Catalogue Description:

The influence of society on language and of language on society. Language as social interaction, speech styles, social dialects; effects on language change. Prereq: Jr St & Linguis 350(P).

Course Description:

This course is an introduction to sociolinguistics, the study of the relationship between language and society. Topics will include language variation within society, the variational nature of language change; codes, registers, and styles; language and gender; language and ethnicity; multilingualism; African American and Chicano varieties of American English, as well as an examination of pidgins and creoles. An exploration of attitudes and ideologies will be of particular importance to understanding these relationships. We will also consider some of the educational, political, and social repercussions of these sociolinguistic facts. Students will be required to observe, analyze and discuss sociolinguistic phenomena throughout the course.

Textbooks and Required Reading Selections:


The book will be available at the Panther Bookstore on Downer Ave. before the beginning of the semester. If you are purchasing this text elsewhere, make sure that you purchase only the 7th, 2015 edition of this book.

Purchase only the actual hard copy version. I do not allow electronic devices in the classroom, including your e-reader, and you will need to have the texts in class.

There will be a reading packet available at Clark Graphics on Oakland by the first week of class.

Both registered and wait listed students must be present on the first day of class at 2pm, or risk being administratively dropped. No new students will be permitted to add after day one.

This is not a syllabus. The full syllabus will be distributed the first day of class, January 24th.