

LING4317.001: Sociolinguistics
Spring 2013

Instructor: Katie Welch, Ph.D.

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Office Hours:

Tuesday/Thursday 2:00-3:00 p.m. Also by appointment and Blackboard IM (drwelch).

Section Information: LING 4317.001

Time and Place of Class Meetings: Tuesday/Thursday, 12:30-1:50 p.m., Trimble Hall 23

Teaching Assistant: Vicki Cana, vicki.cana@mavs.uta.edu

Description of Course Content:

Language in its social context, including linguistic variation, address and reference, speech levels, bilingualism, code switching, speech acts, conversation analysis, and language and gender. Prerequisite: LING 3311.

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 Textbooks and Other Course Materials:

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

Attendance: Students are expected to be actively engaged in the class activities, to attend library demonstrations, and to participate in course-related discussions.

Additional Requirements: 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.

Descriptions of Major Assignments

- **Class Participation**

You will be expected to meaningfully contribute to class discussions and to remain engaged and focused during class (i.e. not sleeping, checking email, etc.). Your regular attendance in class will also contribute toward this grade. You will also be required to contribute three online blog entries (either new threads or replies to others' posts). These blog entries are due on/before Feb. 28, March 28, and April 30. Specifics about blog entry topics and length requirements will be given in class and on blackboard prior to the due dates.

- **Summary and Response Papers**

You will be expected to read, summarize, and reflect on a sociolinguistic-themed article. The Summary and Response Paper will each be 2-pages in length. The first paper will be on an assigned article. The second will be on an article of your choosing.

- **Midterm Exam**

The midterm exam will be given in-class and will include all topics covered in class prior to the date of the exam. Midterm will likely include a combination of multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, matching, true-false, and short answer questions.

- **Final Paper**

The final paper is a written term paper about a sociolinguistic topic of your choice. The required page length is 10-12 pages. The paper will be due during exam week.

Grading

This class is graded. The chart below indicates the weighted percentage of each of the course components. Students are expected to keep track of their performance throughout the semester and seek guidance from available sources (including the instructor) if their performance drops below satisfactory levels.

| % of Final Grade | Assignment |
|-------------------------|---|
| 15% | Active Class Participation (including attendance and online blog participation) |
| 15% | Summary and Response #1 |
| 20% | Summary and Response #2 |
| 25% | Midterm Exam |
| 25% | Final Paper |

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. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (<http://web.uta.edu/ses/fao>).

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.

Academic Integrity: All students enrolled in this course are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington's tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.

I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.

Instructors may employ the Honor Code as they see fit in their courses, including (but not limited to) having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System *Regents' Rule* 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university's standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) 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.

Student Support Services: UT 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. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to resources@uta.edu, or view the information at www.uta.edu/resources.

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. 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 shall be directed to complete a Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student's feedback enters the SFS database anonymously and is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. UT Arlington's effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law; students are strongly urged to participate. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

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 class 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. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

Course Schedule

| Week # | Dates | Course Schedule | Reading |
|--------|--------------------|--|---|
| 1 | Jan. 15 Jan. 17 | Introductions What is sociolinguistics? | Syllabus/Wardhaugh Chapter 1 |
| 2 | Jan. 22 Jan. 24 | Some definitions: Languages, dialects, and varieties Some definitions: Speech communities | Wardhaugh, Chapters 2 and 5 |
| 3 | Jan. 29 Jan. 31 | Regional Variation Case study: Appalachian English | Wardhaugh, Chapter 6 and 7 |
| 4 | Feb. 5 Feb. 7 | Methodology Ethnography | Wardhaugh, Chapter 7 and 10 Labov (1972) "Some principles of linguistic methodology" |
| 5 | Feb. 12 Feb. 14 | Social Variation Case study: AAVE | Wardhaugh, Chapter 14 |
| 6 | Feb. 19 | Case Study: AAVE S&R #1 due on Feb. 19 | Wardhaugh, Chapter 14 |

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| | Feb. 21 | **UTASCILT Conference: No Class** | |
| 7 | Feb. 26 Feb. 28 | Case study: Gender Case study: Gender Blog entry #1 due on Feb. 28 | Wardhaugh, Chapter 13 Holmes (1998) "Women Talk Too Much" |
| 8 | March 5 March 7 | Review for Midterm Midterm Exam on March 7 | --- |
| 9 | March 12 March 14 | **Spring Break: No classes** | --- |
| 10 | March 19 March 21 | Language change Case study: The "like quotative" | Wardhaugh, Chapter 8 Trudgill (1998) "The Meanings of Words" |
| 11 | March 26 March 28 | Codes & Code-switching Research/Library seminar Blog entry #2 due on March 28 | Wardhaugh, Chapter 4 |
| 12 | April 2 April 4 | Case study: Spanish and Chicano English Case study: Spanish and Chicano English | Wardhaugh, Chapter 15 Silva-Corvalan (2004) "Spanish in the Southwest") |
| 13 | April 9 April 11 | Pidgins and Creoles Pidgins and Creoles S&R #2 due on April 11 | Wardhaugh, Chapter 3 |
| 14 | April 16 April 18 | Solidarity, Power, Distance Politeness | Wardhaugh, Chapter 11 |
| 15 | April 23 April 25 | Talk and Action: Cooperation Talk and Action: Conversation | Wardhaugh, Chapter 12 Wieland (1990) "Turn-Taking Structure" |
| 16 | April 30 May 1 | Words and Culture Blog entry #3 due on April 30 Term paper questions/issues | Wardhaugh, Chapter 9 |
| Final week | | Term Paper due by Tuesday, May 7 @ 8:00 p.m. | |

As the instructor for this course, I reserve the right to adjust this schedule in any way that serves the educational needs of the students enrolled in this course. –KMW

Important Dates:

*Wednesday, January 30, Census Day (last day for anyone to add into a class)

*Thur-Fri, Feb 21-22, UTASCILT conference

*Friday, March 29, Last day to drop a class

*Wednesday, May 3, Last day of classes in Spring 2013