

LIN 6601-0209 Sociolinguistics

Fall, 2014

Tuesdays period 8-10, Matherly 102

Dr. Diana Boxer

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Office hours: Tuesdays, 10:30-noon; Thursdays noon-1:30 or by appointment

Texts:

1. **W:** Wardhaugh, Ronald (2006) *An Introduction to Sociolinguistics*. Blackwell
2. **C & J:** Coupland, Nikolas, and Adam Jaworski (2011) *The New Sociolinguistics Reader*. Palgrave

Supplementary readings will be made available by classmates on a weekly basis.

Course objectives: By the end of this course you will have acquired the ability to intelligently discuss aspects of sociolinguistic theory, based on knowledge of the scholarly research in the field. You will also have developed the ability to apply sociolinguistic theoretical constructs to original research in the field.

Course requirements:

Research proposal due at midterm	20%
Two synthesis essays	40%
Research paper, due at end of semester	30%
Class participation, attendance, and evidence of reading assignments	10%

Synthesis Essays: Periodically during the semester, serving in lieu of hourly exams

Research paper: This is your opportunity to delve deeply into some area of sociolinguistics that fascinates you. You may, for example, be interested in code-switching in a bilingual community; you may wish to collect samples of sexism in language use in a particular context; you may wish to look at a particular speech act or speech event in your own or another speech community. These are just some examples. The project will involve collecting real data. This is an opportunity to do a pilot study for further research that may eventually turn into a thesis or dissertation topic. Or, it may be a final product that you could present at a conference or publish. Choose a topic in the first six weeks and hand in a research proposal with a preliminary literature review at the by midterm. This will give you a basis to forge ahead with my feedback. The final paper serves in lieu of a final examination.

Plagiarism policy: Using work of anyone else other than your own original work for this class is considered plagiarism and is punishable by receipt of a grade of E on any copied work.

Students with disabilities: Please arrange for special accommodations with the Office for Students with disabilities and provide me with documentation of your disability so that special arrangements can be made for examinations.

Grading Scale: See UF grading policies for assigning grade points at:
<http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html>

A= 93-100
A-=90-92.9
B+=87-89.9
B=83-86.9
B-=80-82.9
C+=77-79.9
C=73-76.9
C-=70-72.9
D+=67-69.9
D=63-66.9
D-=60-62.9
E=under 60

Week 1. Jan. 7, Introduction. Background; Major themes; Macro and micro sociolinguistics

Read: W Chapter 1; C & J Chapters 1 (editors), 8 (Cameron), and 10 (Eckert)

Week 2. Jan. 14, Languages, Dialects, and Varieties

Read: W, Chapter 2; C & J Chapters 2 (Wolfram), 3 (Labov), 4 (Trudgill).

Week 3: Jan. 21, Pidgins and Creoles

Read: W Chapter 3; C & J Chapter 35 (Siegel)

Week 4: Jan. 28, Codes

Read: W Chapters 4; C & J, Chapter 31 (Ferguson), 33 (Myers-Scotton), 19 (Giles), 20 (Rampton)

Week 5: Feb. 4, Speech communities

FIRST SYNTHESIS DUE

Read: W chapter 5; C & J Chapter 5 (Rampton);

Week 6: Feb. 11, Language Variation and Change

Read: W Chapter 6, 7, 8; C & J chapter 7 (Milroys); chapter 8 (Gal)

Week 7: Feb. 18

RESEARCH PROPOSALS DUE; INFORMAL PRESENTATION OF RESEARCH PROPOSALS

Week 8: February 25, Language and Culture

Read: W Chapter 9; C & J chapter 26 (Irvine and Gal); chapter 29 (Ochs); chapter 30 (Fishman)

Week 9: March 11, Ethnography

Read: W Chapter 10; C & J chapter 39 (Hymes)

Week 10: March 18, Solidarity and Politeness

SECOND SYNTHESIS DUE

Read: W Chapter 11; C & J chapter 43 (Holmes); chapter 44 (J.Coupland)

Week 11: March 25, Talk and Action

Read W Chapter 12; C & J chapter 42 (Labov)

Week 12: April 1, Language and Gender

Read W Chapter 13; C & J Chapters 11 (O'Barr & Atkins); 12(Tannen); 13 (Kiesling)

Week 13: April 8, Language and Disadvantage; Language Planning

Read W Chapters 14 and 15; C & J chapter 36 (May); 37 (Dorian)

Weeks 14 and 15: April 15, 22, conclusion and sharing of research findings
THIRD SYNTHESIS (OPTIONAL)

Read: W Chapter 16