Linguistics 212 – Introduction to Language, Culture, and Society
Reed College, Spring 2015
Performing Arts Building 131
Section 1: TTH 10:30-11:50
Section 2: TTH 1:10-2:30

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Office Hours: Tuesdays 3-4pm, Wednesdays, 10am-12pm (and by appointment)

Prerequisite
The prerequisite for this course is Linguistics 211: Introduction to Linguistic Analysis.

Course Description
This course is the second semester in the Linguistics Department’s yearlong Introduction to Linguistics. Building off key themes from Linguistics 211, we consider the inclusion of social aspects of language in linguistic inquiry – the dialogue between langue and parole. This course is presented as a survey of the central themes in the study of language and society. We will explore theoretical notions (variation, change, ideology, indexicality), methodologies for gathering sociolinguistic data, perspectives on sociolinguistic analysis at the level of the group (speech communities, communities of practice) and the individual (style, audience design, social practice), and the role of identity and social categories in sociolinguistics (age, race/ethnicity, gender). Students will collect original data and write short research write-ups, moving from a collaborative data project to a final research project of each student’s choosing. Conference. Fulfills Group B.

Course Requirements

Project 1, Rapid Anonymous: 25%
As a class, we will conduct rapid anonymous interviews and gather data on a linguistic variable. Fieldwork will be conducted individually and then compiled into a class database. Each student will then analyze and submit a 5-page (max) paper that presents a sociolinguistic analysis of some aspect of these data.

Project 2, Style: 25%
Each student will create transcripts and conduct a quantitative and qualitative analysis of stylistic variation, and submit a 5-page (max) research write-up.

Project 3: 30% (Final Project)
Your final project will be a research project. You will select a topic or variable of study, gather data on that variable, and submit a write-up of your research that is no longer than 10 pages.

Participation: 20%
Participation in conference is, as always, critical to the success of the course. Come to class prepared to demonstrate the effort you put in to preparing our readings and to engage with
your colleagues. Ask questions, connect concepts and readings, and clarify and/or expand on what others say in class.

Required: Contribute 4 sociolinguistic artifacts over the course of the semester: 
http://reed.edu/slx-artifacts/

An artifact is a piece of media (song, youtube video, news article, photo, etc.) that you feel relates to and/or enhances some concept from class discussion. In posting an artifact you need to contextualize it by explaining why you chose it (i.e. how it relates to class discussion). There are no deadlines for submitting an artifact.

Discussion Leading: In the second half of the course, each of you will serve as discussion leader for a particular day’s readings.

**Course Policies**

**On Absences:** Regular and prepared conferencing is essential to the success of the course. Once you have missed two weeks of class – whether or not your absences are excused – you will have missed two much material and will not receive credit for this course. If a condition is chronic, appropriate documentation and reasonable accommodations should be considered in consultation with both me and the Disability Support Services office. A notice from Student Services that are you are absent because of an illness or are taking a formal emergency absence does not mean that you are excused from meeting any of the requirements of this course. If you must be absent due to health or an emergency, it is your responsibility to catch up on missed material.

**On Accommodations:** If you are a student with a disability and believe you will need accommodation for this class, it is your responsibility to contact and register with Disability Support Services and provide them with documentation of your disability, so that they can determine what accommodations are appropriate for your situation. With your permission they will discuss with me those reasonable and appropriate accommodations. To avoid any delay you should contact the DSS office as early as possible in the semester, and contact me for assistance in developing a plan to address your academic needs in this course. Please note that accommodations are not retroactive and that reasonable disability accommodations cannot be provided until I have received an accommodation letter from the DSS office. You can reach Disability Support Services at (503) 517-7921 or disability-services@reed.edu

**On Incompletes:** I don’t give them except in the case of an acute, extreme emergency or health crisis that interrupts what otherwise was good work in this course.

**On Late Work/Extensions:** You are entitled to one 24-hour extension on a due date in this course, no questions asked. Otherwise, any late work drops a full letter grade for every 24 hours past the deadline.

**On Names and Pronouns:** I will happily honor your preferred name and pronouns and expect all class members to do the same.
Course Outline
Links to readings can be found on our course Moodle page.

Week One. Studying language in use.
Tuesday 1.27

Thursday 1.31

Week Two. Collecting Data
Tuesday 2.3
2. Labov, William. 1972. The social stratification of (r) in New York City Department Stores.

Thursday 2.4
RA Project Discussion 1

Week Three. Variation and Change
Tuesday 2.10

Thursday 2.14
RA Project Discussion 2.
*Due: Pilot Fieldwork for Project #1.

Week Four. Attitudes, Standards.
Tuesday 2.17.

Thursday 2.19. Standard Language Ideology

*Due Thursday: Fieldwork for Project #1*

**Week Five. Communities**
Tuesday 2.24. *The Speech Community*

Thursday 2.26. *Communities of Practice*

**Due Friday 2.27 at 5pm: Project #1 Write-up**

**Week Six. Individuals and Style**
Tuesday 3.3. *Style and Attention to Speech*

Thursday 3.5. *Audience Design*

*Project 2 is handed out

**Week Seven.**
Tuesday 3.10. *Style and Social Meaning*

Thursday 3.12. *Discourse Style*

**Week Eight.**
Tuesday 3.17. *Crossing, Appropriation, Whiteness*

**Thursday 3.19. Code-switching and Codes**


**Due Friday, March 20th at 5pm: Project Write-up #2**

**Week Nine.** Happy Spring Break!

**Week Ten. Indexicality**

**Tuesday 3.31**


**Thursday 4.2**


**Week Eleven. The Third Wave**

**Tuesday 4.7**


**Thursday 4.9**


Optional Reading: Eckert, Penelope. 2008. Variation and the Indexical Field.

**Week Twelve.**

**Tuesday 4.14. Repertoires**


**Thursday 4.16. The CVS and Ethnicity**


**Week Thirteen. Strategic Essentialization and Stigma**

**Tuesday 4.21**

**Thursday 4.23**

**Week Fourteen.**

**Tuesday 4.28**

**Thursday 4.30**

*Final Project Presentations*

Final Papers are due Tuesday, May 12th, at 5pm

Additional Readings:
