English 420 – Sociolinguistics – 2002

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Texts:

• Required

• Recommended
  Order this online wherever you can get the best price. Lists new for $31.95
  Barnes and Noble:
  Amazon:
  http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/0521437571/qid=1010617933/sr=8-1/ref=sr_8_1_1/102-3038738-7064905

You should also access George Dillon’s Webpage at the University of Washington and links:
http://faculty.washington.edu/dillon/homdex.html
http://classweb.gmu.edu/accent/
http://www.otago.ac.nz/anthropology/Linguistic/Sounds.html

Also access the Endangered Language Groups homepage at:
http://www.sil.org/sociolx/ndg-lg-grps.html

**Introduction and Course Description:** This course introduces students to the basic concepts, tenets, and issues of general sociolinguistics; it seeks to give students special understanding of the social significance of bilingualism, dialect and accent, and of language contraction and death.
Course Objectives:
By the end of the course, students will:
- Possess knowledge of dialects and varieties of English.
- Understand definition and linguistic characteristics of pidgins and creoles.
- Be aware of issues relating to code switching, bilingualism, and multilingualism.
- Possess a general understanding of speech communities.
- Recognize the phonological units of the English language as they relate to dialect and accent.
- Understand the distribution and importance of linguistic variables and social variation.
- Understand Whorfian hypothesis and related problems in sociolinguistics.
- Appreciate importance of ethnography of communication.
- Recognize features of conversation and gender differences.
- Be familiar with issues in Black English and bilingual education.

Course Requirements: The reading schedule is provided in the tentative course schedule. It is important to complete the assigned readings prior to the relevant class meeting. Students will be expected to participate in activities and complete all course assignments on time. Unexcused late assignments will not be accepted. Homework and in-class activities will be. Test dates are indicated on the tentative course schedule. There will be no make-up tests: extreme circumstances will be considered by the instructor on an individual basis. Students will be evaluated according to the following grade chart.

Grading: There will be a total of 1000 points possible. A total of 900 points = A, 800 points = B, 700 points = C, etc. Students will be graded according to the following point system:
- Midterm paper and presentation (on a dialect or accent of English)..............30%
- Term paper and presentation (on a dead or dying language)..................40%
- Final Exam.................................................................................................30%

Tentative Course Schedule:
- Week 1 (Jan 9) Intro
- Week 2 (Jan 16) Wardhough (hence W) chapters 1&2
- Week 3 (Jan 23) W chapter 3&4
- Week 4 (Jan 30) W chapter 5&6
- Week 5 (Feb 6) W chapter 7&8
- Week 6 (Feb 13) Midterm
- Week 7 (Feb 21) W chapter 9&10
- Week 8 (Feb 27) F W chapter 11&12
- Week 9 (March 6) W chapter 13&14
- Week 10 (March 13) W chapter 15
- Week 11 (March 21) Final