

ANTHROPOLOGY 3339G-001

Language Variation and Change

COURSE OUTLINE

Winter 2020

Instructor: Dr. Tania Granadillo (she/her)

Email: tgranadi@uwo.ca

Office hours: Wednesdays 1-3 pm EST on Zoom and by appointment.

Mode of delivery: For 2020/2021 this course will be conducted online asynchronously with discussions to take place weekly during the scheduled synchronous class time using Zoom videoconferencing technology.

Synchronous class time: Fridays 12:30-1:30 p.m. EST.

Credit value: 0.5 credit

Calendar Course Description: This course uses approaches from sociolinguistics and historical linguistics to explore topics related to variation across and within languages and linguistic changes over time. Topics covered may include: sound change, morphological change, syntactic change, linguistic reconstruction, variations according to class, gender, age, ethnicity, communities of practice, and place.

Antirequisites: None.

Prerequisites: Linguistics 2247A/B (the former Anthropology 2247A/B) and registration in third or fourth year of any Linguistics or Anthropology module.

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. The 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.

Course Syllabus:

In this class we will be taking a broad approach to language variation and change. We will assume that change can only come by through variation and that there is variation that can be intrinsically linguistic in nature and variation that is social in nature. The course combines a synchronic and diachronic approach. While the weeks are organized by topics according to locus of variation, the readings will provide diverse contexts to understand the diachronic, synchronic and social nature of variation and change. Classic topics such as dialects, world English(es), creoles and pidgins, language endangerment, and others will be included.

A full course schedule including a week-by-week breakdown of topics and assigned readings will be available on the course's OWL site before the first day of class.

Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Identify linguistic variables and variants
- Link linguistic variables to social factors
- Identify various types and patterns of language change
- Summarize primary literature
- Analyze and write up linguistic data related to variation and change
- Present research orally and in poster format

Course Materials:

Registered students will be able to access additional course readings through the course site in OWL before the first day of class.

Evaluation:

Grades will be based on quizzes on readings, assignments, and a group research poster as follows:

9/11 Weekly Quizzes – 3% each 27%

4/5 Assignments – 12% each 48% (Due Jan 25, Feb 8, March 1, March 15, March 29)

Research poster - 25%

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](https://www.turnitin.com).

Course Specific Conditions Required to Pass this Course

In order to pass this essay course, students must receive a passing grade on three of four written assignments.

Statement on Seeking Special Accommodations:

No accommodations will be granted retroactively more than 10 days after an assignment is due date. Please see your academic counsellor immediately and let me know if you will be seeking accommodations based on medical or compassionate grounds.

Statement on Plagiarism:

Students must write their assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing. It is also a scholastic offence to submit the same work for credit in more than one course. Plagiarism is a major scholastic offence.

Institutional Statements and 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 in Western's academic policies by clicking on this link: [Western's academic policies](#).