Instructor: Dr. Fiona Mc Laughlin  
Office: 4131C Turlington  
Phone: 294-7458  
E-mail: fmcl@ufl.edu  
Hours: Tuesday 1:30-3:30 & by appointment

Course description
This is an advanced graduate course in sociolinguistics with a focus on writing as a sociolinguistic object. The general theoretical orientation of the course is that of a new sociolinguistics of globalization with its focus on mobility, multilingualism, and superdiversity. While there are no prerequisites for this course, I am assuming a basic familiarity with the field of sociolinguistics on the part of students.

Objectives
Writing has only recently become an object of sociolinguistic inquiry. The emergence of this new field has occurred hand-in-hand with, and is partially the result of, new ways of approaching the study of language in a globalized (and often digitalized) world. In this course we will engage with recent attempts to reshape the field of sociolinguistics to better understand these new realities, and focus on writing as our object of inquiry. Students will become conversant in a number of different sociolinguistic approaches to writing; they will design and carry out an original research project in the field and produce a paper that can serve as the basis of a conference presentation or a scholarly article.

Requirements
You are required to complete the readings in advance of the class for which they are assigned. Short reaction papers on specific themes addressed in the readings or brief analyses of empirical data will be assigned on a regular basis and will be due on the Monday before we discuss those readings. You will be assigned to make a number of oral presentations during the course of the semester. Some of these will be on empirical, theoretical and thematic issues from the assigned readings, while others will be on readings that inform your own research. You will make a short (10-15 minutes) presentation on the topic you choose for your paper at mid-term, and a longer, conference-style presentation on your research at the end of the semester. Your semester’s work will culminate in an original research paper of 6-8,000 words, suitable as the basis for a conference presentation or publication. A research proposal and bibliography for your project are due on October 8. You will present your research paper in conference format (20 minutes + 10 minutes for questions) at the end of the semester (November 19 or December 3).

Grades
Grades will be calculated on the following basis:  
Reaction papers        20%  
Oral presentations     20%  
Research proposal      20%  
Final paper            40%

Academic honesty
Academic dishonesty, including cheating on exams and plagiarism, will not be tolerated. Any student engaging in such activities will be dealt with in accordance with University policy and receive a failing grade for the course (www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/procedures/academicguide.php) It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes plagiarism. If you have any questions about it, please consult the professor.
**Students with disabilities**
If you have a disability that may affect your performance in this class, you should contact the Dean of Students Office ([www.dso.ufl.edu/drp/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drp/)) and let me know in any way that you are comfortable with so that I can make arrangements to accommodate you.

**SCHEDULE**

**Week 1 (August 27): Introduction to a new field**

**Readings**


**Assignment**
2 page intellectual biography

**Week 2 (September 3): Towards a new sociolinguistics**

**Readings**

**Week 3 (September 10): Writing as a sociolinguistic object**

**Readings**

**Week 4 (September 17): Grassroots literacy**

**Readings**

**Week 5 (September 24): Digital writing**

**Readings**


TBA according to student interests

**Week 6 (October 1): Digital writing and multilingualism**

**Readings**

TBA according to student interests

**Week 7 (October 8): Research proposals** (Proposals and preliminary bibliography due)

Individual presentations and feedback
Week 8 (October 15): Research proposals
Individual presentations and feedback

Week 9 (October 22): Spelling, scripts, orthography
Sebba, Mark. 2007. *Spelling and society: The culture and politics of orthography around the world.* Cambridge: Cambridge UP.

Week 10 (October 29): Linguistic Landscape

Week 11 (November 5): Linguistic Landscape

Week 12 (November 12) Research consultation (no class)

Week 13 (November 19) Research presentations

Week 14 (December 3) Research presentations

Week 15 (December 10) Where to go from here