

**TRINITY WESTERN UNIVERSITY**  
**Spring 2012**  
**LING 210 Language and Society (2 semester hours)**

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**Classes:** Monday, 2:35-5:30 pm, CanIL Building Room 208

<b>Faculty:</b>	Dave Jeffery	Adrianna Oudman	Ryan Buttacavoli
<b>Email:</b>	dave.jeffery@twu.ca	adrianna.oudman@gmail.com	ryan.buttacavoli1@mytwu.ca
<b>Contact Info</b>	Ext. 3951, Room 309	TBA	TBA
<b>Office Hours</b>	M-F 9 am -11 am	TBA	TBA

**Course Website:** <https://courses.mytwu.ca>

**Textbook:** Coulmas, Florian. 2005. Sociolinguistics: The study of speakers' choices. New York: Cambridge University Press.

**Course Description**

This course focuses on the interaction between language and the social context within which it is used. Topics include: regional and social dialects; multilingualism; language attitudes and their impact on national and personal identity; linguistic politeness; the maintenance, shift, loss, and spread of languages; and the impact of modern technology. Applications to gender and education are explored in depth.

**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**

Class Participation	10%
Short Assignments	25%
Mid-term Project	25%
Reading reports	15%
Final Exam	25%

**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	55 or below

## Course Requirements

1. **Class Participation (10%)** – Students will be given a grade based on their attendance and participation in class discussions.
2. **Short Assignments (25%)** – Students are required to do **any two** of the four short assignments. These assignments take the place of the lab assignments found in many other classes. Reports are 4-5 double-spaced pages. The short assignments are as follows:
  - Short Assignment 1: English Dialect survey, due February 6.
  - Short Assignment 2: Bilingualism paper, due February 20.
  - Short Assignment 3: Language Attitudes and Language Learning paper, due March 19.
  - Short Assignment 4: Observing Cross-Gender Communication paper, due March 26.
3. **Mid-term Project (25%)** – The mid-term project takes the place of a mid-term exam. Students are required to do **one of two** major projects. The two projects are as follows:
  - A twelve-page Sociolinguistic Repertoire, a descriptive narrative of their idiolect. Due March 5.
  - A 15-minute presentation of an article from a sociolinguistic journal, prepared in a group but delivered individually. Group presentations occur several times in the term.
4. **Reading Reports (15%)** – Reading reports focus on the assigned chapters in the Coulmas textbook. The reports require students to answer several questions related to the reading. These questions can be found on the MyCourses site. Due dates are as follows:
  - Reading Report 1: February 13
  - Reading Report 2: March 12
  - Reading Report 3: April 2
5. **Final Exam (25%)** – The final exam will take place during the exam period in April.

## The Ling 210 MyCourses site

Students are encouraged to check the Ling 210 website regularly, to access course materials, handouts and web-based resources and to submit assignments. Each student who is registered for the course has access to the course website. Type <https://courses.mytwu.ca> into your web browser and follow the LOGIN instructions. If you are having difficulties accessing the website, please contact [esupport@twu.ca](mailto:esupport@twu.ca) and they will guide you through the process.

## Submitting assignments

Assignments may be submitted at the beginning of class or deposited in electronic format in the appropriate assignment dropbox on the Ling 210 MyCourses site. If you are submitting assignments in electronic format, please include your name in the file name (for example, dave-jeffery-reading-report2.doc), as well as in the header of the document. Acceptable electronic document formats are MS Word and OpenOffice.

## Late Assignment Policy

To receive full credit, assignments should be submitted by the beginning of class on the date indicated on the course outline. If there are extenuating circumstances, it is the responsibility of the student to consult with your instructor **prior** to the due date to see what kind of arrangement can be made. Otherwise, late assignments will be subject to a letter grade deduction per class day.

## **Other important stuff...**

### **Cell phone & Laptop Policy**

Cell phones should be turned off during class. Laptop computers may not be used while class is in session unless permission is obtained from the instructor in advance.

### **Attendance Policy**

It is the responsibility of the student to attend all class sessions. Responsibility in this sense is intended to include participation in class discussions as well as receiving the benefits of class lectures and reports. Students who miss 3 or more classes may be prohibited from writing the final. Any material missed during class is the student's responsibility.

### **Contingency Planning**

In the event that some circumstance (such as a flu outbreak) causes a major disruption to the face-to-face delivery of this course, every effort will be made to ensure the learning outcomes are achieved. Although unlikely, it may be necessary to temporarily transition to MyCourses for online delivery. Please check the MyCourses announcements periodically, and be prepared to transition to MyCourses if necessary.

