

EN/AN/SO 4633/6633: Language and Society
(Previously ‘Sociolinguistics’)

Dr. Ginger Pizer

MW 12:30-1:45



Despite what Banner may tell you, this course has no prerequisites. If the system won't let you register, please email gpizer@english.msstate.edu for a no-questions-asked override.

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

Texts:

What is Sociolinguistics? 2012, by G. Van Herk.

American English (2nd edition), 2006, by W. Wolfram and N. Schilling-Estes

English with an Accent (2nd edition), 2012, by R. Lippi-Green

Additional articles placed on reserve

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