

Department of Anthropology
ANTHRO 3337F – Sociolinguistics
Course Outline
Dr. Tania Granadillo
Fall 2017-2018
Fridays 10:30-1:30 KB-208

Office hours: Tuesdays 11-12, Thursdays 1-2

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Note: This syllabus may be adjusted as required throughout the term. All students are responsible for attending class for information in this regard

Prerequisite: LING 2247A/B (the former ANTH 2247A/B) and registration in year 3 or 4 in any module.

"Unless you either have the prerequisites for this course or have written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from the course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites."

I. Course Objectives

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to Sociolinguistics, which investigates the interrelationships between language and social structure. In this course, we will focus on issues of language variation and its social significance from multiple perspectives, addressing micro-level linguistic variation and how these variables are related to macro-level social factors.

II. Required Books

Meyerhoff, Miriam and Erik Schlee (eds). 2010. *The Routledge Sociolinguistics Reader*. New York: Routledge. (RSR in the schedule of topics, readings and assignments)

Mendoza-Denton, Norma. 2008. *Homegirls: Language and Cultural practice among Latina Youth Gang*. Blackwell. (MD in the schedule of topics, readings and assignments)

III. Course Requirements

Attendance 5%

Please come to class regularly, prepared to be an active participant.

At the end of each class I will ask you to write the following on an index card:

- your name and the date
- the most important thing you learned in class
- a question you still have

These index cards will help me keep track of my own performance. They will also serve as a record of your attendance. If you leave early or forget to hand in a card, the

attendance for that day may be forfeited. You are allowed two unjustified absences throughout the semester. Any other absences must be justified in advance. An email before class will suffice in many circumstances. More than two absences will affect your attendance grade.

Homework 50%

There are five homework assignments due throughout the semester. They will be posted on the Owl website by the end of the class and must be turned in electronically through the same site. They will be due by the beginning of the following class. Each homework assignment will be 1000 words plus or minus 10%. Your writing style will influence your grade. You have the option of re-writing ONE of these five homework assignments. The average of the two assignments will be your grade. In order to take advantage of this option, you must contact the professor in advance, discuss the paper and hand in the rewrite no later than one week after it was returned. Homework assignments will be returned through OWL with comments inserted in the new file, so make sure that you know how to access them. Late assignments cannot be rewritten.

Reading Quizzes 15%

Every week there will be a quiz in OWL that must be taken BEFORE the beginning of class. These quizzes will assure that you're up-to-date with the readings. The average of the quizzes will constitute your grade. Since each individual reading quiz constitutes 1.5% of the grade, no make ups are allowed.

Group Project 30%

Throughout the term, you will be working on a group project. Groups must have no less than 2 people and no more than 3. This project will investigate a sociolinguistic variable using publicly available data. This research will be presented in class the last days in the form of a powerpoint slide/poster. The presentation is worth 10% and the poster 20%.

IV. Grading Structure

Your grade will be based on the cumulative sum of points you earn in the areas outlined above. It's as simple as that. If you would like to know your grade at any point in the term, simply keep a running total of your accumulated points and compare them to the number of points possible at that point. I will be happy to confirm your point total at any time. This can also be checked through the Gradebook on Owl.

V. Grading Philosophy

Your grade is your responsibility, not ours

Your grade in this course is up to you, as much as we can make it so. We encourage you to talk to us, and to each other, in order to ensure that you understand the course material. If you have additional concerns about how you can ensure that you earn the grade you are hoping to earn in this course, please consult us for suggestions. If you feel you have been graded unfairly, please communicate with us about your concerns - and be a strong advocate for yourself! We promise that we will not be mad at you because you argue a grade.

Grades are not personal statements about your intrinsic worth; they are accurate and fair-minded assessments of the objective merits of your work at a particular time and place.

While we are kind and sympathetic, we will not respond well to arguments about your grade that are based on anything other than the merits of your particular assignment. The smartest people in the world sometimes get poor grades - and the less-than-smartest sometimes get As. Your grade is not an index of your intelligence or of our beliefs about your intelligence.

The grade you earn is in no way required to be the grade you "need". Similarly, the grade you earn does not have anything to do with other grades you have earned in the past.

Need (due to financial aid status, athletics, or any other such requirement) is not an appropriate criterion for us to use in figuring your grade in this course. Neither is the fact that you are "an 'A' student", generally speaking. Please limit your discussion of grades in this course to the quality and quantity of work you do for this course - and we'll do the same! The grade you earn ought to be proportional to your willingness to do the course work in this class.

Note also that you will not be able to do well in this course unless you are willing to (a) attend regularly; (b) participate fully, (c) think really hard about the material, even if you find it confusing or difficult, and (d) do the work, regardless of how bored/frustrated you are with it. If you are doing all these things, and you are still concerned about your grade, then please see us for suggestions and assistance. If you are not doing all these things, please accept a lower grade and move on – that's precisely what low grades were intended for!

The grade you earn in this class ought to reflect your performance on the assignments, and not your availability to do extra credit work outside of class when you blow off the real assignments so there are no extra credit assignments.

VI. Course Policies

All students should familiarize themselves with Western's current academic policies regarding **accessibility, plagiarism and scholastic offences, and medical accommodation**. These policies are outlined, with links to the full policies, at: http://anthropology.uwo.ca/undergraduate/course_information/academic_policies.html

Written Assignments

All written assignments will be turned in electronically through OWL. They must include your FIRST AND LAST NAME and the ASSIGNMENT NAME or a TITLE and they must be named LASTNAME_Initial_ASSIGNMENT (Replace with the appropriate information). Please make sure you turn in your assignments as .doc or .docx files as this facilitates incorporating comments. Late assignments will be penalized 5% per 24 hours that they are late as per the timestamp on the class website and will not be accepted after 5 days. Late assignments are not eligible for rewriting.

Electronic devices

During regular classes, the only allowable electronic device is a laptop computer and it should be used solely for the purpose of taking notes related to the class. Mobile phones, ipods, mp3 players etc. must be turned off during class. Remember that electronic distractions will count against your participation mark.

VII. Schedule of Topics, Readings and Assignments

Week	Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment Due
1	Sept 8	Introduction Variation and Language		
2	Sept 15	Variation and Style	MD Intro, 1 RSR 32, 3, 4,	RQ 1
3	Sept 22	Language attitudes	MD 2 RSR 7, 9, 11	RQ 2 HW 1
4	Sept 29	Multilingualism and language choice	RSR 12, 13, 17	RQ 3,
5	Oct 6	Project design and research tools	RSR 1 MD 3, 4	RQ 4,
6	Oct 13	FALL BREAK		
7	Oct 20	Politeness	MD 5 RSR 5, 6	RQ 5 HW 2
8	Oct 27	Real time and apparent time	MD 6 RSR 19, 20, 21	RQ 6, Group project design
9	Nov 3	Social class	MD 7 RSR 25, 26,	RQ 7, HW 3
10	Nov 10	Social networks and communities of practice	MD 8 RSR 24, 27, 28	RQ 8
11	Nov 17	Gender	MD 9 RSR 23, 30, 31	RQ 9, HW 4
12	Nov 24	Language Policy, Language Planning	MD 10 RSR 10, 16	RQ 10
13	Dec 1	Catch-up, Group presentations		HW 5
14	Dec 8	Group presentations		Group Project