



## ENG 241 - Sociolinguistics

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*5 ECTS credit points*

*Spring Semester, 2018*

**Instructor:** Dr. Constantina Fotiou

**Days, Time & Venue:** Tuesday/Friday, 16:30–18:00, ΧΩΔ01, Room: 102

**Office hours:** Tuesday 13:00–16:00 and by appointment

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### Brief description

The basic premise of sociolinguistics is that one cannot study language outside its context. The study of sociolinguistics can be seen “as a way of viewing the world around you” (to quote from the main textbook of this course, p. 1). This course introduces students to the field of sociolinguistics by focusing on language variation and how sociocultural factors affect linguistic behaviour, examining language ideologies, attitudes and myths as well as multilingualism, the presence, role and forms of English in today’s world and by exploring studies that are oriented towards social justice.

### Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, the students will have:

- ✓ acquired an understanding of basic theoretical principles, concepts and methodological approaches underlying sociolinguistics
- ✓ understood how sociocultural factors affect linguistic behaviour
- ✓ studied the role variation plays in language and how it can lead to language change
- ✓ acquired an understanding of how some languages have more ‘power’ than others and how that can lead to the establishment of norms, standards, and the perpetuation of certain attitudes towards certain linguist varieties
- ✓ gained an overall understanding of societal multilingualism and become familiar with various language contact phenomena
- ✓ studied the role of English in today’s world and explored examples of English varieties
- ✓ acquired an understanding of how research in sociolinguistics is related to social justice

## Outline

### Weeks 1–2 Introduction to the field of Sociolinguistics/Basic Concepts

#### Lecture 1 16 January 2018 – What do sociolinguists do?

- W&F Chapter 1, pp. 1–7, 14–19
- *Introducing Sociolinguistics*, Ch. 1, pp. 12–20

#### Lecture 2 19 January 2018 – On languages, dialects and varieties (1)

- W&F Ch. 2, pp. 27–38, 40–42
- *The Routledge Companion to Sociolinguistics*, Ch. 16, pp. 133–139
- *Introducing Sociolinguistics*, Ch. 1, pp. 8–12 & 20–26
- *Language in society: an introduction to sociolinguistics*, Ch. 1, pp. 11–20

#### Lecture 3 23 January 2018 – On languages, dialects and varieties (2)

- W&F Chapter 2, pp. 38–40, 42–56
- *Language in society: an introduction to sociolinguistics*, Ch. 1, pp. 21–22
- *The Routledge Companion to Sociolinguistics*, Ch. 11, pp. 95–100.
- *Introducing Sociolinguistics*, Ch. 2, pp. 52–58

#### Lecture 4 26 January 2018– Defining groups of speakers

- W&F, Chapter 3, pp. 62–77
- *Handbook of Language Variation and Change*. Ch.19, pp. 409–412 & Ch.20, pp. 428–435

### Weeks 3–5 Language variation, change & methods in variationist sociolinguistics

#### Lecture 5 30 January 2018 – Introduction to Language Variation

- W&F, Ch. 6, pp. 142–157
- *The Routledge Companion to Sociolinguistics*. Ch. 1, pp. 3–11

#### Lecture 6 2 February 2018 – Methods in Variationist Sociolinguistics & Research Ethics

- W&F, Ch. 6, pp. 157–168
- *The Routledge Companion to Sociolinguistics*. Ch. 2, pp. 12–18
- *On the Sociolinguistic Interview* (notes on blackboard)
- *Sociolinguistics Method and Interpretation*. Ch. 3, pp. 79–87

#### Lecture 7 6 February 2018 – First Wave of Variation Studies (1)

- W&F, Ch. 7, pp. 169–185
- *Introducing Sociolinguistics*. Ch. 3, pp. 75–89

**Lecture 8** 9 February 2018 – First Wave of Variation Studies (2)

- W&F, Ch. 7, pp. 169–185
- *Introducing Sociolinguistics*. Ch. 3, pp. 75–89
- Activities in Class

**Lecture 9** 13 February – Second and Third Wave of Variation Studies

- W&F, Ch. 7, pp. 185–195
- *Introducing Sociolinguistics*, Ch. 4, pp. 121–127.

**Lecture 10** 16 February 2018 – Language Variation and Change (1)

- W&F, Ch. 8, pp. 196–223
- *Introducing Sociolinguistics*, Ch. 4, pp. 109–145
- *The Routledge Companion to Sociolinguistics*. Ch. 22, pp. 185–191

**Lecture 11** 20 February 2018 – Language Variation and Change (2)

- W&F, Ch. 8, pp. 196–223
- *Introducing Sociolinguistics*, Ch. 4, pp. 109–145
- *The Routledge Companion to Sociolinguistics*. Ch. 22, pp. 185–191

Weeks 6–7 Language Attitudes, Ideologies and Myths & Mid-term

**Lecture 12** 23 February 2018 – Languages with an attitude & Language Myths

- W&F, Ch. 3, pp. 74–77, Ch. 4, pp. 88–90
- *Handbook of Language Variation and Change*. Ch.7 ‘Language with an Attitude’
- *The Routledge Companion to Sociolinguistics*. Ch. 14, pp. 116–121

