

LING 233

ANTH 233/COMM 233

INTRODUCTION TO LANGUAGE IN SOCIETY

Winter 2020

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Office Hours: 11-1 Thursday and by appointment

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Course Description

This course introduces the study of language in culture and society and raises awareness of the role of language in the development and formation of society and the individual within it. There are no prerequisites for this course. LING/COMM/ANTH 233 will engage in a systematic observation and critical discussion of linguistic phenomena. Students are encouraged to critically consider current issues and debates and to apply theoretical arguments to real language data drawn from a variety of sources. This course will acquaint students with the many levels of meaning communicated in our everyday use of language, with special attention to issues such as Standard language, language maintenance, dialects of American English, the social ramifications of language diversity, multilingualism, and language planning.

Learning Objectives

The learning objectives are the skills and knowledge that the course aims for each student to acquire by the end of the quarter. The learning objectives for LING/COM/ANTH 233 are:

- 1. Students will identify and describe systematic observations of linguistic variation (social, historical, geographical, stylistic)**
- 2. Students will relate linguistic variation to the functions of language in marking identity, status, group solidarity and cultural values**
- 3. Students will identify and describe the role of language in the creation and maintenance of social and political power**

Textbook

Wolfram, Walt and Natalie Schilling. 2015. *American English* (3rd edition). Malden, MA: Blackwell.

- Note that the 2015 edition is different from the earlier 1st and 2nd editions.
- Students are expected to read the assigned chapters from this text before the class meeting.

Canvas

This course uses Canvas, an online learning management system at the University of Washington. You can find your assignments and tests quickly using the "Modules", "Syllabus"

or "Calendar" buttons on the toolbar on the left-hand side of the main page. If you have problems using Canvas, you can get help at help@uw.edu.

Grading

Assignments and Tests are meant to evaluate your progress toward the learning objectives of this class. The learning objectives are the skills and knowledge that the course aims for each student to acquire by the end of the quarter.

Grades

Your final grade will be comprised of the following activity:

- Assignments 20%
- Linguistics in the Wild 10%
- Test 1 20%
- Test 2 20%
- Final Exam 30%

Schedule

Class Meeting	Chapter	Homework Due Tuesday 11:00 AM (Except HW 10 which is due the last day of instruction)	Linguistics in the Wild Assignment Due Tuesday 8:00 PM	Exam Date
Tuesday Jan 7	1			
Thursday Jan 9	1			
Tuesday Jan 14	2	Chapter 1 HW		
Thursday Jan 16	2			
Tuesday Jan 21	3	Chapter 2 HW		
Thursday Jan 23	3			
Tuesday Jan 28	4	Chapter 3 HW		Chapter 1-3 Test
Thursday Jan 30	4			
Tuesday Feb 4	5	Chapter 4 HW		
Thursday Feb 6	5			
Tuesday Feb 11	6	Chapter 5 HW	Linguistics in the Wild #1	
Thursday Feb 13	6			
Tuesday Feb 18	7	Chapter 6 HW		Chapter 4-6 Test
Thursday Feb 20	7			
Tuesday Feb 25	8	Chapter 7 HW		
Thursday Feb 27	8			
Tuesday March 3	9 and	Chapter 8 HW		

	Special Guest Lecture by Kristi Winter on Variation in ASL			
Class Meeting	Chapter	Homework Due Tuesday 11:00 AM (Except HW 10 which is due the last day of instruction)	Linguistics in the Wild Assignment Due Tuesday 8:00 PM	Exam Date
Thursday March 5	9			
Tuesday March 10	10	Chapter 9 HW	Linguistics in the Wild #2	
Thursday March 12	10			
Friday March 13	No Class	Chapter 10 HW		
Final Exam Week				March 17, 2:30-4:20 Room CMU 228

This schedule is subject to change.

Grading Scale

The following UW grading scale will be used

(www.washington.edu/students/genocat/front/Grading_Sys.html). Please examine this grading scale carefully and use it to monitor your progress in the course. We do not 'curve' the final grade.

≥95%= 4.0	85=3.0	75=2.0	66=1.1
94=3.9	84=2.9	74=1.9	65=1.0
93=3.8	83=2.8	73=1.8	64=.9
92=3.7	82=2.7	72=1.7	63=.8
91=3.6	81=2.6	71=1.6	62=.7
90=3.5	80=2.5	70=1.5	< .7 is a failing grade
89=3.4	79=2.4	69=1.4	
88=3.3	78=2.3	68=1.3	
87=3.2	77=2.2	67=1.2	
86=3.1	76=2.1		

Assignments

A series of weekly online untimed assignments will test your ability to apply the knowledge and skills gained within each course topic. The format of the assignments may include both objective-style questions (e.g., multiple choice, matching, etc.) as well as short-answer and longer, multi-part, analysis questions involving data sets or language problems. You will be able

to work on the assignment at your leisure, save your progress, and return to it later. However, to get full credit for the assignment, you must click "submit" at some point before the assignment's closing date/time. You will not have the opportunity to make up missed assignments no matter the reason. However, your lowest assignment grade will be dropped.

