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Department of Anthropology
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Prerequisites: None.

Mode of Delivery:
This year, this course is offered online, (asynchronously). This means there will be weekly
material available for you to work through. New content will be posted Tuesdays. I
recommend you move through the week’s content within seven days. The course is not
self-paced. This means there are weekly deadlines for you to meet in order to be
successful. In general, the week’s activities should be done by Monday morning at 8am.
There will be two synchronous meetings which are mandatory. There will be
multiple time slots to choose from. These will be in weeks 4 and 8.

The course has components that require working with small groups. It is designed using

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Essay Proposal / Outline

In week 10, there will be a forum for you to propose a paper topic and then work through
how to organize the essay. There will not be anything to “turn in” but we will go back and
forth in conversation to get you prepared to write the paper. Our conversation online will
be what is graded. For those who do better talking it out, we will have 1 on 1 meetings to
talk through ideas.

Final Essay

The purpose of this assignment is to assess how well you can apply what you are learning
to the language you hear and use every day. You will be conducting a detailed analysis of
interactions on a reality television show (or other approved example of popular media).
You may choose the same media you analyzed with your group. The paper should have a
focus which could be either a single course concept, or specific interaction type
(compliments, apologies, gossip). The paper will require you to write a detailed
descriptions of interactions that illustrates how language use is shaped by the
sociocultural context and then analyze those interactions using concepts and theories from
the course. In this assignment, you are looking at language from “above” or “outside” and
explaining what is going on from different perspectives. We are learning to show what
“work” language is doing in the world.

Note: you will not have to do any additional research beyond the course readings in order
to write the essay. The time you would otherwise spend exploring paper topics, looking for
sources, etc., should be spent doing a careful review of the assigned readings to pull out
the concepts and theories related to the essay topic and to polish your written analysis.
There will be some optional supporting readings available that can be used to ground the
analysis.

The essay should be approximately 1,500 words. More instructions will be provided as the
process unfolds.

Academic Statements and Policies:

Use of AI and other writing software

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It is also important to note that I do NOT penalize papers for grammar/spelling or any
writing styles that may seem colloquial. I am wanting to access how you are thinking not
how much access you have had to prestigious forms of expression.
Academic Rights and Responsibilities
All students should familiarize themselves with Western's current Academic Policies in the
Academic Calendar which include, but is not limited to, academic consideration for medical
illness, accommodation for religious holidays, academic appeals, academic
accommodation for students with disabilities, as well as scholastic discipline.
Academic Consideration for Student Absences
No accommodations will be granted retroactively more than 10 days after an assignment’s
due date or a missed quiz or test. Please see your academic counsellor immediately if you
will be seeking accommodations based on medical or compassionate grounds.
For students who have missed, or will miss, any course work, whether it be for medical
related or non-medical related, please read the details and instructions on “What is
Academic Consideration”.
Academic Integrity - Statement on Plagiarism:
Students must write their assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an
idea from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation
marks where appropriate and by proper referencing. It is also a scholastic offence to
submit the same work for credit in more than one course. Plagiarism is a major scholastic
offence.
Accessible Education:
Students with disabilities work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD) which provides
recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological
and cognitive testing. Please see Accessible Education for information.

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