

# LING 210 Language and Society (2 sem/hrs)

## COURSE SYLLABUS Fall

### Course Description:

This course introduces language within its social context through dealing with topics such as dialect and language definition, orality, the role of the mother tongue in defining self-identity and language attitudes, as well as the maintenance, loss, shift or spread of language domains, and multilingualism. In addition, as a means of helping students develop realistic expectations and appropriate approaches for linguistic issues in cross-cultural field work and classroom ESL/EFL settings, attention is given to an overview of language acquisition within a world view context, the globalization of English, and sociolinguistic factors affecting language programs.

### Objectives:

1. To give an overview of how language operates in society, with special reference to multilingual/multicultural societies.
2. To integrate the inventory of language issues into the larger framework of society and culture.
3. To become aware of some of the social and political implications of cross-cultural education (TESOL) and cross-cultural language research projects.

### Grading:

Attendance and participation	5%
Reading and reading questions	15%
Mid-term project (take home)	20%
Term project	30%
Final exam	30%

**Textbook:** Wardhaugh, Ronald. 2002. An introduction to sociolinguistics. Fourth edition. UK: Blackwell Publishing.

### Grade scale:

A+	95-100	B+	82-84	C+	72-74	D+	60-64
A	90-94	B	78-81	C	68-71	D	55-59
A-	85-89	B-	75-77	C-	65-67	F	Below 55

Note this grading scale differs from the standard scale

### Course Requirements:

1. Attendance and participation (5%) – class sessions will include group discussions where participation is encouraged.
2. Weekly assignments (15%) – a few short-answer questions will be assigned with the weekly readings. Answers to these questions will be handed in weekly, along with a question or comment based on something the reader doesn't understand, is curious about, or doesn't agree with.
3. Mid-term Project (20%) – The mid-term project takes the place of a mid-term exam. Students will compose a twelve- to fifteen-page sociolinguistic repertoire.
4. Term Project (30%) – The Term Project provides students with the opportunity to take what they have learned in class lectures, discussions, and in the course text and integrate them

through observations of social situations. The Term Paper consists of five case studies, one of which will be handed in and commented on during the semester. The complete set of five case studies will be handed in on the final day of class.

5. Final Exam (30%) – The final exam is a comprehensive exam covering materials from class lectures and assigned readings.

### **Late Policy**

Assignments are due at the beginning of the class period on the indicated date. A grading penalty of one point (out of 10) per day or part of day, will be imposed on unexcused late assignments. Late assignments must be dated and initialed by a CanIL staff member, instructor or TA before being handed in. Assignments more than seven days late will not be accepted for credit.

### **Academic Dishonesty and Plagiarism**

In cases of academic dishonesty, the university policy outlined in the *Academic Calendar* will be followed. Academic dishonesty may include cheating on exams, tests, lab results, etc.; impersonating another student at a test or exam; falsifying or misrepresenting information on academic records, submitting the same or substantially the same essay for credit in more than one course without faculty permission; or plagiarism. It is the student's responsibility to know and understand what constitutes plagiarism. In cases of academic dishonesty, if the faculty member is convinced that the incident was deliberate, a grade of zero will normally be given for that assignment. In the event of a second deliberate offence, a grade of F will normally be given for the course. Any penalties less severe than these will be at the discretion of the faculty member. Following TWU academic policy, all incidents of academic dishonesty will result in the faculty member completing a *Record of Academic Dishonesty* form and sending it to the student with copies to the Associate Academic Vice President and the Faculty/School Dean. This record will be kept confidential and will remain on file indefinitely in the Academic Vice President's Office.

### **Learning Disability**

Occasionally a student may enter a class who experiences a learning disability. Students who experience such a disability have a responsibility to inform the faculty member *at the beginning of the course* so that any adjustments can be made to facilitate the student's learning process. We are unable to accommodate any student who informs a faculty member of a disability at the end of the class.

### **Examination Policy**

A student who is absent from a final examination without an acceptable excuse will be assigned a zero for that examination. Absence due to illness must be supported by a medical certificate indicating the nature of the illness. If an examination is missed for any reason, including illness, the student must notify the faculty member prior to the examination. Any exceptions to this policy will be at the discretion of the faculty member.

### **Campus Closure Policy**

In the event of deteriorating weather conditions overnight or other emergency situations, every effort will be made to communicate information regarding the cancellation of classes to the radio stations CKNW (980 AM), CKWX (1130 AM), MAX (850 AM), PRAISE (106.5 FM) and KARI (550 AM) by 6:30 a.m., and an announcement will be placed on the University's switchboard as well as on the website <http://www.twu.ca/conditions/>. The first announcement regarding a closure will cover the period up to 1:00 p.m. only. If classes are to be cancelled beyond 1:00 p.m., this decision will be announced by the same means before 11:00 a.m. that day. Students and faculty should assume that all night classes will continue to operate. If the emergency continues into the evening, students and faculty may check for a closure notice on the University's switchboard and website after 3:00 p.m. that day.

## Course Calendar

Date	September 12
Topic	Introduction and overview
Assignment 1	Homework Set 1

Due	Homework Set 1
Date	September 19
Topic	Language variation
Reading	Wardhaugh Chapter 2 pp. 25-46
Assignment 2	Homework Set 2

Due	Homework Set 2
Date	September 26
Topic	Language variation continued
Reading	Wardhaugh Chapter 2 pp. 48-56; Chapter 11
Assignment 3	Homework Set 3, mid-term project

Due	Homework Set 3
Date	October 3
Topic	Language contact: pidgins, creoles, etc
Reading	Wardhaugh Chapter 3
Assignment 4	Homework Set 4

Date	October 10 – No class (Thanksgiving)
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Due	Homework Set 4, mid-term project
Date	October 17
Topic	Diglossia, domains, code switching
Reading	Wardhaugh Chapter 4
Assignment 5	Homework Set 5

Due	Homework Set 5
Date	October 24
Topic	Language and gender
Reading	TBA
Assignment 6	Homework Set 6, term project

Due	Homework Set 6
Date	October 31
Topic	Language and culture
Reading	TBA
Assignment 7	Homework Set 7

Due	Homework Set 7, term project case study 1
Date	November 7
Topic	Language change: maintenance, spread, shift and death
Reading	TBA
Assignment 8	Homework Set 8

Due	Homework Set 8
Date	November 14
Topic	Language planning
Reading	TBA
Assignment 9	Homework Set 9

Due	Homework Set 9
Date	November 21
Topic	Multilingualism and multilingual education
Reading	TBA
Assignment 10	Homework Set 10

Due	Homework Set 10
Date	November 28
Topic	English as the global language
Reading	TBA

Due	Term project
Date	December 5
Topic	Language and orality
Assignment	Review for final exam