

Language and Social Organization through the Life Cycle

Anthropology 147

Tuesday/Thursday 9:30-10:45 314 Haines

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Office Hours: Tues 11-1

Haines Hall 318F

Phone 7-4335 (during office hours) or 5-2055 (Anthro office) any time

Reader on Website Click on Links and then Class Links

Books:

Birth in Four Cultures: Brigitte Jordan

Overview of this course: The intent of this course is to examine forms of participation and talk-in-interaction across various phases of the life cycle, from birth to old age. We will examine how language and interaction is used within specific contexts to constitute identity through film and videotaped interactions. We will discuss the readings in a seminar format. Students will investigate some aspect of the life cycle and present a final project to the class based on their research. Guest speakers will come to class to discuss their research on topics covered in the class. Syllabus is subject to slight alternations given availability of speakers.

Reading Assignments

Week 1

Tues. April 4

Introduction

Participation, language, and social organization through the life cycle

Thurs April 6

Birth in Four Cultures

Reading: Jordan: *Birth in Four Cultures*, chapters 1-3

Video: "Born in the USA: A Documentary about Childbirth in America"

Week 2

Tues April 11

Alternative Birth Options in America

Reading: Jordan: *Birth in Four Cultures*, chapters 4-5

Guest Speaker on birthing alternatives

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| Thur | April 13 | <p>Unconventional Birth <i>Reading:</i> Jordan: <i>Birth in Four Cultures</i>, chapter 6 <i>Reading: Web:</i> Martin: The Woman in the Body <i>Video:</i> Unconventional Births (home birth, water birth and birthing centers with midwives)</p> |
| Week 3 | | |
| Tues | Apr. 18 | <p>Language Socialization across Cultures <i>Reading: Web:</i> Ochs: Introduction to Language Socialization across Cultures <i>Reading: Web:</i> Peters and Boggs: Interactional routines as Cultural Influences upon Language Acquisition <i>Reading: Web:</i> Haviland: Early Pointing Gestures in Zinacantan</p> |
| Thurs: | April 20 | <p>Preschool in Three Cultures Japan, China, and US <i>Web:</i> Chapters 2 (Japan) <i>Preschool in Three Cultures</i> <i>Web Optional:</i> Fung et al. Listening is Active: Lessons from the Narrative Practices of Taiwanese Families</p> <p><i>Video:</i> Preschool in Three Cultures</p> |
| Week 4 | | |
| Tues. | Apr 25 | <p>Gender and Language in Preschool Children's Peer Groups <i>Reading: Web:</i> Kyratzis and Guo: Preschool Girls' and Boys' Verbal Conflict Strategies in the U.S. and China <i>Reading: Web:</i> Nakamura: Gender and Language in Japanese Preschool Children</p> |
| Thurs. | April 27 | <p>Language and Social Class in Family Interaction <i>Web:</i> Lareau: Ch 1, 3 and 6 <i>Unequal Childhood: Class, Race, and Family Life</i> Project Descriptions due</p> |
| Week 5 | | |
| Tues | May 2 | <p>Growing up in Utopian and Stratified Societies: <i>Web:</i> Huntington: Children of the Hutterites <i>Web:</i> Lareau: <i>Unequal Childhoods</i>: ch 12 <i>Video:</i> The Hutterites: To Care and Not to Care</p> |
| Thurs | May 4 | <p>Gender & Language in Preadolescent Peer Cultures <i>Web:</i> Goodwin: "Tactical Uses of Stories" <i>Web:</i> Corsaro: "Preadolescent Peer Cultures" Midterm Exam due May 5 at midnight by email</p> |

Week 6

Tue May 9

Adolescence among Latinas*Web:* Mendoza-Denton: Homegirls: Symbolic Practices in the Making of Latina Youth Styles*Video:* La Quinceanera

Thurs May 11

Youth, Class, and Cultural Practice*Web:* Miller: Those Naughty Teenage Girls: Japanese Kogals, Slang, and Media Assessments*Web:* Bettie: Women without Class**Week 7**

Tues May 16

Adolescence in Belize*Web:* Anderson-Fye: "Never Leave Yourself: Ethnopsychology as Mediator of Psychological Globalization among Belizean Schoolgirls"

Thur May 18

Passages to Adulthood in Africa*Web:* The Initiation of a Maasai Warrior

Two Contexts of Solidarity among Pastoral Maasai Women; Melissa Llewelyn-Davies

Female Circumcision, Excision and Infibulation

Film: scenes from *Masai Women* and *Witness to Apartheid***Week 8**

Tues May 23

Apartheid in Brazil and Guatemala*Web:* Scheper-Hughes and Hoffman: Brazilian

Apartheid: Street kids and the Struggle for Urban Space.

Menchu: "In Guatemala We Indians Have No Childhood"

Video: Life and Debt (street kids in Brazil)

Thurs May 25

Old Age and Language Competence*Web:* Benet: Abkhasians: The Long-Living People of the Caucasus*Video:* Aging in Soviet Georgia: A Toast to Sweet Old Age and Spirit Possession of Alejandro Mamani (Bolivia)**Week 9**

Tues May 30

Language, Gender and AdulthoodTues May 31 *Web:* Goodwin & Goodwin: C.

