

University of Florida at Gainesville
Department of Linguistics
4131 Turlington Hall
LIN 6932: Special Topics:
Sociophonetics

T 5-6th period (11:45-1:40)
R 6th period (12:50-1:40)

LIT 0221 (Little 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 under graduate students) or academic conference (for graduate students).

Assessment

	% of course grade
Homework (Acoustic measurements)	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 [Attendance Policies < University of Florida \(ufl.edu\)](#). 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.

Textbooks (Recommended)

1. Thomas, Erik. Sociophonetics: An introduction. Macmillan International Higher Education, 2010.
2. Wayland, Ratre. 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	1/14/2025	Introduction to the course Review of phonetics: Understanding sounds	Tyler & Fridland Ch. 1, 2, 5, 6 Thomas Ch. 1, 2 Wayland Ch. 6	
2	1/21/2025	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	1/28/2025	Vowel variation	Labov 1963 Blake and Josey 2003 Clopper et al 2005	HW 1
4	2/4/2025	Acoustics of consonants	Thomas Ch. 4 Wayland Ch. 8 Tyler & Fridland Ch. 3 (pp. 57-72)	
5	2/11/2025	Consonant variation	Thomas 2016 D'Onofrio & Stecker 2020 Munson and Babel 2019	1 st essay
6	2/18/2025		Jacewiz et al. 2009 Diaz-Campos 2008 Pearce 2019	
7	2/25/2025	Acoustics of voice quality	Thomas Ch. 7 Wayland, Ch. 2 Keating et al 2015	HW 2
8	3/4/2025	Voice quality variation	Dallaston and Docherty 2019 Anderson et al 2014 Xu and Lee 2018	
9	3/11/2025	Acoustic of Prosody	Thomas Ch. 6 Wayland Ch. 3	2 nd essay
10	3/18/2025	SPRING BREAK!	NO CLASS!	
11.	3/25/2025	Prosody variation	Shousterman 2014 Henriksen 2003	HW3
12.	4/1/2025	Variation acquisition	Nyzc 2015 Docherty et al 2013 Chappell and Kanwit 2021	
13.	4/8/2025	Variation perception	Thomas 2002 Drager 2010 Levon 2007	3 rd essay

14.	4/15/2025	Student Presentation		
15.	4/22/2025	Student Presentation		
16.	4/29/2025	Student Presentation		Final paper due

Accommodations for students with disabilities: Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office <https://disability.ufl.edu/get-started/> The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation.

Academic honesty: It is expected that all students will adhere to the University of Florida Honor Code and the academic honesty guidelines available at:

https://flexible.dce.ufl.edu/media/flexible_dce_ufl.edu/documents/uf_policy_student_conduct.pdf

The UF Honor Code states that “

Course feedback: Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>

Recording: Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person

(or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

Campus resources:

Health and Wellness

U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit [U Matter, We Care website](#) to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.

Counseling and Wellness Center: [Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website](#) or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.

Student Health Care Center: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or [visit the Student Health Care Center website](#).

University Police Department: [Visit UF Police Department website](#) or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).

UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; [Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website](#).

GatorWell Health Promotion Services: For prevention services focused on optimal wellbeing, including Wellness Coaching for Academic Success, visit the [GatorWell website](#) or call 352-273-4450.

Academic Resources

E-learning technical support: Contact the [UF Computing Help Desk](#) at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.

Career Connections Center: Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.

Library Support: Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

Teaching Center: Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352- 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.

Writing Studio: 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.

Student Complaints On-Campus: [Visit the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code webpage for more information.](#)

On-Line Students Complaints: [View the Distance Learning Student Complaint Process.](#)