English 330/Anthropology 325: Sociolinguistics

Monday and Wednesday 4:10-5:25; Hunter North C109

Instructor: Kelsey Swift
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Office hours: Monday 5:30-6:30, Wednesday 3-4, or by appointment

Course description:

Welcome to Sociolinguistics! This course is an introduction to sociolinguistics and is designed to give students the tools to critically analyze language in use and the relationship between language and society. The course will provide an overview of foundational work in language variation, as well as more recent work that incorporates concepts like language ideology, indexicality, and critical theory. Along the way, we'll look at how language interacts with other dimensions of social life/identity, including gender, race, ethnicity, geographical location, age, social affiliations, and mobility. Particular attention will be given to the intersection of language and social justice. Some background in linguistics is recommended but not required.

Learning goals:

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- Analyze language in use and discourse about language
- Understand and apply different research approaches in sociolinguistics
- Critically discuss normative beliefs about language
- Explore real-world applications for sociolinguistic knowledge
- Complete a research project on a relevant topic

Required Text:

Bell, A. (2014). *The Guidebook to Sociolinguistics*. Chichester: Wiley Blackwell. ISBN: 978-0631228660.

Course requirements:

ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION: Attendance and participation are an essential part of learning the material in this class. After two absences, your attendance grade will be affected. If possible, please let me know in advance if you have to miss class.

READING: Students are expected to complete all assigned readings <u>before</u> class and come prepared to discuss the material. The majority of the readings will come from the assigned textbook; other reading assignments will be posted on Blackboard.

HOMEWORK: A short homework assignment will accompany each reading, due on the day the reading is to be covered in class. All assignments will be weighted equally and will be graded pass/fail, with the three lowest grades dropped at the end of the semester. We will review some homework answers in class.

MIDTERM PROJECTS: There will be three small-scale research projects, building on the topics covered by the readings and homework for the respective unit. Each project will involve original data collection and analysis. The average of your scores on these projects will count for 40% of your final grade. See the calendar below for dates. More details will be provided in class before each project.

FINAL PROJECT & PRESENTATION: The final project will be a short paper which expands on one of the earlier projects (see above). The project should draw on course materials and readings. Part of your grade will be based on a short presentation of your topic and findings during the final week of class. More details will be provided in class.

Grading:

Attendance/participation	20%
Homework	20%
Midterm projects	40%
Final project & presentation	20%

Class Policies:

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: Hunter College takes acts of academic dishonesty very seriously. You are expected to adhere to CUNY's standards of academic integrity, which are outlined here: http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/studentaffairs/student-conduct/academic-integrity/cuny-policy-on-academic-integrity

LATE OR MISSED ASSIGNMENTS: Late homework and projects will be accepted at my discretion and for partial credit.

DIGITAL DEVICES: Laptops should only be used for class-related activities. Cell phones are to be kept silent and out of sight, unless given permission by the instructor. Inappropriate use of electronics will affect your participation grade.

ADA STATEMENT: In compliance with the ADA and with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Hunter College is committed to ensuring educational access and accommodations for all its registered students. Hunter College's students with disabilities and medical conditions are encouraged to register with the Office of AccessABILITY for assistance and accommodation.

For information and appointment contact the Office of AccessABILITY located in Room E1214 or call (212) 772-4857 or TTY (212) 650-3230.

SEXUAL MISCONDUCT: In compliance with the CUNY Policy on Sexual Misconduct, Hunter College reaffirms the prohibition of any sexual misconduct, which includes sexual violence, sexual harassment, and gender-based harassment retaliation against students, employees, or visitors, as well as certain intimate relationships. Students who have experienced any form of sexual violence on or off campus (including CUNY-sponsored trips and events) are entitled to the rights outlined in the Bill of Rights for Hunter College.

> a.   Sexual Violence: Students are strongly encouraged to immediately report the incident by calling 911, contacting NYPD Special Victims Division Hotline (646-610-7272) or their local police precinct, or contacting the College's Public Safety Office (212-772-4444).
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> b.   All Other Forms of Sexual Misconduct: Students are also encouraged to contact the College's Title IX Campus Coordinator, Dean John Rose (jtrose@hunter.cuny.edu or 212-650-3262) or Colleen Barry (colleen.barry@hunter.cuny.edu or 212-772-4534) and seek complimentary services through the Counseling and Wellness Services Office, Hunter East 1123.
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> c.   CUNY Policy on Sexual Misconduct Link: http://www.cuny.edu/about/administration/offices/la/Policy-on-Sexual-Misconduct-12-1-14-with-links.pdf

INCLUSIVITY & DIVERSITY: All students, regardless of background, affiliation, immigration status, or identity, are welcome in this class and as such, this class should be a safe space. If you feel that any instances of disrespect or discrimination are taking place, you are encouraged to call them out in class or discuss them with me privately. As an educator, I fully support the rights of all students to an education and I want to work with you to address anything that might be interfering with that.

Course Calendar (tentative and subject to change)

Monday, January 27	Introduction to class; The Linguistic Facts of Life (EWAA ch. 1)
Wednesday, January 29	What are Sociolinguistics? (Guidebook ch. 1)
Monday, February 3	Variation in Language (Guidebook ch. 7)
Wednesday, February 5	Language in Space (Guidebook ch. 9)
Monday, February 10	Multilingualism in Tokyo (Backhaus 2006)
Wednesday, February 12	NO CLASS
Monday, February 17	NO CLASS
Wednesday, February 19	Language in Time (Guidebook ch. 8)
Monday, February 24	[r] and the construction of place identity on NYC's Lower East Side (Becker 2009)
Wednesday, February 26	**Project 1 (Linguistic Landscape) due**
Monday, March 2	A Profusion of Languages (Guidebook ch. 2)
Wednesday, March 4	Codes and Choices (Guidebook ch. 5)
Monday, March 9	*Translanguaging*, ch. 2 (García and Li Wei 2014)
Wednesday, March 11	Language Shift and Maintenance (Guidebook ch. 3)
Monday, March 16	Resisting Rhetorics of Language Endangerment (Davis 2017)
Wednesday, March 18	Language Birth and Death (Guidebook ch. 4)
Monday, March 23	**Project 2 (Multilingualism Interview) due**
Wednesday, March 25	Styling Language and Identities (Guidebook ch. 11)
Monday, March 30	*Homegirls*, ch. 2 (Mendoza-Denton 2008)
Wednesday, April 1	'Pink Chess Gring Gous' (Cutler 2018)
Monday, April 6	Valuing Language (Guidebook ch. 10)
Tuesday, April 7 (CUNY Wednesday)	Standardization, Racialization, Languagelessness (Rosa 2016)
Wednesday, April 8 – Wednesday, April 15	NO CLASS (spring recess)
Monday, April 20	Language, Asylum, and the National Order (Blommaert 2009)
Wednesday, April 22	Gender and Language Ideologies (Cameron 2014)
Monday, April 27	**Project 3 (Discourse Analysis) due**
Wednesday, April 29	Linguistic Profiling and Discrimination (Baugh 2017)
Monday, May 4	Language and Linguistics on Trial (Rickford & King 2016)
Wednesday, May 6	Class wrap-up
Monday, May 11	Presentations
Wednesday, May 13	Presentations
TBD	**Final Project due**