

Sociology of Language

Last updated 24 January 2023.

LING 380 / SOC 427

College of Staten Island, CUNY

Spring 2023

Day/Time: Fridays, 2:30–6:30pm

Room: 2S-221

Website: <https://ling380spr2023.commonscunycuny.edu/>

Instructor: Joseph Pentangelo

joseph.pentangelo@csi.cuny.edu

* Please include “LING 380” or “SOC 427” in the subject line of any emails to me.

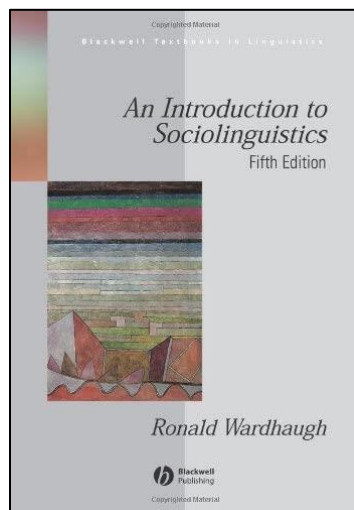
Office Hours: Fridays, 1:30–2:30, 2S-225 (in-person)

Email me to set up remote office hours.

Catalogue Description:

4 hours; 4 credits. Areas of discussion include language and class, language and sex, language and race, and language and ethnicity. For English majors and minors, this is designated as a linguistics course. Prerequisite: ENG 151.

1. Course Requirements



Required readings:

I will let you know in each class which readings are to be done by the following week.

The textbook for this course is *An Introduction to Sociolinguistics* (5th edition) by Ronald Wardhaugh.

Readings from this book may be supplemented by articles and other materials. All readings, including the textbook, are (or will be) available on our course website. The readings page is password protected. You will be given the password on the first day of class, and I suggest you write it down here:

Grade breakdown:

- Quizzes (20%)
- Exams (30%)
- Writing Assignments (20%)
- Participation (30%)

Grade key:

A	93%+	B-	80–82%
A-	90–92%	C+	77–79%
B+	87–89%	C	70–76%
B	83–86%	D	60–69%
		F	<60%

Quizzes:

There will be a total of 12 quizzes, given at the start of each class, on subject matter from the reading due that day. Each quiz is graded out of a maximum of 2 points (i.e. 2% of your overall grade). The two lowest-scoring quizzes will be dropped, giving you a possible maximum of 20 points for your quiz grade. Quizzes will be closed book.

Exams:

There will be two exams: a midterm and a final. Each of these will be graded out of a maximum of 15 points (i.e. 15% of your overall grade). Both are open book, but you may not use your cellphone, laptop, or any device with internet connectivity during the exam. The midterm will cover materials from the start of class up to the date of the midterm, and the final will cover materials from the date of the midterm to the end of the semester. The final is not cumulative.

Writing Assignments:

There will be a total of four writing assignments, each graded out of a maximum of 5 points (i.e. 5% of your overall grade). Each will be a short essay on topics of interest, with details to be announced one to two weeks before they are due.

Participation:

Active and engaged participation is essential. You are expected to attend class regularly and participate in class discussions and in-class exercises.

Attendance:

You are expected to attend each class meeting. If you know that you will have to miss a class (due to illness, family emergency, etc.), please let me know ahead of time or as soon as possible and you'll be granted an excused absence. With an excused absence, we can work out a way for you to make up for that day's missed quiz. You will not be penalized for excused absences.

In the case of an unexplained/unexcused absence, your quiz grade for that day will be a 0, which will presumably be one of the two dropped quiz grades.

In the case of any absence, excused or unexcused, you will be responsible for doing any readings that you missed, and turning in any assignments.

2. Class Policies

Academic Integrity, Plagiarism, and Cheating:

Integrity is fundamental to the academic enterprise. It is violated by such acts as borrowing or purchasing assignments (including but not limited to term papers, essays, and reports) and other written assignments, using concealed notes or crib sheets during examinations, copying the work of others and submitting it as one's own, and misappropriating the knowledge of others. The sources from which one derives one's ideas, statements, terms, and data, including Internet sources, must be fully and specifically acknowledged in the appropriate form; failure to do so, intentionally or unintentionally, constitutes plagiarism.

— CSI's undergraduate catalogue, 2021–2022

Collaborating or forming a study group is encouraged, but this does not mean that you are allowed to copy one another's work, nor the work of others outside of this class. Do not share your answers to exams or quizzes with other students in any way. Do not post assignments or other course materials on CourseHero or similar websites. Do not use ChatGPT or any other AI software to compose your discussion board posts or quiz/exam answers.

I encourage you to familiarize yourself with the CUNY Policy on Academic Integrity, which notes that “penalties for academic dishonesty include academic sanctions, such as failing or otherwise reduced grades, and/or disciplinary sanctions, including suspension or expulsion.”

Statement on accommodations for students with disabilities (from CSI's undergraduate catalogue, 2021–2022):

The Center for Student Accessibility has the responsibility for providing reasonable accommodations and services to students with a documented disability. The Center also serves as a resource for faculty and staff in their work with CSI students with disabilities. To qualify for services, students must submit documentation to the Center and request services. All documentation is kept confidential and should be submitted directly to the Center. Services include pre-admissions counseling and accessibility information, advisement, priority registration, and testing accommodations. Assistive technology software, scientific calculators,

audio recorders, and assistance in facilitating the use of alternate formats are also available. The Resource Center for the Deaf serves the specific needs of deaf and hard of hearing students providing interpreters and CART services to students who are hard-of-hearing. Interpreters are available for academic advisement, conferences with professors, and other College business. The College's policy for students with disabilities conforms to federal guidelines and the Center offers services mandated by federal and state law. All students with disabilities are encouraged to use the services of the Center. Services are also available to students who have a temporary disability.

3. Course Calendar

In the below calendar, items in the writing column are due on the date that they appear. Quizzes and exams will be given in class on the dates that they appear. Please note that the following calendar is subject to change.

Date	Topic	Writing	Quiz	Exam
27 January	Course introduction.			
3 February	Introduction to sociolinguistics.		1	
10 February	Language, dialects, and varieties.	1	2	
17 February	Regional dialects.		3	
24 February	Social dialects, styles, registers, and beliefs.		4	
3 March	Codes & code-switching.		5	
10 March	Speech communities.	2	6	
17 March	Midterm review.		7	
24 March	Midterm.			Midterm
31 March	Regional variation.		8	
7 April	No class! Enjoy the day off.			
14 April	Social variation I.	3	9	
21 April	Social variation II.		10	
28 April	Language change I.		11	
5 May	Language change II.		12	
12 May	Final review.	4		
19 May	Final			Final exam