

English 331 English Lang Variation in the U.S. (30072) 11a MWF 4208 White (VanDam) Fall 2005

Syllabus

331 English Language Variation in the U.S. I or II or SS; 3 cr (H-D). Description and analysis of geographical and social variation in English in the United States. P: So st.

Purpose: (1) gain familiarity with the basics of sociolinguistics and variation in English and in the U.S., (2) develop analytical and problem-solving skills in English sociolinguistics, and (3) gain understanding of modern sociolinguistic issues in the US.

Requirements:

Quizzes and exams cover readings and class discussions including familiarity with terminology and concepts. A project will investigate a well-defined issue in language variation. All readings are expected to be completed before class for that day. Attendance and preparedness are expected.

35%	project (choose one; see deadlines in schedule)
	a. research paper
	b. literature review
	c. research proposal
	d. original field work
10%	in-class project presentation
25%	5 in-class quizzes
15%	mid-term exam
15%	final exam

Required text:

Eckert, Penelope. (1998). "Gender and sociolinguistic variation." in Coates, J. *Language and Gender: A reader*. Malden, MA: Blackwell.

Eckert, Penelope. (2000). *Linguistic Variation and Social Practice*. Oxford: Blackwell.

Labov, William. (1972a). "The social motivation of a sound change." in *Sociolinguistic Patterns*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press. pp 1-42.

Labov, William. (1972b). "The social stratification of (r) in New York City department stores. in *Sociolinguistic Patterns*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press. pp 43-69.

Nunberg, Geoff and Tom Wasow. (2005). "An overview". from the LSA's *Fields of Linguistics*, available at URL: <http://www.lsadc.org/fields/index.php?aaa=overview.htm>.

Thomason, Sarah G. (2005). "Language variation and change." from the LSA's *Fields of Linguistics*, available at URL: <http://www.lsadc.org/fields/index.php?aaa=variation.htm>.

Wolfram, Walt. (2005). "Sociolinguistics." from the LSA's *Fields of Linguistics*, available at URL: <http://www.lsadc.org/fields/index.php?aaa=socioling.htm>.

Wolfram, Walt & Natalie Schilling-Estes. (2006). *American English, 2nd Edition*. Malden, MA: Blackwell.

Project: The project will be tailored to individual students based on their course goals, interests, and expectations from the course. For all projects, students will work with the instructor to select an appropriate topic and presentation method, submit at least one draft during the course of the semester, and submit a final, professionally prepared copy before presenting the work to the class. See schedule for deadlines.

Electronic resources:

The course website is accessible via Learn@UW (<https://uwmad.courses.wisconsin.edu/>). You must be enrolled in the course and use your University NetID and password to access course materials. Announcements, course materials, and other required course information will be disseminated via the course website and your UW e-mail address. You are responsible to remain informed from these sources. Some of the course materials are available from the course website.

Contact the instructor (vandam@wisc.edu) for any questions.

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week 1	Sept 2 (Fri)	introduction to course, sociolinguistics	
week 2	Sept 7 (Wed)	linguistics	NW, T, W
	Sept 9 (Fri)	sociolinguistics	WS xiv-xv, 1-27
week 3	Sept 12 (Mon)	dialect	WS 28-43
	Sept 14 (Wed)	linguistic dialect	WS 43-63
	Sept 16 (Fri)	early American English	WS 103-118
week 4	Sept 19 (Mon)	history of American English	quiz-1 , WS 118-133
	Sept 21 (Wed)	phonological variation	WS 64-84
	Sept 23 (Fri)	syntactic & other variation	WS 85-102
week 5	Sept 26 (Mon)	regional dialects	project topic , WS 134-153
	Sept 28 (Wed)	regional dialect change	WS 153-166
	Sept 30 (Fri)	social class	WS 167-190
week 6	Oct 3 (Mon)	social stratification	quiz-2 , Lb 43-66
	Oct 5 (Wed)	social factors of change	Lb 43-66
	Oct 7 (Fri)	sociological linguistic factors	
week 7	Oct 10 (Mon)	Martha's Vineyard	quiz-3 , La 1-10
	Oct 12 (Wed)	Martha's Vineyard	La 10-36
	Oct 14 (Fri)	Martha's Vineyard	La 36-42
week 8	Oct 17 (Mon)	sociological linguistic change	
	Oct 19 (Wed)	review	
	Oct 21 (Fri)	mid-term exam	mid-term exam
week 9	Oct 24 (Mon)	ethnic dialects	WS 190-210
	Oct 26 (Wed)	AAVE	WS 211-234
	Oct 28 (Fri)	AAVE	WS 211-234
week 10	Oct 31 (Mon)	AAVE	quiz-4 , t.b.a.
	Nov 2 (Wed)	style	WS 266-293
	Nov 4 (Fri)	style	WS 266-293
week 11	Nov 7 (Mon)	register	WS 266-293
	Nov 9 (Wed)	reading	WS 329-338
	Nov 11 (Fri)	writing	WS 339-346
week 12	Nov 14 (Mon)	gender	quiz-5 , WS 234-245
	Nov 16 (Wed)	gender and community	WS 245-265
	Nov 18 (Fri)	gender and variation	E98 64-75
week 13	Nov 21 (Mon)	ethnography	E00 1-41
	Nov 23 (Wed)	case study: Belten High	project draft , E00 46-93
week 14	Nov 28 (Mon)	case study: Belten High	E00 93-138
	Nov 30 (Wed)	case study: Belten High	E00 139-170
	Dec 2 (Fri)	case study: Belten High	project , E00 171-210
week 15	Dec 5 (Mon)	case study: Belten High	E00 210-228
	Dec 7 (Wed)	controversies, conclusions	
	Dec 9 (Fri)	project presentations	
week 16	Dec 12 (Mon)	project presentations	
	Dec 14 (Wed)	project presentations	
final exam	Dec 21 (Wed)	final exam 5:05 pm	final exam