The Power of Words
University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee
LINGUIS 210; Summer 2018

Instructor: Sandra Liliana Pucci, Ph. D.
Office hours and location: Johnston Hall, 110B; 12:15-1:30pm after face-to-face meetings, and by appointment.
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Location and meeting times: This class is a hybrid course and will be conducted 50% online. Face-to-face meetings: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6/26, 6/28, 7/5, 7/10, 7/17, and 7/19, 9am-12:15pm.

Course Description
This class is an introduction to sociolinguistics, the scientific study of language within society. We will focus the sociolinguistic situation in the United States, as well as various international contexts. In this class, you will learn how sociolinguists investigate and respond to questions such as:

• Is there such a thing as “good” or “bad” language?
• What is a “standard” language, and does anyone really speak it?
• How and why do people of different ages, national/regional origins, ethnic groups, social classes, etc. speak differently?
• How did the current sociolinguistic contexts in the United States develop?

We will also examine how sociolinguistics/linguistics can inform issues and answer questions such as:
• Should the United States have an official language? Should everyone be required to learn English?
• What languages should be used in schooling? Only “standard” varieties?
• What “status” do languages other than English have in the US?
• How do people learn their first, and possibly second language?

Required Reading

The book is available through amazon.com for approximately $13.00. It will also be available through the UWM bookstore. The course reader for LINGUIS 210 will be available at Clark Graphics on Oakland Avenue the week before classes begin, approximately June 18th.

Please note: This course will have no exams or final examination. Instead, your work will consist of one group project, three assignments, and in-class exercises.

This is not the syllabus. The syllabus will be available on D2L before the course begins, and as a hard copy the first day of the course.