

Department of Linguistics and Language Development, San Jose State University

Language Variation Through Time, Space and Culture

Contact Information

Course: Ling 24 Section 99 (Online)

GE: Area A3 OR Area D1

Instructor: Mahsa Modirzadeh (Mrs. Modir)

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Online Office Hours: Monday/ Wednesday 10-11 and by appointment for in-person

Please note: All Emails received after 5pm will be responded to the next business day!

Course Description

One of the defining characteristics of human language is its variability. Languages spoken across the globe look very different from one another; each language, in turn, has regional and social variation, and the form of each language and each variety changes constantly over time. This course focuses on varieties of English based on factors such as region, socio-economic status, ethnicity, and gender, and examines how the media of communication plays a role in the social functions of language variation. The course will also explore how the English language has undergone structural changes over time. Throughout the course, we will ask questions such as: What is the range of variation within the English language used in the US and elsewhere today? What are the attitudes towards these varieties? How does language change over time? How do policies reflect changing attitudes towards language over time? How do new technologies affect language use and structure? To answer these questions effectively, students in this course will be introduced to basic concepts in critical thinking, such as deductive and inductive reasoning, as well as a variety of rhetorical tools.

Course Management System

No textbook is required for this course; all readings and materials are available on the Canvas website. Assignments will be submitted by posting in a discussion forum or by uploading a file to a dropbox. To participate, you must have a working computer with video/audio conferencing capabilities and a reliable Internet connection. Access to a printer is highly recommended. Please note that **technology issues are NEVER an acceptable excuse for late/missing assignments.**

You are responsible for regularly checking Canvas and/or your email for announcements to learn of any course changes or updates. Please make sure that you have linked your official SJSU email address to the email address that you check most often.

Contacting Me

Since this course is offered completely online our contact will be through Canvas and email. I will respond to all emails that I receive within 24 hours; typically, my response time will be much shorter, but please be aware that I will not respond to email received after 5pm until the following business day. If you would like to speak with me in person, please feel free to make an appointment during my regular office hours.

Area A3 General Education Learning Objectives

1 - Locate and evaluate sources, through library research, and integrate research through appropriate citation and quotation.

2 - Present effective arguments that use a full range of legitimate rhetorical and logical strategies to articulate and explain their positions on complex issues in dialogue with other points of view.

3 - Effectively locate, interpret, evaluate, and synthesize evidence in a comprehensive way in support of one's ideas.

4 - Identify and critically evaluate the assumptions in and the context of an argument.

5 - Effectively distinguish and convey inductive and deductive patterns as appropriate, sequencing arguments and evidence logically to draw valid conclusions and articulate related outcomes (implications and consequences).

Area D1 General Education Learning Objectives:

1 - Place contemporary developments in cultural, historical, environmental, and spatial contexts.

2 - Identify the dynamics of ethnic, cultural, gender/sexual, age-based, class, regional, national, transnational, and global identities and the similarities, differences, linkages, and interactions between them.

3 - Evaluate social science information, draw on different points of view, and formulate applications appropriate to contemporary social issues.

4 - Recognize the interaction of social institutions, culture, and environment with the behavior of individuals.

Course Learning Objectives:

1 - Identify the range of variation in American English and the social function of language variation.

2 - Analyze how various social factors (region, ethnic identity, socio-economic class, gender, age, etc.) and communication environments correlate with linguistic forms.

3 - Critically evaluate opposing arguments on language use that have social and political significance.

Assignments and Grading

You will accomplish the Ling 24 GE and Course Learning Objectives by completing the following assignments:

Title	Weight towards final grade	Assignment Word Count/Length			
			A3 Objective	D1 Objective	Course Objective
Homework 1-6	10%	1500 (250 words each)	4, 5	3	1
Critical Thinking Discussion Posts 1-4	10%	1000 (250 words each)	4	3,4	2,3
Quizzes	10%	--	4,5	1-4	1-3
Midterm Exam	10%	250 words	4,5		1,2
Reflective Response Papers 1-5	20%	1250 (250 words each)	2-4	1-4	1-3
Argumentative Analysis Essay: Official English?	20%	1000 words	1,2,3,5	3	1-3
Language Variation Research Project	20%	1000 words	1-3	1-4	1,2
		Total words 6250			

Grading Policies

The assignments in this class count towards your final grade on a weighted basis. Each assignment has a point value; once the assignment is graded, the points earned are divided by the total points, and then converted to Final Grade Points per weighted value given in the chart above.

You can expect that I will grade your assignments within a week after they are submitted. On occasion grading may be delayed if my grading load is unusually heavy; however, in no case will the delay between submission and grading of the assignment be longer than two weeks.

Grades will not be adjusted (rounded up or down) at the end of the semester nor will any additional extra credit assignments be offered -- your final grade will be the letter equivalent of the percentage that is shown on Canvas after all assignments have been submitted and graded. I **will not** respond to any emails asking for a grade adjustment after the course has ended.

