SPAN 6311: Problems related to language
Overview of Sociolinguistics

Fall 2018

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Office: ELABS 234
Office hours: M 2pm-3pm/W 1pm-3pm, or by appointment
Class meeting times: R 4:40pm-7:10pm EASB 1.106./BSTUN 2.20

Course description:
This course provides an intensive graduate-level overview of the relevant literature in the field of Sociolinguistics with an emphasis on Spanish. We will survey basic sociolinguistic concepts and through mini projects learn to conduct original field work in the community.

Course Objectives:
• Introduce students to the field of Sociolinguistics and the type of research that is conducted
• Develop sociolinguistic awareness
• Promote linguistic diversity
• Provide students with the tools to conduct original research

Required Readings:
Supplemental readings indicated in each week of the course schedule.

Evaluation Criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grading Scale</th>
<th>Evaluation Criteria</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A: 90% - 100%</td>
<td>Class discussion</td>
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<tr>
<td>B: 80% - 89.9%</td>
<td>Weekly response summaries (8)</td>
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<td>C: 70% - 79.9%</td>
<td>Mini projects (5)</td>
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<td>D: 60% - 69.9%</td>
<td>Final paper</td>
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<td>F: less than 60%</td>
<td>Presentation of final paper</td>
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1. Class discussion (10%): Students are expected to show up on time to class and to have read the weekly readings prior to the start of class. This course will be discussion oriented, students will be expected to ask questions, provide comments and to make connections with the reading. It is extremely important, however, that your participation is based on previous reading and preparation for the class.
2. **Weekly response summaries (15%)**: For each reading, students will write a well-written paragraph containing a brief (3-4 sentence) summary about the paper. After the paragraphs explaining each reading, students will also write a closing paragraph linking the readings to each other and their general contribution to your understanding of the week’s topic. Students must turn in a total of 8 weekly response summaries, but may turn in all 10. The highest 8 scores will be counted for the final grade.

3. **Mini projects (50%)**: Students will conduct original research in a variety of sociolinguistic topics during the course of the semester. For each project, students will organize the results in a short PowerPoint presentation and write a 1-2 page reaction paper describing the results and the experience of conducting the research. Specific details of each project will be discussed during the week outlined in the syllabus. All projects will be due at the end of the semester giving students flexibility on when to conduct the research. The project topics will be as follows:
   a. **Linguistic Attitudes** (10%)
   b. **Language Choice** (10%)
   c. **Linguistic Landscape of an RGV neighborhood** (10%)
   d. **Sociolinguistic Interview** (10%)
   e. **Codeswitching study** (10%)

4. **Final paper (15%)**: Students will choose their favorite project conducted in class and write a paper mimicking a journal article for the chose field. The paper will include an introduction with a literature review of the current studies in the topic area, a detailed methodology section, a presentation and analysis of the results as well as a conclusion. The paper should consistently follow APA or Chicago style formatting and be written in Spanish.

5. **Presentation of final paper (10%)**: Students will present their final paper to the class in the style of a conference presentation.

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**UTRGV POLICY STATEMENTS**

### Calendar of Activities

Include in this section a table or list that provides information for students regarding important dates, assignments or activities. The UTRGV academic calendar can be found at [https://my.utrgv.edu/home](https://my.utrgv.edu/home) at the bottom of the screen, prior to login. Some important dates for fall 2018 include:

- **August 27**  First day of classes
- **August 30**  Last day to add a course or register for fall 2018
- **September 3**  Labor Day – NO classes
- **November 14**  Last day to drop a course; will count toward the 6-drop rule
- **November 22 - 24**  Thanksgiving Holiday – NO classes
- **December 6**  Study Day – NO classes
- **December 7 - 13**  Final Exams
- **December 14 – 15**  Commencement Exercises

### STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:
Students with a documented disability (physical, psychological, learning, or other disability which affects academic performance) who would like to receive academic accommodations should contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) as soon as possible to schedule an appointment to initiate services. Accommodations can be arranged through SAS at any time, but are not retroactive. Students who suffer a broken bone, severe injury or undergo surgery during the semester are eligible for temporary services.

**Pregnancy, Pregnancy-related, and Parenting Accommodations**

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits sex discrimination, which includes discrimination based on pregnancy, marital status, or parental status. Students seeking accommodations related to pregnancy, pregnancy-related condition, or parenting (reasonably immediate postpartum period) are encouraged to contact Student Accessibility Services for additional information and to request accommodations.

**Student Accessibility Services:**

**Brownsville Campus:** Student Accessibility Services is located in Cortez Hall Room 129 and can be contacted by phone at (956) 882-7374 (Voice) or via email at ability@utrgv.edu.

**Edinburg Campus:** Student Accessibility Services is located in 108 University Center and can be contacted by phone at (956) 665-7005 (Voice), (956) 665-3840 (Fax), or via email at ability@utrgv.edu.