### **Campus Closure**

In the event of deteriorating weather conditions or other emergency situations, every effort will be made to communicate information regarding the cancellation of classes to the following radio stations CKNW (980 AM), CKWX (1130 AM), STAR FM (107.1 FM), PRAISE (106.5 FM) and KARI (550 AM). As well, an announcement will be placed on the University's campus closure notification message box (604.513.2147) and on the front page of the University's website (<http://www.twu.ca> – also see <http://www.twu.ca/conditions> for more details). An initial announcement regarding the status of the campus and cancellation of classes is made at 6:00 AM and covers all classes beginning before 1:00PM. A second announcement is made at 11:00AM that covers all classes which begin between 1:00PM and 5:00PM. A third announcement is made at 3:00PM and covers those classes which begin after 5:00PM.

**Academic Integrity and Avoiding Plagiarism at TWU** □ As Christian scholars pursuing higher education, academic integrity is a core value of the entire TWU community. Students are invited into this scholarly culture and required to abide by the principles of sound academic scholarship at TWU. This includes, but is not limited to, avoiding all forms of plagiarism and cheating in scholarly work. TWU has a strict policy on plagiarism (see academic calendar). Learning what constitutes plagiarism and avoiding it is the student's responsibility. An excellent resource describing plagiarism and how to avoid it has been prepared by TWU Librarian William Badke and is freely available for download (PPT file) or used as flash (self running) tutorials of varying lengths from: □

□ <http://www.acts.twu.ca/lbr/plagiarism.ppt>

□ <http://www.acts.twu.ca/lbr/Plagiarism.swf> (14 minute flash tutorial)

□ [http://www.acts.twu.ca/lbr/Plagiarism\\_Short.swf](http://www.acts.twu.ca/lbr/Plagiarism_Short.swf) (8 minute flash tutorial)

In cases of academic dishonesty, a grade of zero will normally be given for that assignment. If the case in question constitutes a second offence (whether in the current course or another), a grade of F will normally be given for the course.

### **Students with disabilities**

While every effort is made to accommodate special needs, unless students register with the Equity of Access Office at the beginning of each semester and identify themselves to the professor of the course within the first two weeks of the semester, the professor is not obliged to make concessions on either the nature of required assignments or the due dates thereof.

# Course Calendar

Note that the first 4 classes are 2:35 to 5:30 pm, following that class times are 2:35 to 4:20 pm.

## Monday, January 16

*Topic:* (1) Introduction to Language and Society – Language and Dialect  
*Assignment:* Go to course website and fill in your online profile.

## Monday, January 23

*DUE:* Online profile  
*Topic:* (2) Regional and Social Dialects – Language Variation – Style and Register  
*Readings:* Coulmas ch. 2  
*Assignment:* Short Assignment #1: Dialect Survey

## Monday, January 30

*Topics:* (3) Multilingualism: Introduction – Code switching – Diglossia  
*Readings:* Coulmas ch. 7 & 8  
*Assignment:* Short Assignment #2: Bilingualism in Canada/A multilingual country you know

## Monday, February 6

*DUE:* Short Assignment #1: Dialect Survey  
*Topics:* (4) Language Planning – Language and Identity – Language Attitudes  
*Readings:* Coulmas ch. 10 & 11  
*Assignment:* Short Assignment #3: Language Attitudes and Language Learning  
Midterm Project: Sociolinguistic Repertoire  
Reading Report 1 (ch. 2, 7, 8, 11)

## Monday, February 13

*DUE:* Reading Report 1  
*Topics:* (5) Language and Culture  
*Readings:* None

## Monday, February 20

*DUE:* Short Assignment #2: Bilingualism/multilingualism  
*Topics:* (6) Language and Gender  
*Readings:* Coulmas ch. 3  
*Assignment:* Short Assignment #4: Observing Cross-Gender Communication

## Monday, March 5

*DUE:* Midterm Project: Sociolinguistic Repertoire  
*Topics:* (7) Linguistic Politeness  
*Readings:* Coulmas ch. 6  
*Assignment:* Reading Report 2 (ch. 3, 6, 10)

## Monday, March 12

*DUE:* Reading Report 2  
*Topics:* (8) Languages in Contact: Pidgins & Creoles – Language Change  
*Readings:* Coulmas ch. 5, Rickford & McWhorter: *Language Contact & Language Generation: Pidgins & Creoles* (reserve reading in library)

**Monday, March 19**

***DUE:***            ***Short Assignment #3: Language Attitudes and Language Learning***  
***Topics:***        **(9) Languages in Contact 2: Maintenance, Shift and Death**  
***Readings:***     Coulmas ch. 9

**Monday, March 26**

***DUE:***            ***Short Assignment #4: Observing Cross-Gender Communication***  
***Topics:***        **(10) Language and Technology – World English**  
***Readings:***     Coulmas ch. 13  
***Assignment:***   ***Reading Report 3 (ch. 5, 9, 13)***

**Monday, April 2**

***DUE:***            ***Reading Report 3***  
***Topics:***        **(11) Language and Education**  
***Readings:***     Walter: *Education in/via/without One's First Language* (on MyCourses)

**Time and date to be announced** (during final exam period)

***Final exam***