Your final letter grade will be based on the final grade percentage as calculated by Canvas and your letter grade will assigned based on the following scale:

A+ = 97+	A = 93 - 96.9	A- = 90 - 92.9
B+ = 87 - 89.9	B = 83 - 86.9	B- = 80 - 82.9
C+ = 77 - 79.9	C = 73 - 76.9	C- = 70 - 72.9
D = 60-69.9	F = Below 60	

You must earn at least 70 points, or a C-, to receive credit for this course.

Modules

This course is set up as a series of weekly modules; each weekly module contains a list of all activities due for the week and links to those activities. Except Week 1 module (which opens on the first day of the semester) **each weekly module will open on Sundays at midnight and its assignments and quizzes will be due on the following Sunday at 11:59pm**. Weekly activities are listed in the order that I suggest you complete them; however, you are free to navigate through the activities in whichever order that you wish. Because each week's lessons build upon the prior week's activities, you should complete ALL of the activities in a module before you begin work on the next one.

Late Policy - Important

Late assignments will not be accepted. If I do accept late assignments due to emergency you will be assessed a **20% penalty** if your assignment is less than 24 hours late, and a **50% penalty** if your assignment is more than 24 but less than 48 hours late. *No assignments will be accepted more than 48 hours after the due date/time.*

Also, please note that **this late policy does not apply to all quizzes, exams, and the final project**. These tasks must be completed by the specified due date/time.

Finally, please note that you are responsible for uploading the correct assignment file to the drop box; assignments will be graded as uploaded.

Cheating/Plagiarism/

You can find the University Academic Integrity Policy S07-2 at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf>.

Here is MY policy on cheating, plagiarism, and re-submission of work that has been previously submitted for a grade in another class: **if you do it, you will receive a grade of zero for the assignment and you will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development.** It's easy to avoid problems in this area: don't cheat!

Description of Course Assignments

Lecture videos and Discussion Based on Readings – You should complete the assigned readings before the attempting the module tasks. These are posted on Canvas.

Problem Sets – Problem sets should be downloaded from Canvas, completed, and uploaded to Canvas to the appropriate assignment dropbox by the due date/time. **Problem sets must be submitted as a Word document (.doc or .docx) or as an Adobe (.pdf) file.** Any problem set that is submitted in an incorrect format will not be graded.

Critical Thinking Discussion Posts - You will complete four critical thinking posts asking you to reflect on some element of the articles that you'll be analyzing during the first part of the semester. These reflections will prepare you to write Essay #1 on the Official English movement. In order to receive full credit for your discussion, you must complete your post and then reply to a classmate's post.

Quizzes - You will be asked to take a weekly quiz on the assigned reading. You will have TWO attempts at each quiz, and 45 minutes to complete both attempts. Quizzes are open **book/note**.

Reflective Response Papers – During the second half of the semester, you will view five films and then write a short essay reflecting on the topics discussed in the videos. **All written assignments must be uploaded to the appropriate dropbox on Canvas by the due date/time, and must be submitted as a Word document (.doc or .docx) or as an Adobe (.pdf) file.**

Essay #1-Official English? - In this essay you will use your knowledge of argumentative logic to write an argumentative essay on an instructor-selected issue. **All written assignments must be uploaded to the appropriate dropbox on Canvas by the due date/time, and must be submitted as a Word document (.doc or .docx) or as an Adobe (.pdf) file.**

Essay #2 - Final Project: Language Variety Report – In this assignment you will complete a research-based project on a variation of English or of another language (with instructor approval). Your project will contain various types of information on your chosen language variety including its history, geographical location, number of users, and social status.

Midterm Exam – A midterm exam will be given during the middle of the semester; it will contain questions similar to the ones in your textbook and in the problem sets. Study guides for the midterm exam will be posted on Canvas.

You will find detailed instructions for all assignments in the weekly modules. Please review these instructions before contacting me with questions about an assignment!

Information on University Policies

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on the Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' Syllabus Information web page at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>

Ling 24 Section 81 Spring 2018 Course Schedule

Please be aware that this course schedule is subject to later change.

