Course Learning Objectives:
Students will become acquainted with the disciplinary history of linguistic anthropology and gain a broad understanding of the diverse areas of contemporary research and publication that constitute the current state of the field. In particular, we will explore the basic contradictions that have made linguistic anthropology an unstable academic concept and trace the way that instability has played out over the history of the discipline. In learning about linguistic theories and methods, students will gain a clearer understanding of sociocultural anthropology as it has taken a sequence of "linguistic turns" in its own development. We will attend to the mutual influences of linguistic theory and methodology on the one hand, and anthropological theory and methodology on the other.

Topics:
The course readings, lectures, and discussions will address the following topics in succession, noting the broad, cross-cutting issues and perspectives that link them:

a) basic philosophical views of language as human action
b) linguistic anthropological methodology
c) language, thought, and culture
d) language socialization
e) community, network, and field in linguistic anthropology
f) ethnography of communication
g) speech genres and discourse strategies
h) text and literacy studies
i) performativity
e) power, agency, and discourse

Requirements and Evaluation:
The course will be in lecture/seminar format, and students will be required to come to class having read the assigned readings and prepared to discuss them. For each class, one or more students will take the responsibility for presenting particular readings, noting the important points and posing questions for discussion. The midterm exam and the final exam will take the form of take home essays on assigned topics. The course grade will be based on the essays exams and on class participation.
Text and Readings:

The textbook is *Living Language: An Introduction to Linguistic Anthropology*, by Laura Ahearn (2012). Students should read the entire book as an accessible introduction to the field at or before the start of the course. Weekly topics in the survey part of the course will follow chapters in the book, but the assigned readings will be primary articles and chapters rather than commentary. The readings will be included as “resources” available on the Laulima site for the course.

Authors included in the readings to be assigned include: