

Morehead State University
Department of English
ENGLISH 394: LANGUAGE AND SOCIETY
Fall 2009

When: MWF 9:10-10:10
Where: Combs 205
Email: t.irons@morehead-st.edu

Instructor: Dr. Terry Irons
Office: Combs 101C 3-5164
Phone: 783-5164

Course Description

This course introduces the student to sociolinguistics, the study of language in its socio-cultural context. Primary focus of the course is language variation as manifested in regional and social dialects of American English. Course also considers language in its social context as it pertains to issues of power, gender, race, and education.

Course Objectives

In this course the student will:

1. Become familiar with the regional and social dialects of American English;
2. Develop an understanding of the underlying causes for regional/social language variation;
3. Develop an awareness of the role of language in the production, maintenance, and change of social relations of power;
4. Master techniques for investigation, description, and analysis of language variation in a social setting;
5. Develop an appreciation for cultural diversity as it manifests itself by and through language variation;
6. Discover implications/consequences that relation between linguistic diversity, social status, and power has in the context of public education in America.

Required Texts

Coupland, Nikolas; Jaworski, Adam. 2009. *The New Sociolinguistics Reader*. New York: Palgrave.

Wardhaugh, Ronald. 2006. *An Introduction to Sociolinguistics*. 5th Edition. Oxford: Blackwell.

Labov, William; Ash, Sharon; Boberg, Charles. 2006 *Atlas of North American English*.
<http://www.atlas.mouton-content.com/>

Course Requirements

Grading for this course is based upon successful completion of the following requirements:

(1) American English Survey Project	20%
(2) Gender-Linked Derogatory Language Project	20%
(3) Project Three TBD	20%
(4) Article Review	10%
(5) Final Examination	10%
(6) Homework Assignments/Quizzes	20%

The scale for final grades is as follows: A = 90+; B = 80-89; C = 70-79; D = 60-69; E = below 60.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

In compliance with the ADA, all students with a documented disability are entitled to reasonable accommodations and services to support their academic success and safety. Though a request for services may be made at any time, services are best applied when they are requested at or before the start of the semester. To receive accommodations and services the student should immediately contact the Disability Services Coordinator in the Office of Academic and Career Services, 223 Allie Young Hall, 606-783-5188, www.moreheadstate.edu/acs/

Campus Safety Statement

Emergency response information will be discussed in class. Students should familiarize themselves with the nearest exit routes in the event evacuation becomes necessary. You should notify your instructor at the beginning of the semester if you have special needs or will require assistance during an emergency evacuation. Students should familiarize themselves with emergency response protocols at <http://www.moreheadstate.edu/emergency>

Academic Honesty

All students at Morehead State University are required to abide by accepted standards of academic honesty. Academic honesty includes doing one's own work, giving credit for the work of others, and using resources appropriately. Failure to abide by standards of academic honesty may result in a zero on an assignment, failure of the course, referral to the Dean of Students, and possible dismissal from the University. Information related to the procedures for handling academic dishonesty can be found in Appendix A of the student handbook at the following location: <http://www.moreheadstate.edu/files/units/dsl/eaglehandbook/studenthandbook2008-09.pdf>

Course Outline

The following schedule is tentative. Changes may occur, but adequate notice will be given in class.

Week 01 (8/21,8/23)	Language & Society
Week 02 (8/28,8/30,8/31)	Language & Geography
Week 03 (9/4,9/6)	Language & Ethnic Group
Week 04 (9/11,9/13,9/14)	Language & Social Class
Week 05 (9/18,9/20)	Language & Race
Week 06 (9/25,9/27,9/28)	Language & Social Interaction
Week 07 (10/2,10/4)	Language & Context
Week 08 (10/9,10/11,10/12)	Mid-Term Examination
Week 09 (10/16,10/18)	Language & Sex
Week 10 (10/23,10/25,10/26)	
Week 11 (10/30,11/1)	
Week 12 (11/6,11/8,11/9)	
Week 13 (11/13,11/15)	
Week 14 (11/20)	
Week 15 (11/27,11/29,11/30)	
Week 16 (12/4,12/6)	
Week 17	Final Examination, Wednesday, December 12, 2007, 10:15-12:15