

LING 511: Language Variation and Change Spring 2016

COURSE TIME	Mondays & Wednesdays, 2-3:30
LOCATION	616 Williams Hall
WEBSITE	https://canvas.upenn.edu/courses/1309303
INSTRUCTOR	Dr. Meredith Tamminga
CONTACT	tamminga@ling.upenn.edu
OFFICE	602 Williams Hall
OFFICE HOURS	By appointment

OVERVIEW

This course is an intensive graduate-level introduction to theories of language variation and change. In the first half of the semester we consider the fundamental questions of language change and inherent variability posed by Weinreich, Labov & Herzog 1968, tracing each from its inception to the current state of the art. In the second half of the semester, we survey more recent developments, including trajectories of variation across the lifespan, theories of social meaning and linguistic practice, sociolinguistic cognition, dialect contact outcomes, and the incorporation of variation into formal linguistic frameworks.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

It is essential to do the assigned readings and engage consistently in class discussions. Most days there is only one reading assigned per class period in order to allow you to engage deeply in these papers. **Bring a copy of the paper under discussion to each class.**

With the assigned readings as a starting point, students will compile a bibliography on a selected topic and write a critical literature review as a final paper. Periodic assignments during the semester will build up to the final paper. **Submit all assignments on paper at the beginning of class on the due date.**

EVALUATION

20%	Participation
40%	Assignments
40%	Final paper

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND READINGS

- Jan 13** An overview of variationist sociolinguistics
- Jan 20** The linguistic variable, part 1
Fasold 1991
- Jan 25** The linguistic variable, part 2
Lavandera 1978
Labov 1978
- Jan 27** Early work on the Transition problem
Labov 1989
- Feb 1** Recent work on the Transition problem
Tagliamonte & D'Arcy 2009
- Feb 3** Early work on the Evaluation problem
Lambert et al. 1960
- Feb 8** Recent work on the Evaluation problem
Campbell-Kibler 2011
- Feb 10** Early work on the Social Embedding problem
Milroy & Milroy 1985
- Feb 15** Recent work on the Social Embedding problem
Dodsworth 2014
- Feb 17** Early work on the Linguistic Embedding problem
Moulton 1962
- Feb 22** Recent work on the Linguistic Embedding problem
Labov 2007
- Feb 24** Early work on the Constraints problem
Labov 1994 chs. 10-11.1
- Feb 29** Recent work on the Constraints problem
Nycz 2013

Mar 2	NO CLASS	—————SPRING BREAK—————
Mar 14	Early work on the <u>Actuation</u> problem	
	Ohala 1981	
Mar 16	Recent work on the <u>Actuation</u> problem	
	Baker, Archangeli & Mielke 2011	
Mar 21	Empirical foundations for a theory of language change	
	Weinreich, Labov & Herzog 1968	
Mar 23	Quantitative reasoning in the study of variation	
	Labov 2004	
Mar 28	Social meaning	
	Eckert 2008	
Mar 30	Communities of practice	
	Mallinson & Childs 2007	
Apr 4	Usage-based and hybrid models	
	Pierrehumbert 2002	
Apr 6	Language change across the lifespan	
	Sankoff & Blondeau 2007	
Apr 11	Sociolinguistic acquisition	
	Smith, Durham & Fortune 2009	
Apr 13	New dialect formation	
	Trudgill 2008 & responses	
Apr 18	Sociolinguistic cognition - reading TBA	
Apr 20	Variation in formal frameworks	
	Anttila 1997	
Apr 25	Variation and change in sign languages	
	Frishberg 1975	
Apr 27	Topic TBA	