ANTH583: Sociolinguistics (Fall 2011)
Time and place: Monday 10:00-12:30, Haury 310

Instructor: Dr. Qing Zhang
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Office hours: Tu 3:30-5:00 and by appointment

Course Description

This is an introductory course to the field of sociolinguistics for graduate students in Linguistics and related fields. Prior background in Linguistics is assumed. This course surveys the kinds of issues with which sociolinguists deal, the theories and methods which they have developed, and some of their major findings about the nature of sociolinguistic variation and change. Primary emphasis is on work within the area of “socially realistic” linguistics (Hymes 1973), which brings social considerations to bear on problems of description and analysis common to phonology, syntax, historical linguistics and other “core” areas of linguistics. However, we will also survey albeit more briefly, work in the sociology of language (what Hymes refers to as “the social as well as the linguistic”) and the ethnography of speaking (what Hymes refers to as “socially constituted linguistics”). We will read classical pieces as well as studies that represent recent development in the field, particularly in the area of the linguistic construction of style and identities. Another component of the course is to provide students with some basic training in professional development. Students will be given an opportunity to find out major academic conferences and journals for research on language and cultural/social issues, conduct original research and write a research paper that can be later submitted to an academic journal.

Readings

Required:
Additional readings are on D2L.

Course Requirements

1. Participation and class discussion (10%)
In addition to participating in class activities, starting on September 12, each participant will present a summary of two assigned readings and a few questions for discussion during the semester. Please prepare a Powerpoint presentation. The summary of each article should be less than 5 minutes.

2. Questions for discussion (20%)
Each participant is required to submit questions for class discussion on 10 readings (minimum of 2 questions or issues from each reading) assigned for the class. These questions should be posted to our D2L course web page under Discussions by 5pm the day before the class for which the readings are assigned.

3. Midterm paper (20%)
In the midterm paper, you will discuss critical reactions, inspired ideas, observations and/or original data which relate to assigned readings for one particular topic. The paper (6-8 double-spaced pages) is due on Oct. 3.

4. Report on relevant journals and conferences (10%)
Each member of the class will form a group with students from their own area of study and look for academic journals and conferences on research on language and cultural/social issues in their area of interests, e.g., sociolinguistics, linguistic anthropology, educational linguistics, foreign language education, sociology of language. Regarding information about journals, the group will produce a report with an overview of each journal’s homepage URL, scope and direction, submission guidelines, and a recent article closely related to each member’s research interests. For conferences, you will provide information on how to get announcements of Call for Papers in your field (e.g., URL for professional organizations, electronic mailing lists for professional organizations), an overview of the most recent conference in that area: scope, abstract submission guidelines, important information about its organizers and abstract review committee (if available). The reports in Powerpoint will be presented in class on Oct. 17.

5. Final project and paper (40%)
You are expected to conduct original research for the final project. An abstract and a preliminary bibliography (10%) for your final paper is due on Oct. 17. The final paper (30%, 12-15 double-spaces pages, including notes and references) is due by 12:00 PM on Dec. 12 in my office.

Students with Disabilities
If you anticipate issues related to the format or requirements of this course, please meet with me. I would like us to discuss ways to ensure your full participation in the course. If you determine that formal, disability-related accommodations are necessary, it is very important that you be registered with Disability Resources (621-3268; drc.arizona.edu) and notify me of your eligibility for reasonable accommodations. We can then plan how best to coordinate your accommodations.

Academic Integrity
Students are expected to maintain a high standard of individual honor in their scholastic work. See the UA Code of Academic Integrity for specific UA Policies concerning academic honesty: http://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/codeofacademicintegrity. “Conduct prohibited by the Code consists of all forms of academic dishonesty, including, but not limited to: cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, and plagiarism as set out and defined in the Code of Conduct” (http://catalog.arizona.edu/policies/974/acacode.htm), i.e., “intentionally or knowingly representing the words or ideas of another as one's own in any academic exercise.” (http://www.abor.asu.edu/1_the_regents/policymanual/chap5/chapter_v.htm#5-308). To prevent and avoid plagiarism, words or ideas that come from someplace else must be cited: “A good rule of thumb is this: Whenever you consciously borrow any important element from somebody else, any colorful phrase or original term, any plan or idea – say so, either in a footnote, in the bibliography, or parenthesis (from “Academic Honesty in the Writing of Essays and Other Papers,” Carleton College, 1990). Cheating and plagiarism in this class will result in a failing grade F. A video titled “Academic Integrity” is available on the front page of the Dean of Students Office website at: http://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/. Please watch the video in the first week of class.
Schedule (subject to change)

Week 1 (Aug. 22): Introduction

Week 2 (Aug. 29): Origins and Definitions
C&J: Introduction, Chapters 1, 2, 3, 5

Week 3 (Sept. 5): Labor Day, no class

Week 4 (Sept. 12): Early Studies on Language in Social Context and the concept of Speech Community
Fischer (1958: 47-56)
Labov (1972: 1-42)
Gumperz (1971: 114-127); Hymes (1972: 52-55)
Rickford (1986: 1-31)

Week 5 (Sept. 19): Language Choice and Multilingualism
C&J: Part VI Introduction, Chapters 26, 28
Ferguson (1971: 325-40)
Walters 2003

Week 6 (Sept. 26): Quantitative Methods and Variationist Sociolinguistics (Socioeconomic Class)
C&J: Part II Introduction, Chapters 8, 9
C&J: Chapters 13, 14, 15

Week 7 (Oct. 3): Variationist Sociolinguistics (Socioeconomic Class and Social Networks)
Midterm paper due
Rickford (1986: 215-21)
Milroy (1987: 1-22; 45-52)
Milroy and Milroy (1992: 1-26)

Week 8 (Oct. 10): Qualitative Methods and Critique of Quantification
C&J: Chapters 7, 10, 11, 12

Week 9 (Oct. 17): Report on Academic Conferences and Journals
Final paper abstract and preliminary bibliography due.

Week 10 (Oct. 24): Language and Gender
C&J: Chapter 17, 29, 32
Ochs 1992
Cameron (1997: 47-64)
Eckert and McConnell-Ginet 1992
Mendoza-Denton (2008 selection)

Week 11 (Oct. 31): Language and Ethnicity
Film: “Crosstalk”
C&J: Chapter 25
Bucholtz (selection from 2010)
Week 12, 13 (Nov. 7, Nov. 14): Style and Social Meaning
C&J: Chapter 18, 19, 20
Coupland (2001)
Zhang (2005)
Podesva (2007)
Campbell-Kibler (2007)
Eckert (2008)

Week 14 (Nov. 21): Language ideology
C&J: Chapters 21, 24
Hill (1993)
Irvine and Gal (2000)

Week 15 (Nov. 28): Language and political economy
*Bourdieu (1977)
Irvine (1989: 248-266)

Week 16 (Dec. 5)
Class presentations and course evaluation

Final paper due at 12:00PM Dec. 12 in my mailbox (Haury 210)
Bibliography


*Hymes, Dell. 1972. Excerpt on speech community.