**Lecture 13** 27 February 2018 – Languages with an attitude & Language Myths

- *Regimes of Language: Ideologies, Politics and Identities*, Ch. 2 ‘Language Ideology and Linguistic Differentiation, pp. 35–83 (notes on blackboard)

Midterm: 2 March 2018

Weeks 8–12 Multilingualism

**Lecture 14** 6 March 2018 – Multilingual Societies (1)

- W&F, Ch. 4, pp. 82–96
- *Language in Society*, Ch. 2, pp. 32–49

9 March 2018 – lecture cancelled

**Lecture 15** 13 March 2018 – Multilingual Societies (2)

- W&F, Ch. 4, pp. 82–96
- *Language in Society*, Ch. 2, pp. 32–49

**Lecture 16** 16 March 2018 – Multilingual Societies (3) (discussion related to language ideologies)

- Material on Blackboard

**Lecture 17** 20 March 2018 – On Linguistic Landscapes (& Practical Component)

- W&F, Ch. 4, ‘Linguistic Landscapes’, pp. 86–88
- *Research Methods in Sociolinguistics: A Practical Guide*, Ch. 5, pp. 82–89
- Nikolaou. A. 2016. Mapping the linguistic landscape of Athens: the case of shop signs. In *International Journal of Multilingualism* <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/14790718.2016.1159209>

**Lecture 18** 23 March 2018 – Multilingual Discourse (1)

- W&F, Ch. 4, ‘Multilingual Discourse’ pp. 96-110
- Extra notes to be given/available on blackboard

**Lecture 19** 27 March 2018 – Multilingual Discourse (2)

- English–Greek code-switching in Greek Cypriot magazines and newspapers – an analysis of its textual forms and functions. *Journal of World Languages*, 4:1, 1-27, DOI: 10.1080/21698252.2017.1385922 (a copy will be provided)

**Lecture 20** 30 March 2018 – Contact Languages: Structural consequences of social factors

- W&F, Ch. 5, pp. 114–134

**Easter Break**

**Lecture 21** 17 April 2018 – language maintenance, shift and language death

- *Introducing Sociolinguistics* Ch. 8 pp. 242–256, 265–270

**Lecture 22** 18 April 2018 (Wednesday) – On the English language (to make up for cancelled lecture)

- The growth and spread of British English (notes on blackboard)
- Brief history of American English (notes on blackboard)
- African American Vernacular English/AAVE (W&F, Ch.2, pp. 46–50)

**Lecture 23** 20 April 2018 – On the English language in Cyprus

- Notes on blackboard

## Weeks 13-14 Sociolinguistics and Social Justice

### **Lecture 24** 24 April 2018 – Language Policy and Planning (1)

- W&F, Ch. 14, pp. 367–393

### **Lecture 25** 27 April 2018 – Language Policy and Planning (2)

- W&F, Ch. 14, pp. 367–393

### **Lecture 26** 4 May 2018 – Sociolinguistics and Education

- W&F, Ch. 13, pp. 339–355

Final Exam: **date/time TBA**

## Evaluation

Completion of two short exercise style assignments	10%
Completion of assigned reading before each class, regular attendance & active participation:	10%
Mid-term exam:	25%
Final Exam:	55%

## Main textbook (required)

*to be purchased by students*

Wardhaugh, R. and J. M Fuller.2015. *An introduction to Sociolinguistics* (7<sup>th</sup>ed.). Chichester: John Wiley & Sons, Inc. (henceforth, W&F)

### **Note:**

The book has a companion website with additional online material, examples, exercises, chapter-by-chapter study guide and a list of key terms. Students are encouraged to use it.

## Reading list

- Appel, R., & P. Muysken. 2005. *Language Contact and Bilingualism*. Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press. (e-book)
- Auer, P. & L. Wei. 2009. *Handbook of Multilingualism and Multilingual Communication*. Berlin, New York: Mouton de Gruyter. (e-book)
- Bauer, L. & P. Trudgill. 1998. *Language Myths*. London: Penguin Books. (on short loan)
- Chambers, J., P. Trudgill & N. Schilling-Estes. 2013. *Handbook of Language Variation and Change*. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing. (e-book)
- Holmes, J. & Kirk Hazen. 2014. *Research Methods in Sociolinguistics: A Practical Guide*. Hoboken: John Wiley & Sons Inc. (e-book)
- Llamas, C., L. Mullany & P. Stockwell. 2007. *The Routledge Companion to Sociolinguistics*. London, New York: Routledge. (on short loan)
- Mesthrie, R., J. Swann, A. Deumert & W. L. Leap. 2009. *Introducing Sociolinguistics* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.). Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press (e-book)
- Milroy, L. & M. Gordon. 2003. *Sociolinguistics Method and Interpretation*. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing. (on short loan)
- Romaine, S. 2000. *Language in society: an introduction to sociolinguistics*. New York: Oxford University Press. (e-book)