

Department of Anthropology

ANTH 3339G-001 - Language Variation and Change

COURSE OUTLINE

Winter 2023

Version date: Dec. 9, 2022

Instructor:

Dr. Tania Granadillo

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Office hours: See Owl course site.

Course information:

Mode of delivery: In-person

Class time: Wednesdays 9:30-12:30 in UC-1105

Credit value: 0.5 credit

Requisites:

Antirequisites: None.

Prerequisites: Linguistics 2247A/B (the former Anthropology 2247A/B) and registration in third or fourth year of any Linguistics or Anthropology module

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. The decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Course Description:

In this class we will be taking a broad approach to language variation and change. We will assume that change can only come by through variation and that there is variation that can be intrinsically linguistic in nature and variation that is social in nature. The course combines a synchronic and diachronic approach. While the weeks are organized by topics according to locus of variation, the readings will provide diverse contexts to understand the diachronic, synchronic and social nature of variation and change. Classic topics such as dialects, world English(es), creoles and pidgins, language endangerment, and others will be included.

A full course schedule including a week-by-week breakdown of topics and assigned readings will be available on the course's OWL site before the first day of class.

Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Identify linguistic variables and variants
- Link linguistic variables to social factors
- Identify various types and patterns of language change
- Summarize primary literature
- Analyze and write up linguistic data related to variation and change
- Present research orally and in poster format

Course Materials:

Registered students will be able to access additional course readings through the course site in OWL before the first day of class.

Evaluation:

Grades will be based on quizzes on readings, assignments, and a (group) research poster as follows:

- 9/11 Weekly Quizzes – 3% each 27%
- 4/5 Assignments – 12% each 48% (Due Feb 2, Feb 16, March 9, March 23, April 6)
- Research poster - 25% (presentation April 5 10%, Poster April 12 15%)

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and [Turnitin.com](https://www.turnitin.com).

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON ACADEMIC POLICIES

Course Specific Conditions Required to Pass this Course

In order to pass this essay course, students must receive a passing grade on three of four written assignments.

Academic Consideration for Student Absences

If you have missed any course work, you may be eligible for Academic Consideration to make up missed course work at a later time. Please consult Western's updated policy "[What is Academic Considerations?](#)"

Students should not provide individual instructors with documentation in support of consideration on medical grounds or for other reasons. All documentation required for absences must be submitted to the student's home Faculty Counselling Office.

Any missed assessments require formal academic consideration from your Faculty of Registration Academic Counselling Office. Students who routinely miss class and course work will undoubtedly not meet the learning outcomes and thus not pass this course.

No accommodations will be granted retroactively more than 10 days after an assignment's due date or a missed quiz or test. Please see your academic counsellor immediately if you will be seeking accommodations based on medical or compassionate grounds.

Academic Integrity - Statement on Plagiarism:

Students must write their assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing. It is also a scholastic offence to submit the same work for credit in more than one course. Plagiarism is a major scholastic offence.

For more information, please refer to [Scholastic Discipline for Undergraduate Students](#).

Academic Rights and Responsibilities

All students should familiarize themselves with Western's current [Academic Policies in the Academic Calendar](#) which include, but is not limited to, academic consideration for medical illness, accommodation for religious holidays, academic appeals, academic accommodation for students with disabilities, as well as scholastic discipline.

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