

Ling 4317/5310 – Sociolinguistics

Spring 2011

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Section info: Ling 4317 Section 001 / Ling 5310 Section 001
Meeting Time: Tues/Thurs 19:00-20:20
Meeting Location: Trimble Hall 216

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, code switching, language planning and standardization, and pidgins and creoles.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME:

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

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

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

PRESENTATIONS (G: 20pts; UG: 10pts): Graduate students will do two 15-minute presentations on an article that you select. The presentation topic should relate to the topic of interest for the week. Undergraduate students will do only one presentation. Please submit your e-article to the instructor at least one week prior to your presentation, so that you can get approval and so that it can be put up on the Blackboard website.

PROJECT (60pts): This includes the following—

- (i) summary of an article on your topic along with research question(s) (10pts)
- (ii) recording a conversation w/ two speakers (10pts)
- (iii) transcribing at least 5 minutes of your recording (15pts)
- (iv) short report of your findings (15pts)
- (v) presentation (10pts)
- (vi) final paper (10pts)

PARTICIPATION (**G**: 10pts; **UG**: 20pts): It is recommended that you come to class on time. However, note that you will be graded for your participation rather than mere attendance.

TEXTBOOK:

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

Additional 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.

DUE DATES:

- 2/17 – Submit a summary of an article on your project topic along with research question(s)
- 3/10 – Submit a copy of your recording
- 3/31 – Submit a transcription of your recording
- 4/14 – Submit a short report of your findings
- 4/21, 4/26, or 4/28 – Presentation of your project
- 5/5 – Submit your final paper at the beginning of the class

Group work is encouraged.

Please submit all your assignments as a hard copy at the beginning of the class.

OUTLINE OF TOPICS: (Subject to changes as we go along)

WEEK 1 (1/18, 1/20) / *Introduction to Sociolinguistics / Methodology*

- W, Chapter 1
- Labov, W. (1972). Some principles of linguistic methodology. *Language in Society*, 1, 97-120.

WEEK 2 (1/25, 1/27) / *Language and dialects in speech communities*

- W, Chapters 2 and 5

WEEK 3 (2/1, 2/3) / *Pidgins and creoles*

- W, Chapter 3

WEEK 4 (2/8, 2/10) / *Multilingualism*

- W, Chapter 4

WEEK 5 (2/15, 2/17) / *Language variation*

- W, Chapter 6.
- **Submit your article summary (2/17)**

WEEK 6 (2/22, 2/24) / *Language variation*

- W, Chapters 7 and 8

WEEK 7 (3/1, 3/3) / *Words and culture*

- W, Chapter 9

WEEK 8 (3/8, 3/10) / *Ethnography and transcribing*

- W, Chapter 10
- *Gumperz, J. J., & Berenz, N. (1993). Transcribing conversational exchanges. In J. A. Edwards & M. D. Lampert (Eds.), *Talking data: Transcription and coding in discourse research* (pp. 91-121). Hillsdale, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum.
- **Submit a copy of your recording (3/10)**

WEEK 9 (3/15, 3/17) / **No classes due to Spring break**

WEEK 10 (3/22, 3/24) / *Politeness*

- W, Chapter 11

WEEK 11 (3/29, 3/31) / *Speech acts*

- W, Chapter 12
- **Submit your transcription (3/31)**

WEEK 12 (4/5, 4/7) / *Gender*

- W, Chapter 13

WEEK 13 (4/12, 4/14) / *AAE and language planning*

- W, Chapters 14 and 15
- **Submit a short report of your findings (4/14)**

WEEK 14 (4/19, 4/21) / *Language planning and presentations*

WEEK 15 (4/26, 4/28) / *Presentations*

WEEK 16 (5/3, 5/5) / *TBA*

- **Submit your final paper (5/5)**

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 Financial Aid Office 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 Dishonesty: At The University of Texas at Arlington, academic dishonesty is a completely unacceptable mode of conduct and will not be tolerated in any form. Students involved in academic dishonesty will be disciplined in accordance with University regulations and procedures. Discipline may include suspension or expulsion from UTA.

According to the UT System Regents' Rules and Regulations, "Scholastic dishonesty includes but is 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" (Part One, Chapter VI, Section 3, Subsection 3.2, Subdivision 3.22).

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 laid out for faculty there (<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.

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