

**Ling 5310: Sociolinguistics**  
Spring 2013

**Instructor:** Naoko Witzel

**Office Number:** Hammond Hall 127

**Office Telephone Number:** 817-272-3133 (Main office)

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**Office Hours:** Tuesdays 3:00-5:00pm or by appointment

**Section Information:** Ling 5310 Section 001

**Time and Place of Class Meetings:** Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:30-1:50 pm at Trimble Hall 23

**Description of Course Content:** 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 Outcomes:** 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.

**Required Textbooks and Other Course Materials:**

- Wardhaugh, R. (2010). *An introduction to sociolinguistics* (6<sup>th</sup> 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/>). You are responsible for checking this Blackboard site regularly to access (among other things) class notes, updates, readings, and assignments.

**Descriptions of major assignments and examinations:**

**PRESENTATIONS (20pts):** You will do two 15-minute presentations on a peer-reviewed article that you select. The presentation topic should relate to the topic of interest for the week and should have primary data. In your presentation, please summarize the article and lead a discussion. Please submit your e-article to the instructor early enough so that you can get approval and so that it can be put up on the Blackboard website at least one week prior to your presentation.

PROJECT (70pts): This includes the following—

- (i) summary of a peer-reviewed 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 (10pts): It is recommended that you come to class on time. However, note that you will be graded for your participation rather than mere attendance.

EXTRA CREDIT (5pts): If you participate in any of the linguistic experiments conducted this semester, you will receive 2.5pts for each half hour. The maximum credit you can receive is 5pts. Please make sure that you ask for a proof from your experimenter, and submit it to the instructor on 5/2.

**Attendance:** Again, it is recommended that you come to class on time. However, note that you will be graded for your participation rather than mere attendance.

**Other Requirements:** N/A

**Grading:** 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.  
Late assignments will not be accepted.

**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://wweb.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](http://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](mailto:resources@uta.edu), or view the information at [www.uta.edu/resources](http://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.

**Librarian to Contact:** Jody Bailey (jbailey@uta.edu)

### **Course Schedule.**

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. –Naoko Witzel.

### DUE DATES:

2/19 – Submit a summary of an article on your project topic along with research question(s)

3/7 – Submit a copy of your recording

3/28 – Submit a transcription of your recording

4/11 – Submit a short report of your findings

4/23 or 4/25 – Presentation of your project

5/7 – Submit your final paper in my mail box next to the Linguistics main office.

**\*\*Group work is encouraged.\*\***

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

**\*\*Late assignments are not accepted.\*\***

### OUTLINE OF TOPICS:

**WEEK 1** (1/15, 1/17) / *Introduction, Library Search (Library 315A)*

**WEEK 2** (1/22, 1/24) / *Introduction to Sociolinguistics / Methodology*

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

**WEEK 3** (1/29, 1/31) / *Language and dialects in speech communities*

- W, Chapters 2 and 5

**WEEK 4** (2/5, 2/7) / *Pidgins and creoles*

- W, Chapter 3

**WEEK 5** (2/12, 2/14) / *Multilingualism*

- W, Chapter 4

**WEEK 6** (2/19, 2/21) / *Language variation*

- W, Chapter 6.
- **Submit your article summary (2/19)**

**WEEK 7** (2/26, 2/28) / *Language variation*

- W, Chapters 7 and 8

**WEEK 8** (3/4, 3/7) / *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 (3/7)**

**WEEK 9** (3/12, 3/14) / Spring Break

**WEEK 10** (3/19, 3/21) / *Politeness*

- W, Chapter 11

**WEEK 11** (3/26, 3/28) / *Speech acts*

- W, Chapter 12
- **Submit your transcription (3/28)**

**WEEK 12** (4/2, 4/4) / *Gender*

- W, Chapter 13

**WEEK 13** (4/9, 4/11) / *AAE and language planning*

- W, Chapters 14 and 15
- **Submit a short report of your findings (4/11)**

**WEEK 14** (4/16, 4/18) / *Language planning*

**WEEK 15** (4/23, 4/25) / *Presentations*

**WEEK 16** (4/30, 5/2) / *TBA*