

## English 355: English Sociolinguistics

Location	Modern Languages 304		
Semester	Spring 2012		
Times	2:00 – 3:15 pm T/Th		
Instructor	Dr. Jonathon Reinhardt		
E-mail	jonrein@u.arizona.edu	Office Phone	621-6152
Office Hours	By appt., Wednesdays 10-12 and 1-3 pm	Office Address	ML 473

### Required Text:

**Holmes, J. (2008). An Introduction to Sociolinguistics. Pearson Longman.**

This text will be available for purchase at the UA Bookstore. There may also be required readings that I will make available as PDF files.

### Course Description:

This course presents the field of sociolinguistics, the study of the interactions of society and language use. It will focus on English, but will discuss other languages and varieties as well. It will cover topics such as multilingualism, creoles, language planning, dialects and varieties, gender and language, politeness, language change, discourse, pragmatics, and language and culture. Class activities will include lectures, discussions, writing, quizzes, and larger projects.

### ASSIGNMENTS

#### **In-class Writing: 30 pts. (10%)**

As a way to get you thinking about the course content for the day, and as a way for me to check your attendance and participation, you will complete short in-class writings nearly every class period. They will not be corrected, and they only need to be as much as you feel you can write that day. If you are absent for any reason you cannot make up the in-class writing.

#### **Homework: 30 pts. (10%)**

There will be several homework assignments throughout the course. You will receive full credit if you complete the homework on time, but if you do not get the answers correct, you will not be marked down.

#### **Six Quizzes: 6x12.5=75 pts. (25%)**

There will be six short answer quizzes given throughout the semester at the beginning of class, based on the content from the previous 2 chapters. Each quiz should take less than 30 minutes to complete. You will be

allowed to customize your quiz, meaning you can choose up to 3 questions to count only for half, and choose up to 3 questions to count for double. You will have the opportunity to make up the answers to your half-counted questions on a personalized portion of the final. If you miss a quiz because of an unexcused absence you will be automatically marked down 2 points, and will not be allowed to customize the scoring.

**Arizona Linguistic Varieties Survey Project (AZLVS): 30 pts. (10%)**

As a class project we will be conducting a survey of the English linguistic varieties found in Arizona, focusing on pronunciation and lexicon, including slang. Most likely, the Englishes found here will be similar to Western, Midland, Californian, and Southern American regional varieties, as well as Chicano, African American, and Native American social varieties. We will develop the survey together, implement it over the course of a few weeks, and collate the results. You will receive more information on the project as we near it.

**Research Paper: 60 pts. (20%)**

You will write an 8-12 page research paper on a topic discussed in class, for example, on a sociolinguistic phenomenon like codeswitching, politeness, gender and language, multilingualism, English as an International Language, or Chicano English. You will receive more information on the paper after Spring Break. It will be due on the last day of class.

**Final Exam: 75 pts. (25%)**

The final exam will be comprehensive. It will include an in-class portion, given on its scheduled date, and a take-home portion. Part of the in-class portion will be an opportunity to make up questions that you missed on the quizzes, including those you designated to count only for half.

**Extra Credit:**

You will have the opportunity to earn up to 6 pts. extra credit based on your in-class writing and homework points, in other words, on your attendance. Completion of the extra credit will be considered when I weigh borderline grades.

**Grading Scale:**

Activity: possible points (percentage)	Grading Scale
<b>In-class Writing: 30 pts. (10%)</b>	A: 275 (92%) - 300 pts. (100%)
<b>Homework: 30 pts. (10%)</b>	B: 250 (83%) - 274 pts. (91%)
<b>Six Quizzes: 6x12.5=75 pts. (25%)</b>	C: 215 (72%) - 249 pts. (82%)
<b>Class Survey Project: 30 pts. (10%)</b>	D: 200 (67%) - 214 pts. (71%)
<b>Research Paper: 60 pts. (20%)</b>	F: less than 200 pts.
<b>Final Exam: 75 pts. (25%)</b>	
<b>Total: 300 pts.</b>	

**Attendance:**

You are expected to attend every class period, do all the assigned readings, and participate actively. Excused absences require a doctor's note, and holidays or special events observed by organized religions will be honored for those students who show affiliation with that particular religion. Other absences pre-approved by the UA Dean of Students (or Dean's designee) will be honored. After your fourth unexcused absence you will automatically lose 4 pts., and 1 pt. for each absence thereafter.

**Academic Integrity:**

You are responsible both for all the material covered in class discussions as well as for the required readings. Please come to class prepared to contribute to an open and respectful environment of discussion and exchange of opinion. Threatening behavior, defined according to university policy (<http://policy.web.arizona.edu/threatening.pdf>) will not be tolerated.

Academic integrity is the pursuit of scholarly activity in an open, honest and responsible manner. All students should act with personal integrity, respect other students' dignity, rights and property, and help create and maintain an environment in which all can succeed through the fruits of their efforts. Dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated in this course. Plagiarism is cause for dismissal from the university. Refer to the Student Code of Academic Integrity for more information at: <http://dos.web.arizona.edu/uapolicies>

**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](http://drc.arizona.edu)) and notify me of your eligibility for reasonable accommodations. We can then plan how best to coordinate your accommodations.

## SCHEDULE

version 2, Mar. 6, 2012

Week	Tuesday	Thursday
0		1/12 1. Introduction
1	1/17 Ch. 2. Language Choice in multilingual communities	1/19
2	1/24 Ch. 3. Language maintenance and shift	1/26 Quiz 1 (Ch. 2 & 3)
3	1/31 Ch. 4. Linguistic varieties and multilingual nations	2/2
4	2/7 Ch. 5. National languages and language planning	2/9 Quiz 2 (Ch. 4 & 5)
5	2/14 Ch. 6. Regional and social dialects	2/16 AZLVS project intro
6	2/21 Ch. 7. Gender and age	2/23 Quiz 3 (Ch. 6 & 7)
7	2/28 Ch. 8. Ethnicity and social networks	3/1 AZLVS questions due
8	3/6 Ch. 9. Language change	3/8 Ch. 9. cont.
9	3/13 SPRING BREAK	3/15 SPRING BREAK
10	3/20 Quiz 4 (Ch. 8 & 9) Ch. 10. Style, context and register	3/22 Ch. 10, cont. AZLVS results due
11	3/27 NO CLASS	3/29 Ch. 11. Speech functions, politeness, and cross-cultural communication
12	4/3 Ch. 11. cont.	4/5 Ch. 12. Gender, politeness and stereotypes
13	4/10 Ch. 12. cont. Quiz 5 (Ch. 10, 11, 12)	4/12 Ch. 13. Language, cognition and culture
14	4/17 Ch. 13. cont.	4/19 Ch. 14. Analyzing discourse
15	4/24 Ch. 14. cont. Quiz 6 (Ch. 13, 14)	4/26 Ch. 15. Attitudes and applications
16	5/1 Ch. 16. Conclusion Research Paper Due	Final Exam (date TBA)

