Sociolinguistics, Spring 2019

Course: CAS AN 521 / CAS LX 341 / GRS LX 641
Instructor: Professor Fallou Ngom (fngom@bu.edu)
Office: 513, African Studies Center, 232 Bay State Road
Class Time: MWF 10:10 AM -11:00 AM
Location: CAS 208
Office hours: WF 11:00 AM-12:00 PM and by appointment

Prerequisite:

- CAS LX 250 Introduction to Linguistics
- or CAS AN 351 Language, Culture, and Society
- or consent of instructor

General Overview:

- Sociolinguistics, broadly characterized, concerns the investigation of relations between linguistic phenomena and human social organization and social life. In this course we will cover several central theoretical approaches to the study of language and society that have developed over the last forty years.

Course and Learning Objectives:

- Students will learn about the major frameworks used to study the relationships between language and society. These include: variationist sociolinguistics, ethnography of communication, and interactional sociolinguistics.
- Students will learn about the development of pidgins and creoles, multilingualism, globalization and language status and prestige, and language planning and policy.
- Students will gain an understanding of the linguistic and social factors that shape language contact and language attitudes.
- Students will gain an understanding of the motivations, methods, and findings of First, Second, and Third Wave studies in the field of Sociolinguistics.

Readings:


Course Requirements and Organization:

- Attendance and participation: Attendance and participation in class discussions are required. *If you miss more than 5 classes, your final grade will be lowered one letter grade.* For every unjustified absence, 2% will be deducted from the 10% devoted to attendance and class-participation. *There will be no exception to the rule.* If you have medical or other issues of an urgent nature that cause you to miss class, contact me to make arrangements as soon as
possible.

- **Blackboard weekly questions:** Each student will be responsible for submitting one question on an assigned reading in Blackboard by 8:00 PM the Sunday before the weekly reading is discussed. The articles for which students should submit a question are marked with a [Q]. Questions should be posted in the “Discussion Board” section in the appropriate weekly “Forum” in Blackboard. No late questions on chapters will be accepted unless explicitly negotiated with the instructor before the due date. Explicit instructions on these questions will be given in class.

- It is important that you have a working BU email. Some people prefer not to use their BU email, but unfortunately, Blackboard does not allow email addresses that are not BU addresses. Therefore, if you don’t use your BU email every day, you need to put a “forward” command into your BU account so that emails from Blackboard will get to you in a timely fashion.

- **Midterm and assignments:** During the fifth week, students will receive a take-home midterm exam, which will focus on the readings of the first six weeks and class discussions. Over the course of the semester, students will also carry out two assignments that will involve collection and analysis of data using the methods and approaches discussed in class.

- **Additional expectations for students enrolled in LX 341, AN 521, and GRS LX 641:**
  - Undergraduate students enrolled in LX 341 or AN 521 will have a take-home final exam.
  - Graduate students enrolled in AN 521 or LX 641 will (a) develop an approved topic by the seventh week of class, and (b) and write a final research paper of approximately 25 pages (including references) that replaces the take-home final exam.
  - Both the final paper of graduate students and the take-home final exam of undergraduate students will be due on May 8, 2019 at 5:00 pm. They should be sent to my email at fngom@bu.edu.

**Grades:**

- Grades will be assigned on a criterion-referenced basis. The two assignments and take-home exams will be graded for thoroughness, clarity, organization, and appropriate and illuminating analysis of data in terms of the materials we have discussed in class. Additional criteria for evaluation of the assignments and take-home exams will be distributed before the assignments are due. *Written assignments and take-home exams will have 3 points deducted for every day they are late unless some other arrangement is negotiated before the assignment is due.*

- Attendance and participation 10%
- Blackboard weekly questions 10%
- Take-home midterm 20%
- Assignment 1: 20%
- Assignment 2: 20%
- Take-home final/final paper 20%
Sociolinguistics, Spring 2019

SCHEDULE

PHASE I: MACRO-LEVEL ISSUES

WEEK ONE (January 23-25): Overview
- Instructor will introduce the range of topics to be covered, along with the methods and goals of different approaches to sociolinguistics.

WEEK TWO (January 28-February 1): Languages, dialects, and varieties

WEEK THREE (February 4-8): Language contact: the range of emergent forms
- [Q] Wardhaugh, Chapter 4: Languages in contact. Pp. 82-110.
- Wardhaugh, Chapter 5: Contact languages (pidgins and creoles). Pp. 114-134.

WEEK FOUR (February 11-15): Language varieties and language attitudes

February 18, 2019: Presidents’ Day Holiday

WEEK FIVE (February 20-22): Language planning and globalization
- Distribute midterm take-home exam (due March 4, 2019 at 5pm)

WEEK SIX (February 25-March 1): Language Planning continues and Intro. to Phase Two
- Continuation of Language Planning
Sociolinguistics, Spring 2019

- Wolfram & Schilling-Estes, Chapter 5: Regional dialects. Pp. 134-165 (see Blackboard)

PHASE II: FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD WAVE

WEEK SEVEN (March 4-8): Midterm and Intro: Variation-- the first wave
- Introduction to the first wave studies
- Midterm take-home exam due on March 4, 2019 at 5pm by email (fngom@bu.edu)
- Note: The exam will not be made up without a valid justification. Need to travel early for Spring Break is not a valid justification.
- Graduate Students: Research paper topic to be submitted for approval.
- Distribute Assignment I (due on April 1)

Spring Recess: March 9-17

WEEK EIGHT (March 18-22): Variation: the first wave; intro to second wave

WEEK NINE (March 25-29): Variation: the second wave, continued

WEEK TEN (April 1-5): Variation: the third wave
- Assignment I (due on April 1)
- Distribute: Assignment II (due on April 24)

WEEK ELEVEN (April 8-12): Anthropological contributions
Patriots’ Day: April 15

WEEK TWELVE (April 17-22): Wrap up third wave, language and gender

WEEK THIRTEEN (April 24-29): Language and gender continues
- Continuation of language and gender and wrap-up
- Assignment II (due on April 24)

WEEK FOURTEEN (May 1, last day of class):
- Review: take-home exam
- Distribute take-home final exam
- Class evaluation

STUDY PERIOD: MAY 3-6

FINAL EXAM DUE: May 8, 2019
- Deadline for take-home exams and final papers: May 8, 2019 at 5:00 pm. They should be sent to my email at fngom@bu.edu.

Academic Conduct:
- All Boston University students are expected to maintain high standards of academic honesty and integrity. It is the responsibility of every student to be aware of the Academic Conduct Code’s content and to abide by its provisions. The University’s codes of conduct are available at:
  http://www.bu.edu/academics/policies/academic-conduct-code/.
  http://www.bu.edu/cas/students/graduate/grs-forms-policies-procedures/academic-discipline-procedures/

Accommodation for Disability:
- In order to make appropriate arrangements so that the course can be fully accessible, students who have a disability should contact me as soon as possible. If you have questions about requesting academic accommodations, please contact the Office of Disability Services (www.bu.edu/disability).
OPTIONAL READINGS: