Topics in Linguistics: Variation in Speech
Tuesdays/Thursdays 12:30PM ~ 1:45PM; Merrill Hall 315

Instructor: Hanyong Park (Office: JOH123; Lab: JOHG24)  
Office Hours: To be announced.

Required Textbook: No textbook is required. All articles will be available for download at the class Canvas website.

Prerequisite: Junior or above; or Graduate standing; or Special Student (including University of School/College Specials; 2nd degree, post-baccalaureate, certificate), or consent of instructor

Course Description:
This course is an introduction to sociophonetics (sociolinguistics + phonetics). In this course, we will discuss various aspects of speech variation, focusing on the phonetic aspects. The central question we will examine throughout the course is “how and why language varies and changes,” though we will focus more on the “how” part than the “why” part. This course is more of a hands-on course. Thus, we will go over very basics of doing phonetics research such as recording speech, measuring and analyzing various acoustic properties of speech, etc. Topics of this course will vary depending on the interest of the students taking the course. Some possible topics will be variation in speech between men and women, between dialects, within individual speakers across lifetime, etc.

Course Requirements & Grades:
Homework (40%): 4 assignments x 10%

There will be 5 homework assignments throughout the semester. However, only 4 of them (with a better score) will be counted toward your homework assignment scores. Type your answer and staple your assignment if it has multiple pages (cf., Students are responsible for any missing pages of homework assignments). 10 points will be taken off for a hand-written, non-stapled assignment! I’m very serious about this somewhat minor requirement!

The workload for assignments will be reasonable, i.e., they should not take several days to complete. Each assignment will be collected during the class on the due date unless you are asked to submit it through Canvas website. Most assignments will be given a week to complete. Late assignments will not be accepted. So, if you cannot come to the class on the due date, you may ask your classmates to turn in your assignment or you may e-mail your answer as an attachment (cf.,
a pdf rather than MS word version, or a scanned version of your assignment) **before the due date.** It is allowed to consult with one another regarding the assignments. **However, you must do your own analysis and write-up.** Copied (i.e., identical or just paraphrased) homework will not be given any credit. If you need help with the assignment (e.g., clarification on questions, etc.), you can see the instructor during the office hours or e-mail the instructor with sufficient time (e.g., Do not e-mail the instructor on the due day!). The instructor is willing to help you with any questions. However, he will not give you a direct answer to the assignment question (of course!). Homework assignments and any necessary materials (e.g., sound files) will be made available through *Canvas* website.

**Class Presentation (10%):**

We are going to read several academic papers related to topics covered in class. **Each graduate student** will summarize **two** assigned papers and lead the discussion (e.g., preparing a few questions to discuss in class, answering any questions that your audience has, etc.). **Each undergraduate student** will do **one** class presentation. **Give a short (15 minutes or so) summary of the paper and raise questions for classroom discussion (for another 15 minutes or so).** See *Guidelines for class discussion* document.

**Attendant and Participation (10%):**

This class will be conducted in a lecture plus discussion format. Your attention to the lecture and cooperative participation in discussion are expected and also required. Any behavior disrupting the class atmosphere, e.g., sleeping, reading unrelated materials, working on things for other classes, receiving & sending text messages, coming late or leaving early, etc., will not be tolerated and you will be penalized. Your attendance at the lecture is expected unless you notify your absence with understandable reason **in advance.** Attendance may be checked at any (unexpected) time and your presence/absence will reflect your attendance/participation score. **Every four absences in record will lower one letter grade! (e.g., A → A-)**

**Final paper (40%):**

You will conduct a small-scale project as a team and write a short project report (between 10 and 15 pages excluding references and an appendix). The topic can be chosen among issues related to sociophonetics and it will be investigated by using the techniques you learn from the class. **At the earlier part of the semester, you will form a team and select the topic after meeting with the instructor.** The instructor will guide you on how to proceed in your investigation, according to your topic.
Three steps will be involved as you work on your final paper:

a. *A project proposal* (5%). Your team will outline the plan for the project. More details will be given later.

b. *A progress report* (presentation, 5%). Your team will present your progress in class for about 20 minutes (15 minute presentation & 5 minute questions/answers) at the later part of the semester.

c. *The final paper* (30%). Your team will write about your final project and results. More details will be given later.

### Final Grading Scale:

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*I*: Students who cannot complete the course requirements because of illness or for other legitimate reasons may be considered for a grade of ‘I’ provided they request it, in writing, at least 2 weeks before the semester ends.

*For information on university policies such as “Students with Disabilities,” “Religious Observances,” and others, please see the following website: [http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/SyllabusLinks.pdf](http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/SyllabusLinks.pdf)*

### Other Important things to know:

a. Linguistics is the study of language in a scientific way. You are going to explore different aspects of language from a new perspective. If you are not prepared for the class, it will be difficult to follow what is going on in the class. **Come to the class prepared (e.g., read the material in advance and do your homework) and pay attention to what is being discussed during the class.** After the class, review the material to see whether you understood the lecture. If you don’t, ask other classmates or come to see me during office hours. If you cannot keep up with the pace of the class, the class will get harder as the semester goes on.

b. Credit hour policy: This 3-credit course meets for 2.5 hours per week during the semester. Students are expected to put in approximately 7.5 additional hours per week studying (e.g., 1.5 hours of doing the assignment reading **before each class**, 1 hours of reviewing the materials
covered in class, etc.) and working on assignments (e.g., 1 hour of preparing for quizzes and exams, 1 hour of doing homework assignments, and 3 hours of doing the final project, etc.) in order to achieve the learning goals of this course (144 hours total).

c. Anyone guilty of cheating and/or plagiarism will receive a failing grade for academic dishonesty. (If you are not sure what plagiarism is, check the following website:
   https://uwm.edu/writing-center/resources/faculty-resources; also check http://www4.uwm.edu/acad_aff/policy/academicmisconduct.cfm)

d. Please provide a copy of your Verified Individual Services and Accommodations (VISA) to the instructor if you need the instructor to arrange needed accommodation for you.

e. E-mail communication is important! Please respond to e-mails related to course promptly.

f. Check the class Canvas site frequently! Announcements will be made at the Canvas site.