Dr. Patricia Cukor-Avila  
Email: patricia.cukor-avila@unt.edu  
Hours: T/TH 9:30-10:30 and by appointment

Course Objectives  
This course examines the regional and social structure of American English. We will explore such questions as why people from different parts of the United States have “accents,” why certain varieties of American English are considered more “prestigious” than others, how language varies and how variation can lead to change, and what are some of the recent changes that have taken place in American English.

Course Requirements  
**The prerequisite for this course is LING 3070 or an equivalent, approved course from another university.**

Course grades will be determined from the following:

1. **20% Participation**
   This includes regular attendance, active participation in class and online discussions, active participation in class group work. Students will also work in small groups to lead class discussions based on outside research.

2. **30% Short papers/presentations**
   These will be assigned during the semester to coincide with Units 1 and 2. The instructions for these papers will be posted on Canvas.

3. **40% Semester-long research project in lieu of final exam**
   Students will work either individually or in pairs throughout the semester on a guided research project. Details of the project (including possible topics and format) will be discussed during the first week of class.

Most of what you will learn in this class will come from class interactions, discussions, and oral presentations. Therefore, **attendance is required.** Late assignments will be graded down 5 points each day they are late. If you know of any circumstance that will cause you to miss class please let me know in advance so we can make any arrangements necessary. If you are too ill to come to class, you must contact either Kristy or me before class to let me know.

There is no textbook for the class. All readings will be posted to Canvas.
Course Schedule (may be revised because of current events in the media)

Unit #1 – Regional and Dialectal Variation / Accents and the “Standard”

Aug. 28: Introduction to course; social, regional, and ethnic variation in English; social class in the U.S. – how does this relate to linguistic variation?

Aug. 30: What does “grammatical” mean? What does “ungrammatical” mean?

Sept. 4: The diversity of American English – accents and “standard” English; why languages have dialects.

Sept. 6, 11: Social and demographic factors involved in variation

Sept.: 13, 18: Linguistic geography – dialect regions of the United States; Linguistic Atlas studies. Dialectology; Perceptual dialectology research

Sept. 20, 25: Perceptual dialectology research cont.; “Southerners are friendly and Northerners are rude” – Attitudes toward regional varieties of U.S. English

Sept. 27: Accent discrimination; language ideology and language attitudes

Oct. 2: Language subordination; the “standard language myth”

Unit #2 – Linguistic Variation and Politics

Oct. 4: Language and politics

Oct. 9: Multilingualism in the U.S.

Oct. 11: Spanish in the U.S.; “Chicano English”

Oct. 16: Heritage Languages their history and status in the U.S.

Oct. 18: Native American Languages

Oct. 23, 25: American Sign Language

Unit #3 – African American English

Oct. 30, Nov. 1: Historical roots of African American English (AAE); the “divergence controversy”

Nov. 6, 8: Grammatical and phonological features of AAE; grammatical innovations

Nov. 13, 15: Linguistic profiling; language and education – from Ann Arbor to Oakland
Nov. 20: AAE and the judicial system
Nov. 22: No class – Thanksgiving
Nov. 27, 29: “Talking Black in America”
Dec. 4, 6: Final project presentations
Dec. 11: Final projects due by 12:30pm
Assignment Submission and Grading Academic Dishonesty and Integrity

It is your responsibility to become familiar with UNT’s Policy of Academic Dishonesty. The full policy can be found at [http://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/untpolicy/pdf/7-Stu  

This policy defines the following forms of academic dishonesty:

- **Cheating:** Intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise. The term academic exercise includes all forms of work submitted for credit or hours.
- **Plagiarism:** The deliberate adoption or reproduction of ideas, words, or statements of another person as one’s own without acknowledgement.
- **Fabrication:** Intentional and unauthorized falsification or invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise.
- **Facilitating academic dishonesty:** Intentionally or knowingly helping or attempting to help another to violate a provision of the institutional code of academic integrity.

If any course material is submitted that violates this policy of academic dishonesty, the assignment will receive a grade of F, and the student may receive a failing grade for the entire course; appropriate judicial action will be filed. This action includes a report of academic misconduct to the Office of Academic Integrity and possible dismissal from The University of North Texas. There are no first-offense warnings regarding plagiarism.

**Student Behavior**

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor’s ability to conduct a class or other students’ opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university’s expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. Information about The Code of Student Conduct can be found at [http://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct](http://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct)

Cell phone use is not allowed in class. Students must silence their phones and put them away during class time. Any student found using a phone in class for non-class related use will be asked to leave the class. If there is a reason to have your phone out during class you must clear this with the professor before the start of class.

**Laptops and tablets may only be used for class-related purposes.** Recent research has shown that students retain material much better if they take notes with a pen and paper and not on their computers [http://www.npr.org/2016/04/17/474525392/attention-students-put-your-laptops-away](http://www.npr.org/2016/04/17/474525392/attention-students-put-your-laptops-away)

I encourage you to follow this practice. Students who are using their laptops or tablets to check email, Facebook, surf the web, send text messages, or other non-class activities will be asked to leave the class.

**Essential Competencies**

ODA policy – *The University of North Texas is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of federal equal opportunity legislation; reference Public Law 92-112 – The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended. With the passage of new federal legislation entitled*
Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), pursuant to section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, there is renewed focus on providing this population with the same opportunities enjoyed by all citizens. In accordance with the terms and spirit of the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504, Rehabilitation Act, we will cooperate with the Office of Disability Accommodation to accommodate reasonably qualified students with disabilities. If you have a disability for which you will require accommodation, please advise the professor of your needs in writing no later than the end of the second week of the semester. Essential competencies for this course include the ability to:

- read and synthesize research articles.
- interact with subjects in a professional and ethical manner.
- use an audio and/or video recorder.
- use a computer with various word processing, e-mail, transcription, and graphics software applications.
- speak in front of the class and use multimedia to support the presentation.

Sexual Discrimination, Harassment, and Assault
UNT is committed to providing an environment free of all forms of discrimination and sexual harassment, including sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. If you (or someone you know) has experienced or experiences any of these acts of aggression, please know that you are not alone. The federal Title IX law makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender are Civil Rights offenses. UNT has staff members trained to support you in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, helping with legal protective orders, and more. UNT’s Dean of Students’ website offers a range of on-campus and off-campus resources to help support survivors, depending on their unique needs: http://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources_0. Renee LeClaire McNamara is UNT’s Student Advocate and she can be reached through e-mail at SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu or by calling the Dean of Students’ office at 940-565-2648. You are not alone. We are here to help.