Societies and the Social Sciences: Linguistic Perspectives

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Meeting Time and Place: MW 11 AM- 12:15 PM, Silver 101A

**Course Outline**

Week 1
1/19  Introduction. The sciences of human society. Linguistics as a social science.
Recitations:

Week 2 – Read: Labov, Social stratification of (r) in New York City department stores;
1/24  Language use; the communication of social information
1/26  Dialects of English in North America: New York and beyond

Week 3 – Read: FRH Chap. 1
1/31  Film, American Tongues
2/2   Compositionality and the architecture of language

Week 4 – Read: FRH Chap. 3, Chap. 10 pp. 472-490
2/7   The architecture of words: morphology
2/9   The secret lives of words: Etymology, borrowing, cognates, slang, taboos.

Week 5 – Read: FRH Chap. 6 and Chap. 9, pp. 397-411
2/14  The sounds of language: phonetics and articulation
2/16  Language processing in the mind: Speech perception and lexical access (LD)

Week 6 - Read: FRH Chap. 4
2/21  President's Day -- no classes
2/23  Syntax from the native speaker's perspective: competence (AS)
Week 7 - Read: FRH Chap. 11.
   2/28   The architecture of sentences                   (AS)
   3/2   Language change and language families

Week 8 - Read: Watkins, Indoeuropean and the Indo-europeans; FRH Chap 2, pp. 56-61.
   3/7   The evolution of human language       (RD)
   3/9   Midterm
   NO Recitations this week!

   Spring break: week of 3/14-18

Week 9 – Read: FRH Chap. 7
   3/21   The architecture of sound systems: Phonology
   3/23   Phonological analysis

Week 10 - Read: FRH Chap. 12
   3/28   The representation of language: writing systems       (JC)
   3/30   Language change in progress

Week 11 – Read: Spears, Black American English; FRH Chap 10, pp. 459-472.
   4/4   Language and diversity: linguistic minorities, African-American English
   4/6   Multilingualism: creole languages, prior creolization in AAE and PBP

Week 12 – Read: Poplack, Sometimes I'll start a sentence in Spanish y termino en español: toward a typology of code-switching; FRH Chap 8, p. 374-384.
   4/11   Multilingualism: Code-switching
   4/13   Cross-cultural communication       (KB)

Week 13 – Read: Chap. 8, pp. 341-373 and FRH Chap. 2, pp. 33-55.
   4/18   Language Acquisition
   4/20   Neurolinguistics                   (LP)

Week 14 – Read: FRH Chap. 5
   4/25   Global language contact: English colonizes the world (MP)
   4/27   The architecture of meaning: semantics

Week 15 - Read: Review for Exam!
   5/2   Channels of communication: speech, sign language, telephone, e-text
   NO Recitations this week!

Monday, May 9, 10-11:50 AM -- Final Examination
Assignments, Examinations and Grading

**Homework:** There will be homework assignments approximately every week, dealing with the material covered in that week. Ordinarily they will be distributed on Monday and due the following Monday. They will vary in nature, including problem sets, library research, observation of language use, and writing assignments.

**Late Policy:** Assignments are ordinarily due by the time of the lecture Monday morning. Any assignments that are handed in after 12:15 pm on Monday (but before 3:30 pm Thursday) will be penalized by the equivalent of 5%, or one-half a letter grade (e.g. an 88 becomes an 83, a B+ is recorded as a B). Normally, homework assignments will be discussed and returned in the recitations on Thursday and Friday. Therefore, **no credit** will be given for any assignment that is submitted after the beginning of the first recitation meeting of the week (i.e. any time after 3:30 PM Thursday). Work that is submitted by email within these deadlines will be accepted. In cases of illness that interfere with completing assignments, contact one of the instructors as soon as possible about making up the work, and please provide a doctor's note.

**Assessment:** The assessed work for the course will include homework assignments, a midterm examination and a final examination. Part of your grade will be based on participation in the recitation sessions. These components will be weighted as follows:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Homework assignments</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>35%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recitation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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