

LING 102: Introduction to Sociolinguistics Spring 2016

COURSE TIME	11 am - 12 pm Mon & Wed	
LOCATION	Moore 216	
WEBSITE	https://canvas.upenn.edu/courses/1309304	
TEXTBOOK	<i>No textbook; readings posted on Canvas</i>	
INSTRUCTOR	Dr. Meredith Tamminga	
CONTACT	tamminga@ling.upenn.edu	
OFFICE	602 Williams Hall	
OFFICE HOURS	2-3 pm Thurs	
TAs	Edward Bezerra	Nattanun Chanchaochai
CONTACT	ebezerra@sas.upenn.edu	nattanun@sas.upenn.edu
OFFICE HOURS	3-4 pm Fri, 645 Williams	12:30-1:30 Wed, 645 Williams

OVERVIEW

In this course we'll investigate how language relates to social factors like gender, ethnicity, and class, and connect the variation found in everyday speech to the larger forces that drive languages to change over time. The course features a hands-on research component in the form of two field projects. You'll learn how to collect data on how people use language in real life and analyze the data you collect, gaining useful quantitative skills that can be transferred to other areas.

By the end of the course, you should feel comfortable:

- Talking and writing about language variation and its social determinants
- Collecting sociolinguistic data in real-world settings using multiple methods
- Analyzing numeric data using basic quantitative and statistical tools
- Formulating and testing hypotheses about sociolinguistic topics

ASSESSMENT & EVALUATION

- Two field projects: 45 points (FP1: 20 pts., FP2: 25 pts.)
- Two midterm exams: 30 points (15 pts. each)
- Debate preparation & participation: 20 points
- Recitation participation: 5 points

Your total grade is out of 100 points.

LIST OF TOPICS

You will receive a detailed course schedule with readings and deadlines on the first day of class.

What is sociolinguistics?
Describing language varieties
Regional language variation
Language change over time
Sound change
Social stratification
Social class & change
Gender in variation and change
Speech style
Quantitative analysis
Identity and locally-salient categories
Ethnic varieties & language contact
Multilingualism & Global Englishes
Gender & sexuality in language
Variation & change in sign languages
Language attitudes & policy
African American English
Language in education
The Oakland Ebonics Controversy

FIELD PROJECT TOPICS

Field Project 1: Words and Sounds in American Dialects

Circulate a written dialect survey and make dialect maps

Field Project 2: Finding /r/ on the Streets of Philly

Conduct a rapid-and-anonymous survey asking for street names

COURSE POLICIES

Contact:

- Feel free to ask questions by email, but allow 24 hours for a response.
- Check this syllabus and the Canvas site before emailing questions.
- Direct email is preferred over Canvas messaging.
- Announcements will be made through Canvas; arrange to get Canvas updates.

Standards for submission:

- Assignments are due at **9 pm** on the date of the deadline.
- All coursework should normally be submitted through Canvas.
- **ONLY** in case of technical problems with Canvas, coursework may be emailed.
- All submitted coursework should be in PDF format, using standard fonts/type size/color, with your last name in the file name and at the top of the page.

Course materials and technology:

- There is no textbook for this course. Readings will be posted on Canvas.
- All field project materials will be posted on Canvas.
- You may take notes on your laptop during lectures, but please avoid multitasking out of consideration for your classmates' concentration.
- You will need access to a spreadsheet program like Excel. If you do not already have Excel, you may use an open-source alternative or a campus computer lab.

Late and missed assessments:

- The late penalty for assignments is 20% if submitted within 24 hours of the deadline. Later submissions will not be accepted without well-documented extenuating circumstances.
- Field project data cannot be accepted late.
- Assignments or deadlines that are missed for travel, illness, or unexpected obligations may be made up **by advance arrangement** with Prof. Tamminga, or with documentation from SDS or your academic advisor.
- There is no grade penalty for missed lectures (Monday & Wednesday), but be aware that it is your responsibility to make up any content you miss.

Accommodations and nondiscrimination:

- I am of course happy to arrange any necessary accommodations with appropriate documentation from Student Disability Services.
- If you require disability accommodation, please notify me as soon as possible.
- I am committed to providing a learning environment free of discrimination and harassment. I expect your similar commitment.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Please refer to Penn's academic integrity guide here: <http://www.upenn.edu/academicintegrity/>

For the purposes of this class, you may discuss with other students to get a handle on the research and analysis aspects of the field projects, but **all reports must be written up individually without collaboration.**

Violations of academic integrity will be handled on a case-by-case basis, with possible consequences including zero credit for an assignment, failure in the class, and/or reporting to the Office of Student Conduct for university-level sanctions.

IMPORTANT ADMINISTRATIVE DATES

Jan. 13	First day of class
Feb. 19	Last day to drop
Mar. 25	Last day to withdraw
Apr. 27	Last day of class