Goodwin: Co-constructing Meaning in Conversation with an Aphasiac Man"

Web: Sacks: “ Poetics: Requests, Offers, and Threats: The Old Man as an Evolved Natural Object”

Guest Speaker: Jeanne Katzman (on Alzheimer’s)
Speech Pathologist and PhD Candidate in Applied Linguistics

Thurs June 1

The Life Cycle among the Machiguenga

Guest Speaker: Dr. Carolina Izquierda

Final due Monday June 12 by email.

Week 10

Tues June 6 Project Presentations

Th June 8 Project Presentations

Class Project

Students will be asked to participate in original fieldwork on a topic of your choice involving how language is used to build social organization and construct identity in some phase of the life cycle. Important will be explicating conversational practices and participation frameworks used to constitute the activity you investigate. This can be done in groups or individually. You may either write a paper or give a presentation in class.

Final Grade

Here is a rough breakdown on how your grade will be determined:

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|---------------------|-----|
| Class Project Paper | 30% |
| Class participation | 10% |

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| Midterm | 30% |
| Final | 30% |

Grading scale: 100-98 (A +), 97-92 (A), 91-90 (A-), 89-88 (B+), 87-82 (B), 81-80 (B-), 79-78 (C+), 77-72 (C), 71-70 (C-), 69-68 (D+), 67-62 (D), 61-60 (D-), below 60 (F)
The **Final Exam** will cover readings from the second part of the course and is not cumulative.

Bibliography for Readings for Anthropology 147

Jordan, B. (1993). Birth in Four Cultures: A Crosscultural Investigation of Childbirth in Yucatan, Holland, Sweden, and the United States. Long Grove, IL, Waveland Press.

Martin, E. (2001). Woman in the Body: A Cultural Analysis of Reproduction. Boston, Beacon Press.

Peters, A. M. and S. T. Boggs (1986). Interactional Routines as Cultural Influences upon Language Acquisition. Language Socialization across Cultures. B. B. Schieffelin and E. Ochs. New York, Cambridge University Press: 80-96.

Haviland, J. B. (1998). "Early Pointing Gestures in Zinacantan." Journal of Linguistic Anthropology 8(2): 162-196.

Fung, H., P. J. Miller, et al. (2004). Listening Is Active: Lessons from the Narrative Practices of Taiwanese Families. Family Stories and the Life Course. M. W. Pratt and B. H. Fiese. Mahwah, NJ, Lawrence Erlbaum: 303-323.

Tobin, J. J. (1989). Preschool in Three Cultures. New Haven, Yale University Press.

Kyrtziz, A. and J. Guo (2001). "Preschool Girls' and Boys' Verbal Conflict Strategies in the U.S. and China: Cross-Cultural and Contextual Considerations." Research on Language and Social Interaction. 34(Special issue entitled "Gender Construction in Children's Interactions: A Cultural Perspective"): 45-74.

Nakamura, K. (2001). "Gender and Language Use in Japanese Preschool Children." Research on Language and Social Interaction 34(1): 15-44.

Lareau, A. (2003). Unequal Childhoods: Class, Race, and Family Life. Berkeley, University of California Press.

Huntington, G. E. (1981). "Children of the Hutterites." Natural History 90(2): 36-46.

Goodwin, M. H. (1993). Tactical Uses of Stories. In Gender and Conversational Interaction. D. Tannen. New York, Oxford University Press: 110-142.

Corsaro, W. A. (2005). Preadolescent Peer Cultures In The Sociology of Childhood, second edition. Thousand Oaks, Pine Forge Press.

Mendoza-Denton, N. (forthcoming). Homegirls: Symbolic Practices in the Making of Latina Youth Styles. Oxford, Blackwell.

Miller, L. (2004). "Those Naughty Teenage Girls: Japanese Kogals, Slang, and Media Assessments." Journal of Linguistic Anthropology 14.

Bettie, J. (2003). Women without Class: Girls, Race, and Identity. Los Angeles, U of California Press.

Anderson-Fye, E. P. (2003). "Never Leave Yourself: Ethnopsychology as Mediator of Psychological Globalization among Belizean Schoolgirls." Ethos 31(1): 59-94.

Llewelyn-Davies, M. (1981). Women, Warriors, and Patriarchs. Sexual Meanings: the Cultural construction of Gender and Sexuality. S. B. Ortner and H. Whitehead. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press: 330-358.

Scheper-Hughes, N. and D. Hoffman (1998). Brazilian Apartheid: Street Kids and the Struggle for Urban Space. Small Wars: The Cultural Politics of Childhood. N. Scheper-Hughes and C. Sargent. Berkeley, University of California Press: 352-388.

Menchu, R. (1983). In Guatemala We Indians Have No Childhood. Guatemala in Rebellion: Unfinished History. J. Fried. New York, Grove Press: 194-202.

Benet, S. (1974). Abkhasians: The Long-Living People of the Caucasus. New York, Holt, Rinehart, and Winston.

Goodwin, C. (1995). "Co-Constructing Meaning in Conversations with an Aphasic Man." Research on Language and Social Interaction 28(3): 233-260.

Izquierdo, C. and G. H. Shepard, Jr "Matsigenka."

