

ANTHRO 3337 Topics in Language and Society
Dr. Tania Granadillo
Winter 2010
Mondays 1:30-4:30 pm
SH-3315

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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

"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 Schleeff (eds). 2010. The Routledge Sociolinguistics Reader. New York: Routledge. (RSR in the schedule of topics, readings and assignments)

Other articles available through WewbCT OWL course website. Login at <http://owl.uwo.ca>

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 one unjustified absence throughout the semester. Any other absences must be justified in advance. An email before class will suffice in many circumstances. More than one absence will affect your attendance grade.

Online Discussions 15%

Each week a discussion thread will be enabled on the course web site. Students will have to make at least 2 contributions over the course of the semester. To count toward the mark for this assignment, contributions must be substantive and meaningful, demonstrating an engagement with the issues and materials from the course and not be repetitions of other comments. They should be approximately 250 words each and they cannot both be from the same week. Students may make as many contributions as they like, and are encouraged to do so, but at least two must meet these requirements to receive the full mark. Please follow appropriate netiquette. We will be monitoring this discussion site regularly.

Homework 40%

There are ten 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 12 noon on the following Monday. The lowest grade will be dropped and an average of the remaining will constitute your homework grade. Each homework assignment will be 300-500 words.

Reading Quizzes 10%

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.

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 4. This project will investigate a sociolinguistic variable using publicly available data. You must meet periodically with the professor to assure you are working on the project. This research will be presented in class the last day in the form of a powerpoint slide/poster.

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

Written Assignments

All written assignments completed outside of class must be typewritten or word-processed, formatted for 8.5 – 11" white paper, double-spaced, using 12 point font. 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 files. 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.

Missed Deadlines

Occasionally illness or other personal issues make it impossible to meet deadlines. In such cases adequate documentation must be submitted to Academic Counselling of your home faculty, according to the terms of the Senate policy regarding medical accommodation as specified at:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf. Providing such documentation is accepted by Academic Counselling, reasonable effort will be made to accommodate your situation. Without this, no accommodations will be made.

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.

Accessability

If you need this outline or any other course information in a different format, or need any other assistance to make this course accessible to you, please contact Dr. Granadillo as soon as possible so she can help. Where appropriate, get to know the people in Services for Students With Disabilities -Room 4100 in the Western Student Services Building (661-3031), as they can provide you with additional assistance specific to your personal needs.

Plagiarism

"Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offense. Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence at the following website:

<<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholoff.pdf>>."

"All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing

agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>)."

VII. Schedule of Topics, Readings and Assignments

Week	Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment Due
1	Jan 9	Introduction		
2	Jan 16	Variation and Language	RSR 1, 15,	HW 1
3	Jan 23	Variation and Style	RSR 2, 3, 4,	HW 2
4	Jan 30	Language attitudes	RSR 7, 9, 11	HW 3
5	Feb 6	Being polite as a variable in speech	RSR 5, 6	HW 4
6	Feb 13	Multilingualism and language choice	RSR 12, 13, 17	HW 5
7	Feb 20	READING WEEK	NONE	NONE
8	Feb 27	Real time and apparent time	RSR 19, 20, 21	NONE
9	March 5	Social class	RSR 25, 26,	HW 6
10	March 12	Social networks and communities of practice	RSR 24, 27, 28	HW 7
11	March 19	Gender	RSR 23, 30, 31	HW 8
12	March 26	Language Contact	RSR 11, 15, 18	HW 9
13	April 2	Language Policy, Language Planning	RSR 10, 16	HW 10
14	April 9	Catch-up, group presentations		Group Project