Linguistics 332 - Dialects of English
Reed College, Fall 2014
T/Th 10:30-11:50, ETC 208

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

Prerequisites
Linguistics 211 and 212, or consent of instructor.

Course Description

This course is an introduction to dialectology—the study of regional variation in language—with an emphasis on the history and description of the varieties of English currently spoken in North America and across the globe. In this course we work closely with data, integrating hands-on work in class with discussion of theory. Students will acquire practical knowledge of the phonological differences among dialects of English, as well read and apply theories related to language variation and change, standard language ideology, and enregisterment. We focus primarily on varieties of North American English and that region’s dialect history, as well as major sound changes in the North American context, but also devote time to global English dialects. We work actively with dialect data, whether gathered by students through fieldwork or through video and audio clips provided in class. Students will read scholarly articles and complete short assignments throughout the semester. Conference. (Fulfills Group B).

Course Texts

All readings will be available on our course’s Moodle page. We will utilize the *Atlas of North American English* (noted here as ANAE) extensively (Labov, Ash & Boberg 2006).
Grading

1. Assignments 60%

Assignments are due on Thursdays during the course.

Assignment 1: Lexical Survey (10%)
Assignment 2: Vowel Spaces (10%)
Assignment 3: Mergers (10%)
Assignment 4: Perceptual Dialectology (10%)
Assignment 5: Pacific Northwest English (10%)
Assignment 6: Enregisterment (10%)

2. Participation 40%

General Participation (30%). Participation in conference is mandatory and crucial to the success of our class, particularly at the upper division. Engage in class in a way that demonstrates the effort you put in to our class and our readings. Ask questions, connect concepts and readings, and attempt to clarify or expand on what others say in class.

I will expect you to come to class prepared with at least two substantive questions or comments for each reading for that day. If discussion isn’t flowing well, I may formalize your contributions by asking you to submit discussion questions in advance or ask you to rotate as discussion leaders. Instead of making this necessary, come to class ready to discuss what you’ve read!

Discussion Leader – Global English Varieties (10%).

Extra Credit: Contribute artifacts that directly relate to our course material to the Sociolinguistic Artifacts website: www.reed.edu/slx-artifacts
Course Policies

On Absences: Regular, prepared and disciplined conferencing is intrinsic to this course. Once you have missed two weeks of class – whether or not your absences are excused – you will have missed too 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 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 and discussed your case with 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 two one-day extension on a due date in this course, no questions asked. After that, any late work drops a full letter grade for every 24 hours past the deadline.
Course Outline

Week 1
Sep 2. Prescriptivism. What are dialects?
2. Thomas, Erik. Sociophonetics. Chapter 2 (17-29)
*Assignments 1 and 2 are handed out

Week 2
Sep 9. Sociolinguistic dialectology
1. ANAE pages 3-10
Sep 11
1. ANAE pages 11-15
2. Thomas, Erik. Sociophonetics. Chapter 5 (138-159)
Assignment #1 is due

Week 3
Sep 16. Mergers
1. ANAE pages 58-73
Sep 18
Lab: Discuss Assignment 2
Assignment #2 is due; *Assignment 3 is handed out

Week 4
Sep 23. Chain Shifts
1. ANAE pages 16-20
2. ANAE Chapter 14

Sep 25

**Week 5**

Sep 30. Perceptual Dialectology

Oct 2

**Assignment #3 is due; *Assignment 4 is handed out**

**Week 6**

Oct 7. The South
1. ANAE Chapter 18

Oct 9

**Week 7**

Oct 14. The West
1. ANAE Chapter 20

Oct 16

**Assignment #4 is due; *Assignment 5 is handed out**
FALL BREAK: October 21 and 23

Week 8
Oct 28. Dialects and Ethnicity
1. ANAE Chapter 22

Oct 30

Assignment #5 is Due

Week 9
Nov 4
1. Global English Presentation 1
2. Global English Presentation 2

Nov 6
1. Global English Presentation 3
2. Global English Presentation 4

Week 10
Nov 11
1. Global English Presentation 5
2. Global English Presentation 6

Nov 13
1. Global English Presentation 7
3. Global English Presentation 8

Week 11
Nov 18. Enregisterment
Nov 20

*Assignment 6 is handed out

**Week 12**

Nov 25
1. Swing Day

Nov 27: Thanksgiving

**Week 13**

Dec 2

Dec 4

**Week 14: December 9**

Dec 9: Last Day of Class