

Sociolinguistics

Winter 1397(Saturdays, 2:00 p.m.)

Course Description:

In this course we explore the educational consequences of linguistic and cultural diversity. The course provides a broad overview of sociolinguistics, introducing both early foundational work and current issues in the field. Topics include language contact and language prestige, multilingualism and language ecology, regional and stylistic variation, verbal repertoire and communicative competence, language and social identity, code-switching and diglossia, language socialization and language ideology, as they relate to educational policy and practice.

Course Reading:

Wardhaugh, Ronald (2015). *An Introduction to Sociolinguistics* (7th edition). Malden, MA: Blackwell.

A pack of scholarly articles related to the topics of the course.

Additional resources on the web can be found by accessing
<http://www2.gsu.edu/~eslsal/links.htm>.

Evaluation:

- 10% Class participation (includes preparation for class based on readings)
- 15% Article presentation
- 10% Research proposal
- 35% Term paper
- 5% Presentation on final paper topic
- 25% Final Exam

Participation:

Effective participation requires preparation. It is crucial to come to class having carefully read and thought about the day's reading. Focusing questions for the readings will be emailed each week to help guide you to think about the general ideas that I find particularly important about the readings. These will be a starting point for discussion, so you should have thought about the questions *before* class. If you know you will need to miss class, you should e-mail me your comments and questions before class.

Article presentation:

Beginning in *Bahman*, each week one of you is to initiate a discussion on the topic of the day as well as present a relevant article. I email you three articles and you choose to present whichever you prefer. The whole class is to read and be prepared to discuss all the three, however.

Research proposal, term project and presentation:

Submit a research proposal on a topic of interest no later than week 7. The proposal must contain all the sections of a standard proposal (such as your MA thesis proposal)! The final paper is due **14th of Ordibehesht**. Our last meeting (11/3/98) will be devoted to brief presentations of your projects.

General requirements for written work:

1. All work should be typed and double-spaced.
2. Use APA format (you can use a paper published in any major applied linguistics journal as an example to follow), including non-sexist language.
3. Any material taken from a source needs to be identified as such, even if you have changed the wording. Failure to attribute material to its original author will be considered plagiarism and will not be tolerated.
4. Assignments will be graded *on depth of coverage* (comprehensive/ thorough treatment of the topic reflecting a clear understanding of the subject), *presentation* (clear, concise, readable prose), and *argument* (strength of evidence, and attention to counter arguments where necessary).
5. In case of an emergency that interferes with your work in this class, talk to me as soon as you can.

Schedule*

*This schedule is subject to change. For example, we may spend more or less time covering some topics, based in part on your feedback. This means that you can play a role in deciding what is covered in class and in what detail, but it also means that you are responsible for making sure you know what you need to do for each class.

Week	Topic	Assignment due
1	Introduction	
2	Language prestige and language ideologies	
3	Language contact and multilingualism	
4	Language change, dialect and style	
5	Ebonics, creoles, and pidgins	
6	Bidialectalism and critical language awareness	
7	Language and gender	<i>Proposals due</i>
8	Disadvantage	
9	Speech communities and communicative repertoires	
10	Ethnography of speaking	
11	Critical and multimodal literacies in ELT	
12	Code switching and stance	

13	Language shift, maintenance and revitalization	
14	Presentations	

*I'm thinking of including some material related to 'sociology of education', in case we decide to replace some of the topics in this tentative schedule. Possible topics include: inequality and class, inequality and race, inequality and gender, school choice, higher education, multiculturalism, segregation, testing, etc.

Here is a list of journals which publish articles in the field of sociolinguistics and beyond:

American speech
Annual review of anthropology
Anthropology and education quarterly
Applied linguistics
Bilingualism and language pedagogy
Bilingualism: language and cognition
Bilingual research journal
Black scholar
Discourse and society
Ethnic and racial studies
Issues in applied linguistics
Journal of language and social psychology
Journal of language, identity and education
Journal of linguistic anthropology
Journal of social issues
Journal of social work
Journal of sociolinguistics
Language and communication
Language in society
Sociolinguistica
Sociolinguistic studies
The English journal
World Englishes