Week/Topic	Due Date (all work due by 11:59pm on the date listed)	Items to Complete (Always begin by reading the START HERE post)
Week 1 Introduction to Ling 24	2/4/18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watch video: Welcome to the Course • Read: Course Syllabus, Late Policies, Grading Policy, Discussion Board Guidelines • Complete the <i>Online Learning Readiness Questionnaire</i> • Take quiz: <i>Introduction to Ling 24</i> • Contribute to Discussion Board Week 1 - Introduce Yourself!
Week 2 Critical Thinking: Premises and Conclusions	2/11/18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read: Bassham Chapter 2 Part I • Watch video: <i>Statements, Premises and Conclusions</i> • Take quiz: <i>Statements, Premises and Conclusions</i> • Read: S.I. Hayakawa <i>Why the English Language Amendment?</i> • Read: M. Mujica <i>Why the U.S. Needs an Official Language</i> • Complete and submit: Homework #1 • Contribute to Critical Thinking Discussion #1
Week 3 Critical Thinking: Arguments and Non-Arguments	2/18/18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read: Bassham Chapter 2 Part II • Watch video: <i>Arguments and Non-Arguments</i> • Take quiz: <i>Arguments and Non-Arguments</i> • Read: R. King <i>Should English be the Law?</i> • Complete and submit: Homework #2 • Contribute to Critical Thinking Discussion #2
Week 4 Critical Thinking: Deductive and Inductive Arguments	2/25/18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Download and print: Chart of Deductive and Inductive Arguments • Read: Bassham Chapter 3 • Watch video: <i>Deductive and Inductive Arguments</i> • Take quiz: <i>Deductive and Inductive Arguments</i> • Read: W. Blumenfeld <i>"English Only" Laws Divide and Demean</i> • Complete and submit: Homework #3 • Contribute to Critical Thinking Discussion #3

Week/Topic	Due Date (all work due by 11:59pm on the date listed)	Items to Complete (Always begin by reading the START HERE post)
Week 5 Critical Thinking: Logical Fallacies of Relevance	3/4/18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Download and print: Chart of Logical Fallacies • Read: Bassham Chapter 5 • Watch video: <i>Fallacies of Relevance</i> • Take quiz: <i>Fallacies of Relevance</i> • No homework this week!
Week 6 Critical Thinking: Logical Fallacies of Insufficient Evidence	3/11/18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read: Bassham Chapter 6 • Watch video: <i>Fallacies of Insufficient Evidence</i> • Take quiz <i>Fallacies of Insufficient Evidence</i> • Read: A. Smith <i>The Racism of English Only</i> • Complete and submit: Homework #4 • Contribute to Critical Thinking Discussion #4
Week 7 Writing Argumentative Essays	3/18/18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read: Writing Body Paragraphs • Read: Using In-Text Citations • Read: Integrating Quotations into Sentences • Complete and submit: Homework #5 • Complete SJSU King Library InfoPower Tutorial and take the quiz at the end of the tutorial - be sure to enter you Student ID# at the beginning of the quiz!
Week 8 Midterm Exam/Introduction to Linguistics	3/25/18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Download and review: Midterm Exam Study Guide • Take Midterm Exam • Read: S. Vanniarajan <i>What is Language?</i> • Watch video: <i>What is Language?</i> • Take quiz: <i>What is Language?</i> • Complete and submit: Homework #6 - Introduction to Linguistics
Week 9 Standard American English/Language Authorities	4/1/18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read: Tamasi & Antieau Chapter 8 • Read: Tottie Chapter 10 • Watch video: <i>Standard American English/Language Authorities</i> • Take quiz: <i>Standard American English/Language Authorities</i> • Write and submit Argumentative Analysis Essay: Official English? View the PowerPoint for more information on how to write the essay).

Week/Topic	Due Date (all work due by 11:59pm on the date listed)	Items to Complete (Always begin by reading the START HERE post)
Week 10 Regional Variation in American English	4/8/18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Tamasi & Antieau Chapter 5 • Watch lecture video: <i>Regional Variation in American English</i> • Take the <i>New York Times Dialect Quiz</i> • Take quiz: <i>Regional Variation in American English</i> • Watch video: <i>Do You Speak American? Part I</i> • Write and submit: Reflective Response #1 -<i>Do You Speak American? (Part I)</i> •
Week 11 Social Variation in American English	4/15/18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read: Tamasi & Antieau Chapter 6 • Watch lecture video: <i>Social Variation in American English</i> • Take quiz: <i>Social Variation in American English</i> • Watch video: <i>Do You Speak American? Part III</i> • Write and submit: Reflective Response #2: <i>Do You Speak American? Part III</i>
Week 12 Individual Variation in American English	4/22/18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read: D. Cameron & D. Tannen • Watch lecture video: <i>Individual Variation in American English</i> • Take quiz: <i>Individual Variation in American English</i> • Watch video: <i>He Said She Said</i> • Write and submit: Reflective Response #3: <i>He Said She Said</i>
Week 13 Pidgins and Creoles	4/29/18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read: Tamasi & Antieau Chapter 13 • Watch lecture video: <i>Pidgins and Creoles</i> • Take quiz: <i>Pidgins and Creoles</i> • Watch video: <i>Pidgin</i> • Write and submit: Reflective Response #4 <i>Pidgin</i>
Week 14 The Ebonics Controversy	5/6/18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read: See Canvas for readings • Watch lecture video: <i>The Ebonics Controversy</i> • Take quiz: <i>The Ebonics Controversy</i> • Watch video: <i>The E-Word</i> • Write and submit: Reflective Response Paper #5 <i>The E-Word</i>
Week 15 Final Project	5/13/18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete and submit Language Variety Report