

University of Florida at Gainesville
Department of Linguistics

4131 Turlington Hall
LIN 6932: Special Topics: Sociophonetics

T 4-5th period (10:40 AM-12:35 PM)
R 4th period (10:40 AM -11:30 AM)

MAT 0010 (Matherly Hall)
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Professor: Ratree Wayland

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Turlington 4131E

Phone: (352) 294-7450

Office Hours: T (1:55-2:45 PM), and by appointment (please email to schedule)

Course materials on Canvas: <http://elearning.ufl.edu> log in and find LIN 4930/6932

Technical Issues? Contact the UF Computing Help Desk: helpdesk@ufl.edu or call (352) 392-4357.

Overview:

This course will examine the social aspects of phonetic variation, focusing particularly on the relationship between method and theory. Students will be introduced to the field through a survey of contemporary research from variationist sociolinguistics, linguistic anthropology, experimental phonetics and laboratory phonology. Basic methods for studying the production of different types of phonetic variables including vowels, consonants, tones, voice quality/phonation, and prosody, etc. will be introduced to give students the foundational tools for conducting sociophonetic work. How both sounds and speakers are perceived, and the implications of inter- and intraspeaker sociophonetic variation for theories of sociolinguistics and phonetics/phonology will also be discussed.

Students will be assessed by 3 acoustic measurement homework, 3 essays (~2,000 words each) summarizing and critically evaluating research articles read in class, 1 in-class presentation of an article of choice and a research project proposal of the students' design at the end of the semester.

Prerequisite: LIN 3010

Objectives: By the end of this course, students should:

- Be able to examine phonetic variation/change using techniques and theories from sociolinguistics, linguistic anthropology, experimental phonetics, and laboratory phonology.
- Be able to apply acoustic analysis techniques to investigate phonetic variation/change.
- Be able to design a research project on phonetic variation/change suitable for a senior thesis (for undergraduate students) or academic conference (for graduate students).

Assessment

Homework (Acoustic measurements)

% of course grade

30%

Essays (3)

30%

In-class presentation (1)

10%

Final research design paper

30%

Grading Scale

93–100% = A	90-92.9% = A-	87-89.9% = B+
83-86.9% = B	80.0-82.9% = B-	77-79.9% = C+
73-76.9% = C	70.0-72.9% = C-	67-69.9% = D+
63-66.9% = D	60.0-62.9% = D-	Below 60% = E

Information on current UF grading policies for assigning grade points can be found here.

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

Attendance Policy: Class attendance is mandatory. Acceptable reasons for absence from or failure to engage in class can be found here <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>. In addition, appropriate documentation for absences (except for religious holidays), missed work, or the inability to fully engage in class is required. A warning will be issued after two consecutive weeks of absences. Attendance will be prohibited after four weeks of absences, resulting in a withdrawal recommendation and/or a failing grade for excessive absences.

Late Policy: 10% penalty per day up to 3 days unless you receive permission before the due date. Let me know as soon as you realize you will be unable to meet a deadline. Assignments are collected at the beginning of class on the date they are due.

Other Academic Policies and Resources can be found here : [UF Academic Policies & Resources](https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/)

Textbooks (Recommended)

1. Thomas, Erik. Sociophonetics: An introduction. Macmillan International Higher Education, 2010.
2. Wayland, Ratree. Phonetics: A Practical Introduction. Cambridge University Press, 2018.
3. Kendall, Tyler and Fridland, Valerie. Sociophonetics. Cambridge University Press, 2021.

Course Outline

Lectures will follow the outline below. This outline is tentative and may be updated as we go.

Week	Date	Topic	Reading Assignments	HWs & Exams
1	1/13/2026	Introduction to the course Review of phonetics: Understanding sounds	Tyler & Fridland Ch. 1, 2, 5, 6 Thomas Ch. 1, 2 Wayland Ch. 6	

2	1/20/2026	Acoustic of vowels Vowel normalization	Thomas Ch. 2 Wayland Ch.7 (pp. 218-222) Tyler & Fridland Ch. 3, pp. 1-57) Clopper 2009 Adank et al 2004	
3	1/27/2026	Vowel variation	Labov 1963 Blake and Josey 2003 Clopper et al 2005	HW 1
4	2/3/2026	Acoustics of consonants	Thomas Ch. 4 Wayland Ch. 8 Tyler & Fridland Ch. 3 (pp. 57-72)	
5	2/10/2026	Consonant variation	Thomas 2016 D'Onofrio & Stecker 2020 Munson and Babel 2019	1 st essay
6	2/17/2026		Jacewiz et al. 2009 Diaz-Campos 2008 Pearce 2019	
7	2/24/2026	Acoustics of voice quality	Thomas Ch. 7 Wayland, Ch. 2 Keating et al 2015	HW 2
8	3/3/2026	Voice quality variation	Dallaston and Docherty 2019 Anderson et al 2014 Xu and Lee 2018	
9	3/10/2026	Acoustic of Prosody	Thomas Ch. 6 Wayland Ch. 3	2 nd essay
10	3/17/2026	SPRING BREAK!	NO CLASS! SPRING BREAK!	
11.	3/24/2026	Prosody variation	Shousterman 2014 Henriksen 2003	HW3
12.	3/31/2026	Variation acquisition	Nyzc 2015 Docherty et al 2013 Chappell and Kanwit 2021	

13.	4/7/2026	Variation perception	Thomas 2002 Drager 2010 Levon 2007	3 rd essay
14.	4/14/2026	Student Presentation		
15.	4/21/2026	Student Presentation		
16.	4/28/2026	Student Presentation		Final paper due