

Linguistics 5601. Introduction to Sociolinguistics. Autumn 2012. Winford

Class location: University Hall 24.

Times: TR 11.10 am – 12.30 pm

Office: Oxley Hall 207, 1712 Neil Avenue.

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Office hours: MW 2-3 pm.

Course Description:

This is a graduate-level introduction to the study of the relationship between language and society. The course will survey various approaches to this area of investigation, including the sociology of language, the ethnography of speaking, variationist sociolinguistics, and other frameworks. We will consider the basic concepts and terminology used in all of these approaches and attempt to evaluate the similarities and differences in their underlying assumptions, objectives and methods of analysis.

Objectives.

1. To provide students with a broad overview of the field of sociolinguistics and introduce them to various approaches to the study of language in its social context.
2. To introduce students to the basic methodologies employed in sociolinguistic enquiry.
3. To provide a foundation for more advanced work in Sociolinguistics.

Textbook: None required:

Recommended: Hudson, R.A. 1996. Sociolinguistics (2nd. edition)

Readings: All readings for the course will be available on CARMEN.Requirements and Evaluation.

1. Five brief (roughly 3-page) summaries of required readings, with critical evaluation and discussion of the questions that you think the paper raises. (See handout on guidelines). You may submit summaries of the papers read for the panel discussions as part of this requirement. (25% of final grade).
2. A preliminary report on the progress of the final research paper. A written version of this report (roughly 4 pages) is to be handed in during week 8 (15% of final grade).
3. A final research paper (minimum 2000 words), which may be either a data-based research project, or based on library research on some central issue in any area of Sociolinguistics. Typed version to be submitted by Wednesday of exams week. (See list of suggested topics in handout on guidelines). (40% of final grade).
4. Each student will participate in a class presentation of one of the required readings (available on CARMEN). Schedule of presentations to be decided in class. (10% of final grade)
5. Participation through attendance and contributions to class discussions etc. (10% of final grade)

Policies.

Attendance:

Attendance at classes is strictly required, except in extenuating circumstances.

Class Cancellation Policy:

In the unlikely event of class cancellation due to emergency, I will contact you via email and request that a note on department letterhead be placed on the classroom door. In addition, I will contact you as soon as possible following the cancellation to let you know what will be expected of you for our next class meeting.

Academic honesty: OSU's policy on academic honesty and plagiarism is available at http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/resource_csc.asp. You are responsible for knowing this code of conduct and adhering to it. Some class time will be devoted to exploring issues of academic honesty in more depth, but if you have any questions, please ask. Should you be discovered to have violated this policy on any exam or assignment for this class, you will automatically receive no credit for that assignment and, depending on the severity of the offense, may fail the course.

Special Accommodations

I would be very happy to help in any way to ensure that you perform well in this course. Students are invited to inform me as soon as possible of any special needs they may have. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/>.

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND READINGS

All items are compulsory reading, which should be done before the relevant class. The articles will also form the basis of the class presentations.

Week 1: Introduction: A summary of the course content and objectives.
8/23

Week 2 (a) Overview of Sociolinguistics; Basic concepts; the speech community.
8/28-30 Readings: Hudson 1996. Chapters 1 & 2.

(b) The speech community.
Reading: Morgan 2006. The speech community.

Week 3 (a) Language and language varieties; "Language" and "dialect."
9/4-6 Reading: Rickford 1996. Regional and social variation.

(b) Standard languages and standardization:
Reading: Milroy & Milroy 1999. Two nations divided by the same language?
Preston, Dennis. 2002. Perceptual dialectology.

First summary due on Thursday of Week 3 (Choose one reading from weeks 1-3).

Week 4 (a) Ethnography of Speaking; Components of speech.
9/11-13 Readings: Hymes 1972. Models of the interaction of language and social life.

(b) Macro-Sociolinguistics. Sociology of Language.
Domains and language choice; Diglossia.
Reading: Keller 1982. Diglossia in German-speaking Switzerland.

Week 5: (a) Social Aspects of codeswitching
9/18-20 Reading: Blom & Gumperz 1972. Social meaning in linguistic structure.

(b) Motivations of code switching.
Reading: Breitborde 1983. Levels of analysis...

Second summary due Thursday of Week 5 (Choose one reading from weeks 4-5).

Week 6: (a) Language and interpersonal relationships. Rules of address.
9/25-27 Reading: Brown & Gilman 1972. The pronouns of power and solidarity.

(b) Honorific language
Agha 1998. Stereotypes and registers of honorific language.

- Week 7. (a) Language variation and social differentiation: The Labovian paradigm.
10/2-4 Structuralism and Dialectology.
Readings: Walters 1988. Dialectology.
- (b) Linguistic variables. Social correlates of variation.
Class stratification of linguistic variables.
Reading: Labov. Sociolinguistic Patterns. Chaps 3-4.

Third summary due Thursday of Week 7. (Choose one reading from weeks 6-7).

- Week 8. (a) Quantitative Sociolinguistics: Continued.
10/9-11 Morphosyntactic variation
Weldon 1994. Negation in AAVE
- (b) Problems with Class and other social categories.
Reading: Rickford 1986. The need for new approaches to social class.
Cameron 1997. Demythologizing sociolinguistics.

Midterm Research Paper report due no later than Thursday of week 8.

- Week 9 (a) Social networks and language choice
10/16-18 Reading: Boissevain 1974. Friends of friends. Chaps. 1-2.
- (b) Social networks and social class
Reading: Milroy & Milroy 1992. Social network and social class.
- Week 10 (a) The question of style.
10/23-25 Reading: Schilling-Estes 2002. Style.
- (b) Style as creative choice
Reading: Zhang 2005. A Chinese Yuppie in Beijing.

Fourth summary due on Thursday of Week 10 (Choose a reading from weeks 8-10).

- Week 11 (a) Language variation as social practice.
10/30-11/1 Reading: Eckert 2000. Linguistic variation as social practice. Chap. 1
- (b) Communities of practice
Reading: Meyerhoff 2002. Communities of practice.

- Week 12. (a) Language and the construction of identity
11/6-8 Reading: Mendoza-Denton 2002. Language and identity.
- (b) Language, gender and sexuality
Readings: Eckert 1990. The whole woman.
Kulich 2000. Gay and lesbian languages

- Week 13 (a) Communication accommodation theory
11/13-15 Reading: Sachdev & Giles 2006. Bilingual Accommodation.
- (b) Language attitudes and evaluation
Reading: Cargile et al. 1994. Language attitudes.

Fifth summary due Thursday of Week 13 (Choose one reading from weeks 11-14)

Week 14 (a) Social evaluation of linguistic variation.
11/20 Reading: Eckert 2008. Variation and the indexical field.
Campbell-Kibler 2009. The nature of sociolinguistic perception.
11/22 THANKSGIVING BREAK. NO CLASS

Week 15 Presentations of research papers.
11/27-29

Week 16 Presentations of research papers.
12/4 Unfinished business
Course evaluations (SEIs).

Final Research Paper due second Wednesday of exams week.