LING 4317: Sociolinguistics
Fall 2011

Instructor:	Dr. Laurel Smith Stvan
Classroom:	202 Trimble Hall, Mondays, 5:30 - 8:20 p.m.
Office:	410 Hammond Hall
Office Hours:	Mon. 3-4:30; Thurs. 12:30-2:00; and by appointment
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Email:	**stvan@uta.edu** (preferred method of contact)

Course Description

This course introduces basic concepts, findings, issues, and research methods in sociolinguistics. Content includes key areas of sociolinguistic theory, as well as topics such as linguistic variation and change, code switching, politeness, ethnographic method, language planning and standardization, and pidgins and creoles.

This class counts towards the 4000-level course requirement for the Linguistics minor and the Linguistics major. Prerequisite: LING 3311 or permission of undergraduate advisor.

Course Objectives

This undergraduate-level course is intended to help you achieve three objectives:

• Acquiring the knowledge and vocabulary to discuss (both orally and in writing) current and past approaches to investigating the interaction of individuals, social groups, and their various ways of using language.

• Practice in reading sociolinguistic literature in order to gain insight into both the kinds of questions asked in this field and typical ways of researching the answers.

• Learning to construct and evaluate investigations that aim to discover attitudes toward linguistic forms, their distribution, interpretation, and valuation.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successfully completing this course, students should be able to:

-- identify and describe key concepts and objects of study from sociolinguistic theory.
-- identify ways that language and identity are expressed in a multicultural society like the U.S.
-- explain how various factors in a society correlate with language variation.
-- distinguish identity factors that play a role in influencing language use.
-- collect primary discourse data and analyze this data in light of sociolinguistic theory.

Required Materials

There are two forms of required readings. The first is the textbook:

--Wardhaugh, R. (2010). *An introduction to sociolinguistics* (6th Ed.). Wiley – Blackwell Publishers. ISBN 978-1-4051-8668-1.

The book is available at the UT Arlington Bookstore (at the corner of Pecan Street and UTA Blvd.), but can also be purchased at any bookseller of your choice.

--Additional required readings will be provided on the course Blackboard site (login at https://elearn.uta.edu/webapps/login/). You are responsible for checking this Blackboard site regularly to access (among other things) class notes, updates, readings, and assignments.

Supplementary books for additional background reading are on reserve at the UT Arlington Central Library as well. You can search for them under my last name or the course number.

Course Policies

Regular attendance is expected in class, and your presence and thoughtful participation is included as part of the course grade. For each class, students will be expected to have completed prior to class the readings for each day's topic and any assigned problems to be discussed. Students assume responsibility for acquiring all notes, handouts, and announcements.

Assignments are due at the beginning of class, on the day listed in the schedule, and no later. No late assignments will be accepted without PRIOR approval by the instructor.

Course Requirements

Grades will be determined as follows:

1. Active class participation (including attendance in class and at the library resources demonstration)		**10%**
2. Two 2-page summary and response papers (one on an assigned paper, one on an article of your choice)	**(#1)**	**15%**
	(#2)	**25%**
3. One in-class midterm exam		**25%**
4. One 10-12 page written term paper, due in exam week.		**25%**

Important Academic and Administrative Policies

Drop Policy: Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance**. Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. Contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships for more information.

Americans with Disabilities Act: The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including the *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*. All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Any student requiring an accommodation for this course must provide the instructor with official documentation in the form of a letter

certified by the staff in the Office for Students with Disabilities, University Hall 102. Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

As a student, your responsibility rests with informing the instructor in writing or email and providing the official documentation from the Office for Students with Disabilities no later than the end of the second week of classes.

Academic Integrity: At The University of Texas at Arlington, academic dishonesty is a completely unacceptable mode of conduct and will not be tolerated in any form, including but not limited to) "cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts" (UT System Regents' Rule 50101, §2.2). Suspected violations of academic integrity standards will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student's suspension or expulsion from the University.

While the Department of Linguistics and TESOL hopes to foster a sense of community in which students can enhance their educational experience by conferring with each other about the lectures, readings, and assignments, all work submitted must be the product of each student's own effort. Students are expected to know and honor the standards of academic integrity followed by American universities; ignorance of these standards is not an excuse for committing an act of academic dishonesty (including plagiarism). If you have questions, please speak with your instructor, your academic advisor, or the department chair.

Please be advised that departmental policy requires instructors to formally file charges with the Office of Student Conduct, following procedures as laid out for faculty (http://www.uta.edu/studentaffairs/conduct/faculty.html), as well as notify the department chair of the filing of the charges.

Student Support Services Available: The University of Texas at Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. These resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals to resources for any reason, students may contact the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107 or visit www.uta.edu/resources for more information.

Final Review Week: A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week unless specified in the course syllabus. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week.

Electronic Communication: UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. Grades or other confidential information can **only** be sent from and to UTA email accounts. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php.

Student Feedback Survey: At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as lecture, seminar, or laboratory will be asked to complete an online Student Feedback Survey (SFS) about the course and how it was taught. Instructions on how to access the SFS system will be sent directly to students through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. UT Arlington's effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback data is required by state law; student participation in the SFS program is voluntary.

Librarian to Contact: Jody Bailey, Central Library, Room 312: jbailey@uta.edu

Grade Grievance Policy:
http://wweb.uta.edu/catalog/content/general/academic_regulations.aspx#10

Auditors: The Department of Linguistics and TESOL has a "no audit" policy. However, with instructor permission, Department of Linguistics and TESOL faculty, staff, and students enrolled in a linguistics/TESOL program may be able to sit in on a course. These courses cannot be used to satisfy any degree or program requirements/electives, nor will any credit (including retroactive credit) be granted.

Ling. 5310/4317: Sociolinguistics
Tentative Class Schedule [Revised: Aug. 28, 2011]

Fall 2011

(Reading assignment titles and dates will be updated on the Blackboard site during week 1.)

Week	Date	Topic	Reading	Assignments
1.	Mon. Aug. 29	Introduction		
2.	Mon. Sept. 5	**Labor Day—no classes** Some Approaches: Variation		
3.	Mon. Sept. 12	Some Approaches: Ethnography of Communication		
4.	Mon. Sept. 19	Some Approaches: Conversation Analysis		
5.	Mon. Sept. 26	Some Approaches: Interactional Sociolinguistics Region, Social Class, and Social Networks		**S&R #1 Due**
6.	Mon. Oct. 3	Region, Social Class, and Social Networks		
7.	Mon. Oct. 10	Politeness, Face, and Power		
8.	Mon. Oct. 17	Language and Culture/Ethnicity		**Midterm Exam**
9.	Mon. Oct. 24	Language and Culture/Ethnicity		

10.	Mon. Oct. 31	Variables: Language and Gender	
11.	Mon. Nov. 7	Variables: Language and Gender	**S&R #2 Due**
12.	Mon. Nov. 14	Variables: Language and Age	
13.	Mon. Nov. 21	Variables: Language and Domain	
14.	Mon. Nov. 28	Presentation of Initial Findings from Term Papers	
15.	Mon. Dec. 5	Presentation of Initial Findings from Term Papers	
FINAL EXAM WEEK			
	Mon. Dec. 12	**Papers due by 8:30 p.m.**	**Final Paper Due**

Special Dates to Note

Mon. Sept. 12	**Census Date** (last day to add a class)
Fri. Nov. 4	**Last Date to Drop a Course**
Wed. Dec. 21	**Grades Available via MyMav**