**MANDATORY COURSE EVALUATION PERIOD:**

Students are required to complete an ONLINE evaluation of this course, accessed through your UTRGV account (http://my.utrgv.edu); you will be contacted through email with further instructions. Students who complete their evaluations will have priority access to their grades. Online evaluations will be available on or about:

- Module 1: October 4 – 10
- Module 2: November 29 – December 5
- Full Fall Semester: November 15 – December 5

**SCHOLASTIC INTEGRITY:**

As members of a community dedicated to Honesty, Integrity and Respect, students are reminded that those who engage in scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and expulsion from the University. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to: cheating, plagiarism (including self-plagiarism), and collusion; submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person; taking an examination for another person; any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student; or the attempt to commit such acts. Since scholastic dishonesty harms the individual, all students and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced (Board of Regents Rules and Regulations and UTRGV Academic Integrity Guidelines). All scholastic dishonesty incidents will be reported to the Dean of Students.

**SEXUAL HARASSMENT, DISCRIMINATION, and VIOLENCE:**

In accordance with UT System regulations, your instructor is a “Responsible Employee” for reporting purposes under Title IX regulations and so must report any instance, occurring during a
student’s time in college, of sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, domestic violence, or sexual harassment about which she/he becomes aware during this course through writing, discussion, or personal disclosure. More information can be found at [www.utrgv.edu/equity](http://www.utrgv.edu/equity), including confidential resources available on campus. The faculty and staff of UTRGV actively strive to provide a learning, working, and living environment that promotes personal integrity, civility, and mutual respect that is free from sexual misconduct and discrimination.

**COURSE DROPS:**
According to UTRGV policy, students may drop any class without penalty earning a grade of DR until the official drop date. Following that date, students must be assigned a letter grade and can no longer drop the class. Students considering dropping the class should be aware of the “3-peat rule” and the “6-drop” rule so they can recognize how dropped classes may affect their academic success. The 6-drop rule refers to Texas law that dictates that undergraduate students may not drop more than six courses during their undergraduate career. Courses dropped at other Texas public higher education institutions will count toward the six-course drop limit. The 3-peat rule refers to additional fees charged to students who take the same class for the third time.

**STUDENT SERVICES:**
Students who demonstrate financial need have a variety of options when it comes to paying for college costs, such as scholarships, grants, loans and work-study. Students should visit the Students Services Center (U Central) for additional information. U Central is located in BMAIN 1.100 (Brownsville) or ESSBL 1.145 (Edinburg) or can be reached by email (ucentral@utrgv.edu) or telephone: (888) 882-4026. In addition to financial aid, U Central can assist students with registration and admissions.

Students seeking academic help in their studies can use university resources in addition to an instructor’s office hours. University Resources include the Learning Center, Writing Center, Advising Center and Career Center. The centers provide services such as tutoring, writing help, critical thinking, study skills, degree planning, and student employment. Locations are:

- Learning center: BSTUN 2.10 (Brownsville) or ELCTR 100 (Edinburg)
- Writing center: BLIBR 3.206 (Brownsville) or ESTAC 3.119 (Edinburg)
- Advising center: BMAIN 1.400 (Brownsville) or ESWKH 101 (Edinburg)
- Career center: BCRTZ 129 (Brownsville) or ESSBL 2.101 (Edinburg)

**Course Schedule:**

**Note:** This schedule is tentative and may change.

**Week 1 (August 30): Welcome to the course**

Introduction & Rationale for the study of sociolinguistics

- What is sociolinguistics?
- Course outline
- Objectives
• Ethics and the Human Subject Protection protocol

**Week 2 (September 5): History of Sociolinguistic Theory**


**Week 3 (September 13): Linguistic Attitudes**
- Introduce Project 1: Create and carry out a linguistic attitudes survey


**Week 4 (September 20): Multilingualism and Contact**


contact, (pp. 203-210).


**Week 5 (September 27): Language Choice**
- Introduce Project 2: Conduct a language choice experiment or survey


**Week 6 (October 4): Linguistic Landscapes**
- Introduce P3: Document the linguistic landscape of an RGV neighborhood


**Week 7 (October 11): Language Variation and Change**


**Week 8 (October 18): Sociolinguistic interview and corpus building**

- Introduce Project 4: Conduct a sociolinguistic interview


Becker, Kara. (2013). *The sociolinguistic interview.* In C. Mallinson, B. Childs & G. Van Herk (Eds.), *Data collection in sociolinguistics: Methods and applications* (pp. 91-100).


**Week 9 (October 25) : Work on projects (Hispanic Linguistics Symposium, no class)**

- Work on projects, no class

**Week 10 (November 1): Borrowing**


**Week 11 (November 8): Codeswitching**
“Es un lenguaje mesclado, pues es un espanglish. No sabes si te están hablando en español o inglés o en qué te están hablando...” –H12

-Introduce Project 5: Codeswitching study


Week 12 (November 15): Distinguishing borrowing vs codeswitching


Week 13 (November 22): Thanksgiving no class

Week 14: Presentations