

SOCIOLINGUISTICS

University of Cyprus
Department of English Studies

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Sociolinguistics: ENG 241
Spring 2014

Date: Monday-Thursday 16:30-18:00
Office Hours: Tuesday 10:30-13:00 (office M 103)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Introduction to Sociolinguistics is intended to provide students with a sound coverage of the topics related to 'Sociolinguistics' and 'The Sociology of Language'. The student gradually will develop the joined premises that interpersonal communication practices are culturally variable, socially stratified and geographically distributed.

The course is arranged thematically: each week, we will examine a major topic of sociolinguistics concern, providing theoretical, methodological and empirical work (observation and or experimental). Students are responsible for writing a short, weekly assignment paper or small projects, to be handed in before each week's final class. Students should, at a minimum, be prepared to discuss *each* of that class period's focus questions in conference.

Assignments must be turned in on time to receive full credit and comments. Extensions will be granted only in cases of illness, family emergency, etc. Late

assignments will not be accepted for credit if turned in after the problem set has been returned to students, or discussed in class, whichever comes first. You are encouraged to work on problem sets together, but your answers must be written up separately and in your own words.

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READINGS

Textbooks

(listed from the most important, for the purposes of the course)

📖 Meyerhoff, M. (2011). *Introducing sociolinguistics* (2nd ed.). London and New York: Routledge.

Wardhaugh, R. (2002). *An Introduction to Sociolinguistics* (4th ed.). Oxford: Blackwell.

Duranti, A. (1997). *Linguistic Anthropology*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Fromkin, V., Rodman, R., & Hyams, N. (2010). *An Introduction to Language* (9th ed.). Boston: Cengage Learning (pp. 429-479).

Mesthrie, R., Swann, J., Deumert, A., & Leap, W. L. (2000). *Introducing Sociolinguistics*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press.

Holmes, J. (2008). *An introduction to sociolinguistics*. Pearson Longman.

Lippi-Green, R. (1997). *English with an Accent: Language, Ideology and Discrimination in the United States*. London and New York: Routledge.

Wells, J. C. (1982). *Accents of English: An Introduction*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Online Resources:

(listed alphabetically)

DARE (Dictionary of American Regional English):
<http://dare.wisc.edu/?q=node/1>

IDEA (International Dialects of English Archive):
<http://web.ku.edu/~idea/index.htm>

Speech Accent Archive: <http://accent.gmu.edu/>

The Audio Archive: http://alt-usage-english.org/audio_archive.shtml

Newton's Isoglosses (see Maps of Cyprus with the variables):
www.charalambosthemistocleous.com

See also the course's website for more online resources and material.

Software (Open Source & Free)

Acoustic Analysis: <http://www.fon.hum.uva.nl/praat/> ([Praat Tutorial](#))

Statistics: <http://www.r-project.org/> ([Manuals](#))

Citation Styles & Writing

For your assignments you should follow the APA 6th ed. (See a tutorial here <http://www.apastyle.org/learn/tutorials/basics-tutorial.aspx>)

American Psychological Association. (2009). *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th ed.). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

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- ☞ Do your weekly readings before coming to class.
- ☞ Homework must be handed in time.
- ☞ Class attendance and participation are important. If you cannot attend, it is your responsibility to contact me beforehand if possible.

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GRADING

Type	Percentage	Description
Midterm Exam	20%	The Midterm will be held on <DATE>. All students are expected to participate.
Final Exam	40%	The Final Exam will test students' knowledge on key phonetics and phonology notions.
Participation	15%	You are supposed to do weekly readings (so be prepared) and participate in class.
Assignment	20%	Everyone should think about some interesting variable phenomenon that nobody has studied (as far as you know). This may be a particular variable, a social unit that has its own special speech characteristics, or some interesting style. Describe this phenomenon and explain why you find it worth studying. Write a brief proposal for a study of the phenomenon, explaining how you would gather your data and what kinds of hypotheses you have.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Classes

PART 1 Languages, Dialects and Varieties

Class 1 Introduction

Class 2 Variation and Language

Class 3 Languages, Dialects, and Varieties

Class 4 Languages, Dialects, and Varieties

Class 5 Multilingualism and Language Choice

Class 6 Pidgins and Creoles

Class 7 Pidgins and Creoles

PART 2 Language Use

Class 8 Language Attitudes

Class 9 Solidarity and Politeness

Part 3 Language Change

Class 10 Real Time and Apparent Time (Language Change)

Class 11 Real Time and Apparent Time (Language Change)

Part 4 Language and social constructs

Class 11 Social Class

Class 12 Social Dialects

Class 13 Social Networks and Communities of Practice

Class 14 Gender

Class 15 Language Contact

Part 5 Sociolinguistics, Ethnography and Talk in Interaction

Class 16 Ethnographies A

Class 17 Ethnographies B

Class 18 Talk in Interaction

Class 19 Interactional Sociolinguistics