Linguistics in the Wild

The goal of Linguistics in the Wild is for you to apply concepts learned in class outside of the classroom. There is a total of two Linguistics in the Wild assignments. The maximum word count for each assignment is 500 words. For this assignment, you will find linguistic features discussed in the textbook and/or lecture from the news and/or pop culture. You must use a different source and linguistic feature for each assignment. They cannot be news/pop culture examples discussed in class. Please submit a PDF document to Canvas. The following is the rubric by which your assignment will be graded.

Points	Description
2 Points	Includes link or photo of linguistic feature so that instructor can confirm analysis
1 Point	Names linguistic feature correctly
1 Point	Describes how they found linguistic feature
1 Point	States dialect level correctly
1 Point	Paragraph is easy to read, contains full sentences, and is no more than 500 words
2 Points	Brief accurate description of what we know about who uses the linguistic feature from class. This description needs to be in your own words and not copied directly from the textbook, lecture slides, Wikipedia, and/or the dictionary.
2 Points	Relates Linguistics in the Wild example to class. Is the linguistic feature unexpected? Is it expected? Can this example be related to larger concepts brought up in class?

A very good example of a linguistic feature might be of interest to the rest of the class. If you would not like your example to be shared, please state that on example when submitting the assignment. This statement does not count towards your word count.

Tests

Tests will be taken in class during the first hour of lecture. Tests are designed to test your knowledge of the material and whether you can apply your knowledge to novel situations. They will be mostly short answer questions. Please do not be late. It is your responsibility to be on time. Please see UW's policy on examinations regarding absences:

<https://www.washington.edu/admin/rules/policies/SGP/ScholRegCH112.html>

The Final Exam

Students who cannot be present for the final exam due to an unavoidable circumstance must present suitable verification of such a circumstance, receive an "incomplete" grade and take the final exam at the beginning of the following quarter.

Required Materials

Text

Wolfram, Walt and Natalie, Schilling. 2015. *American English* (3rd edition). Malden, MA: Blackwell.

Canvas

All students must have internet access to complete Assignments and access information through Canvas. Canvas is an online learning management system at the University of Washington. In Canvas courses, students can access course materials, take part in online discussions, submit assignments and check their grades. To access Canvas, go to 'canvas.uw.edu' and login with your UW NetID.

Course Policies

Respect:

Each of us enters this classroom community with unique sets of experiences that will inform our readings of and reactions to these texts. Because of this wide variety of perspectives, students must respect the validity of everyone's experiences in this community. Students must also listen to others' experiences and be willing to reconsider their own perspectives in light of such new information.

Schedule:

If you must miss a lecture or a section **it is your responsibility to obtain the information you missed**. Because it is impossible for me to reproduce lectures/sections for every student who misses, I recommend that you borrow notes from another student in class. You can find someone to borrow notes from using the LING 233 online discussion board.

Make-up tests, where appropriate, will be scheduled only for students with suitable verification of the circumstance (e.g. serious illness, previously scheduled university-sponsored activity). This documentation must be presented in a timely manner. Please see the UW policy directory on examinations.

Washington state law requires that UW develop a policy for accommodation of student absences or significant hardship due to reasons of faith or conscience, or for organized religious activities. The UW's policy, including more information about how to request an accommodation, is available at [Religious Accommodations Policy](https://registrar.washington.edu/staffandfaculty/religious-accommodations-policy/) (<https://registrar.washington.edu/staffandfaculty/religious-accommodations-policy/>). Accommodations must be requested within the first two weeks of this course using the [Religious Accommodations Request form](https://registrar.washington.edu/students/religious-accommodations-request/) (<https://registrar.washington.edu/students/religious-accommodations-request/>).

UW Athletes must inform the instructor in the FIRST week of class about any Assignments/Tests that must be missed due to participation on a UW team and present appropriate documentation of such team activity. It is the **responsibility of the athlete** to know what work they will miss and to schedule the completion of that work.

DRS

Your experience in this class is important to me. If you have already established accommodations with Disability Resources for Students (DRS), please communicate your approved accommodations to me at your earliest convenience so we can discuss your needs in this course.

If you have not yet established services through DRS, but have a temporary health condition or permanent disability that requires accommodations (conditions include but not limited to; mental health, attention-related, learning, vision, hearing, physical or health impacts), you are welcome to contact DRS at 206-543-8924 or uwdrs@uw.edu or disability.uw.edu. DRS offers resources and coordinates reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities and/or temporary health conditions. Reasonable accommodations are established through an interactive process between you, your instructor(s) and DRS. It is the policy and practice of the University of Washington to create inclusive and accessible learning environments consistent with federal and state law.

Email

Email inquiries to the instructor should be limited to individual issues that cannot be resolved by reading the syllabus, checking the website or the discussion board. **I cannot talk about your grades over email.** I will attempt to answer such queries within 24 hours. **The majority of logistical questions can be answered by reading the syllabus, checking the website, or the discussion board.** PLEASE do so before emailing questions about the course.