Spring 2019  
LING 5330/6110: Sociolinguistics

Instructor: Dr. Patricia Cukor-Avila  
Time: W 6:30-9:20  
Place: NTDP D207B  
Email: patricia.cukor-avila@unt.edu  
Office hours: T/W 5:00-6:00 NTDP G178D

Course Description
In this course we will examine language as it relates to and as it functions in society. In particular, we will look at how language establishes social relationships and reflects social processes, at the purposes for which language is used, at the sources of linguistic variation, at the mechanisms of linguistic change, and at how change spreads through a speech community. Students will learn the methods used by variationists to gather data and the tools used to analyze linguistic variation as they work on semester-long projects.

Prerequisite
LING 5040, 3070, or another approved introductory linguistics course.

Required Text
Tagliamonte, Sali. 2012. Variationist Sociolinguistics. Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell. ISBN 978-1-4051-3591-7 (This text is also available through the UNT online library for single-use access)

All additional readings will be posted to Canvas

Suggested Text

Requirements and Evaluation
Article Presentations and discussion: 25%
Students will lead a 10-minute presentation/discussion of articles related to topics covered during the semester. Discussion points and questions related to the topic should be uploaded to Canvas the day of the presentation.

Semester Project and Presentation: 75%
Throughout the semester students will work in groups to research grammatical variation by:

- researching the history and use of the feature
- investigating published studies about the feature
- collecting new data to investigate the use of the feature
- coding the new data and also data from my AAVE corpus
• analyzing the use of the feature in both data sets
• generating one or more hypotheses about the variation in the use of the feature based on previous research and the analysis of the data

Each group will write a complete report of their research and findings and present them to the class at the end of the semester. To keep everyone on track there will be due dates throughout the semester for each part of the project.

Weekly Plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Jan. 16</td>
<td>Course overview; what is Sociolinguistics?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Jan. 23</td>
<td>Sociolinguistics as LVC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Jan. 30</td>
<td>Social patterns; Labov (Martha’s Vineyard and NYC studies)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Feb. 6</td>
<td>Social patterns cont.; Linguistic Patterns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Feb. 13</td>
<td>Data and Methods; the sociolinguistic interview and research ethics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Feb. 20</td>
<td>Transcription and coding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Feb. 27</td>
<td>Analyzing the data – quantitative and qualitative methods used in variation studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Mar. 6</td>
<td>Analyzing the data – quantitative and qualitative methods used in variation studies cont.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Mar. 13</td>
<td>Spring Break – No Class!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Mar. 20</td>
<td>Phonological and morpho-syntactic variables</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Mar. 27</td>
<td>Discourse/pragmatic features</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Apr. 3</td>
<td>Linguistic contact; transmission, diffusion, and incrementation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Apr. 10</td>
<td>Real and apparent time; age-grading; language across the lifespan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Apr. 17</td>
<td>Sociolinguistic explanations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Apr. 30</td>
<td>Workshop for projects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>May 1</td>
<td>Project presentations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FINALS</td>
<td>May 8</td>
<td>Projects due</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other Important Dates
Feb. 15: UNT Multidisciplinary Information Research Symposium (MIRS) abstracts due
https://mirs.unt.edu/cfp

March 1-2: UTA Student Conference in Linguistics and TESOL (UTASCILT 2019)

Mar. 8: Last day to register for the Federation Graduate Student Research Symposium (20 poster presentations/school; cash prizes!)
https://tgs.unt.edu/federation/symposium/registration-webform
April 5: Federation Graduate Student Research Symposium (held this year at UNT)
https://tgs.unt.edu/gsc-event/federation-graduate-student-research-symposium

April 12-13: Symposium about Language and Society Austin (SALSA) Conference, UT Austin
http://salsa.ling.utexas.edu/index.html

April 26-28: Denton Arts and Jazz Festival. https://dentonjazzfest.com/ The Linguistics Department will have a booth at the festival. Sign up to participate in bringing linguistics to the Denton community!

April 27: UNT Multidisciplinary Information Research Symposium (MIRS)

June 24-July 19: LSA Linguistic Institute, UC Davis. Apply for a fellowship!
https://www.linguisticsociety.org/meetings-institutes/institutes/fellowships
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-Student_Affairs-Academic_Integrity.pdf](http://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/untpolicy/pdf/7-Student_Affairs-Academic_Integrity.pdf)

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.

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.

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

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