AN/EN/SO 4/6633: Sociolinguistics

Dr. Ginger Pizer

MW 2-3:15

(Prerequisites: EN 4403, or AN 1103, or SO 1003, or consent of instructor)

This course examines the relationship between language and society. We will study how language varies by region, social group, and gender. We will investigate connections between language and identity, analyze attitudes and ideologies about language, and see how this variation and these attitudes play out in arenas such as education, politics, the media, and daily interaction. Specifically:

- Why do people from other parts of the country talk funny? And why do they think we’re the ones doing it wrong?
- Do men and women really talk so differently that it causes miscommunication? If so, how and why, and if not, why do people think so?
- What happens in the classroom when kids show up speaking different kinds of English?
- How do people in entertainment or in politics use different kinds of English for characterization?
- And much more.

Course Requirements:

- Brief discussion notes on assigned readings, to be posted on myCourses before every class
- Two short presentations of examples of sociolinguistic concepts observed in the real world
- Two response papers on assigned readings
- Midterm exam
- Response paper on classmates’ final presentations
- Final research project: paper and presentation

Texts:


*English with an Accent*, 1997, by R. Lippi-Green

Additional articles placed on reserve

Students in EN 6633 will be assigned additional readings and will write a longer final paper.