second book review.* Books will be assigned on a first come basis (so select a book earlier rather than later). The review is due Dec. 3 (also 5-7 pages). There is **also a project.** This project is inspired by the article by Barbra Meek in week four. Each student will select a piece of popular culture (a film or television show) and following the methods described by Meek will analyze that piece for the ways that it represents the ways of speaking of Native Americans. This analysis should be from 5-10 pages long (15%).

I will not accept late assignments. Please do not ask. Plagiarism will not be tolerated.

All classes are works in progress, and, if the need arises, the current plans and objectives may need to be changed to enhance the learning opportunities in the class. This is to be expected and such changes will be clearly communicated.
Grading:
Project............................................................20% of grade
2 book reviews.................................................40% of grade (20% each)
Leading reading discussion..................................20% of grade
Weekly questions...............................................10% of grade
Class participation..........................................10% of grade

If it is not abundantly clear yet, let me make it clear here: the readings are a vital component of this class.

Articles that are indicated as on-line can be downloaded via the University of Texas Library system and their ejournals collections. Articles that are not on-line will be available as pdfs on Canvas. We will draw heavily from a special issue co-edited by myself and Leighton C. Peterson in American Indian Culture and Research Journal (2011). This special issue is available on-line.

Required Texts:
Basso, Keith.
Meek, Barbra.
2010. We are our language: An ethnography of language revitalization in a Northern Athabaskan community. Tucson: University of Arizona Press.

Schedule
Aug. 27: Week one: Introductions

Sept. 1-3: Week two: Continue Introductions and Organization

Film: Finding My Talk: A Journey through Aboriginal Languages

Sept. 8-10: Week three: thinking about languages and language ideologies

Collins, James.

Mithun, Marianne.

Webster, Anthony and Leighton Peterson.
Sept. 15-17: Week four: Linguistic Relativity
Whorf, Benjamin Lee.
Whorf's paper can be found at the following website:
http://languageandhistory-rz.wdfiles.com/local--files/dg05/1-4-whorf.pdf
Basso: Chapter 1 ('Western Apache classificatory verb system')
Hill, Jane.
Dinwoodie, David.

Sept. 22-24: Week five: American Indian Englishes
Leap, William.
Meek, Barbra.
Webster, Anthony.

Sept. 24 Project assigned

Sept. 29-Oct. 1: Week six: zombies, ‘extinction’ and oppression or building community
Leonard, Wesley.
Perley, Bernard.
Hasselbacher, Stephanie.
2015. Koasati and “All the Olden Talk:” Ideologies of Linguistic Conservatism and the Mediation of Linguistic Authority. Native South. 8: 31-62. (On-Line)

Film: Gentle Words: Maliseet

Oct. 6-8: Week seven: ways of speaking: ritual speech
Kroskrity, Paul.

Innes, Pamela.

Jackson, Jason Baird and Linn, Mary S.

Tedlock, Dennis.

**Oct. 8 Project Due**

**Oct. 13-15: Week eight: writing**
Basso: Chapter 3 (‘writing system’)
Neely, Amber and Gus Palmer, Jr.

Bender, Margaret.

**Film: Syllabics: Capturing Language: Cree**

**Oct. 20-22: Week nine: languages in contact**
Basso: Chapter 2 (‘linguistic acculturation’)
Goodfellow, Anne.

Peterson, Leighton and Anthony Webster

**Film: Michif: Getting into Michif**

**Oct. 27-29: Week ten: Western Apache doing things with words**
Basso: Chapters 4 (‘Wise Words of the Western Apache’), 6 (‘stalking with stories’), and 7 (‘speaking with names’)

**Oct. 27: FIRST BOOK REVIEW DUE**

**Review:**
Meek, Barbra.
Nov. 3-5: Week eleven: ways of speaking: politeness and values
Basso: Chapters 5 (‘to give up on words’)
Rushforth, Scott.
O’Connor, Mary Catherine.
Trechter, Sara.

Nov. 10-12: Week twelve: languages and publics
Debenport, Erin.
Nevins, Eleanor.
Peterson, Leighton C.
Webster, Anthony.

Nov. 17: Week thirteen: the Young Ancestors
Film: The Young Ancestors

Nov. 24: Week fourteen: myaamiaki eemamwiciki
Film: myaamiaki eemamwiciki: Miami Awakening

Dec. 1-3: Week fifteen: poetics
Webster, Anthony.
O’Neill, Sean.
Woodbury, Anthony.
Dec. 3: Final Book Review DUE

Special Needs
Students with disabilities who require special accommodations need to get a letter that documents the disability from the Services for Students with Disabilities area of the Office of the Dean of Students (471-6259 voice or 471-4641 TTY for users who are deaf or hard of hearing). This letter should be presented to me at the beginning of the semester and accommodations needed should be discussed at that time. See following website for more information: http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/ssd/providing.php

Emergency Evacuation Policy
Occupants of buildings on the UT Austin campus are required to evacuate and assemble outside when a fire alarm is activated or an announcement is made. Please be aware of the following policies regarding evacuation: Familiarize yourself with all exit doors of the classroom and the building.

Remember that the nearest exit door may not be the one you used when you entered the building. If you require assistance to evacuate, inform me in writing during the first week of class. In the event of an evacuation, follow my instructions or those of class instructors. Do not re-enter a building unless you’re given instructions by the Austin Fire Department, the UT Austin Police Department, or the Fire Prevention Services office.