

# ENGL 3372-125 Sociolinguistics

Texas A&M University – Central Texas

Spring 2018: 2<sup>nd</sup> 8-Week Session

Instructor: Dr. Amber Dunai

Email: Canvas Course Email

Alternative Email: adunai@tamuct.edu

Mode of Instruction: 100% Online

Meeting Times: N/A

Office Hours: TR 8:30-9:30 AM, 11-11:45 AM, & by appt.

Office: FH 217 E

## Important: Pacing of 8-Week Courses

**If you have taken an 8-week course at TAMU-CT before, you know that the workload is the same as that of a 16-week course, but is completed twice as fast. For this reason, I recommend that you think of each 8-week class in which you are enrolled as the equivalent of two classes, since you will be completing two weeks' worth of work (including reading and writing) each week. All students enrolled in this class are expected to manage their time in order to keep up with assignments; although 8-week courses are challenging, deadlines will not be extended for any reasons other than university-excused emergencies (see Late Submission Policy).**

## Course Description

Study of the relationship of language and society as shown in the following areas: language change, language variation and social class, pidgin and Creole languages, and language policy and planning.

## Objectives

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

- understand how cultural beliefs and expectations shape the ways in which language is used and assessed, particularly which regard to specific speaking situations/contexts.
- analyze and describe language variation taking a variety of factors into account, including social class, geographical location, age, gender, education, ethnicity, cultural identity, and religion.
- identify and discuss features of your own language and those of language varieties which you encounter in everyday speaking situations, taking into account sociolinguistic principles which might account for those features.
- perform research on a specific sociolinguistic topic of your choosing, both through consultation of peer-reviewed secondary sources and analysis of relevant primary materials.

- produce a written report on your sociolinguistic topic as well as an informative in-class presentation of your research results.

## Required Textbooks

**Please purchase these texts in the editions specified below:**

Edwards, John. *Sociolinguistics: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford UP, 2013. ISBN: 978-0199858613

Lippi-Green, Rosina. *English with an Accent: Language, Ideology, and Discrimination in the United States*, 2nd ed. Routledge, 2011. ISBN: 978-0415559119

Any additional readings will be made available via TAMUCT library electronic course reserves.

## Course Reading Schedule

Weekly readings (including the weekly “mini-lectures” posted to Canvas) must be completed by Friday of that week, when all assignments related to the week’s reading are also due (by 11:59 PM). However, it is important that you set additional deadlines for yourself based on your own unique schedule and the amount of time you will require to successfully complete the week’s written assignments. I am available, in person or via email, to discuss strategies and scheduling which will help you to be successful in the class. Each week’s contents will be released on the Friday of the week before related assignments are due (so, Week 2 content is released on 3/23); many students find it helpful to begin work on the weekend immediately following the release of new content (for instance, beginning Week 2 assignments on 3/24-3/25). Note that you will be reading approximately one book per week this semester. Also note that major assignment deadlines have been included in the schedule for your convenience.

*Abbreviation Key: EA (English with an Accent); ER (Electronic Reserves); SVSI (Sociolinguistics: A Very Short Introduction)*

<b>WEEK 1</b>	<b>3/23:</b> SVSI Ch. 1-5
<b>WEEK 2</b>	<b>3/30:</b> SVSI Ch. 6-8; EA Ch. 1
<b>WEEK 3</b>	<b>4/6:</b> EA Ch. 2-4
<b>WEEK 4</b>	<b>4/13:</b> EA Ch. 5-7; <b>Exam 1</b>
<b>WEEK 5</b>	<b>4/20:</b> EA Ch. 8-11
<b>WEEK 6</b>	<b>4/27:</b> EA Ch. 12-15; <b>Research Project Due</b>
<b>WEEK 7</b>	<b>5/4:</b> EA 16-18
<b>WEEK 8</b>	<b>5/11:</b> ER ( <i>Women, Men, and Language</i> Ch. 6-7); <b>Exam 2</b>

## Grades

25% Weekly Reflections

25% Exam 1

25% Exam 2

25% Research Project

Grading scale: 90-100: A; 80-89: B; 70-70: C; 60-69: D; 0-59: F

All grades will be posted to Canvas's grade book, and students will be able to view their grades (along with instructor feedback) as they are returned. You can generally expect grades to be returned within one week of the assignment deadline.

## Major Assignment Due Dates

Exam 1: Friday, April 13

Exam 2: Friday, May 11

Research Project: Friday, April 27

## Weekly Reflections

You will complete a total of eight short written reflections over the course the semester ranging from 400 to 600 words in length each. Weekly Reflections are due at 11:59 PM on the Friday of each week they are assigned. You will receive a prompt with more information regarding Weekly Reflections during Week 1. The Plagiarism Quiz administered during Week 1 will also count toward the Weekly Reflections average, as will the required Introductions discussion post also due at the end of Week 1. This brings the total number of Weekly Reflections scores to ten.

## Exams

There will be two exams over the content covered in mini-lectures and assigned readings this semester. The topics covered in each exam are as follows:

Exam 1: SVSI (entire book); EA Ch. 1-7; Week 1-4 mini-lectures

Exam 2: EA Ch. 8-18; ER reading; Week 5-8 mini-lectures

Exams can contain multiple choice, true/false, short answer, and/or short essay questions. Question types may vary based on exam.

## Research Project

A prompt and rubric for the essay will be distributed at the start of the semester. The essay will be 3-5 pages long and will pursue a research question pertaining to a sociolinguistic topic of

your choice. The final draft of the essay will be uploaded to a plagiarism detection service via the link provided on the course Canvas page.

## Instructor Availability

You are welcome to contact me with questions or comments via email (but please send emails to me via the Canvas messaging system **only**, unless the site is down). I endeavor to answer all emails within 24 hours of receiving them, not counting weekends and holidays. Appointments are not required during regularly-held office hours (see top of syllabus for details); you can stop by at any time during office hours. You may request an appointment outside normal office hours in person or by email; however, I do ask that any appointment request be made *at least* 24 hours in advance of the desired meeting time. Do not assume that the meeting will take place unless I have responded to your request and confirmed the time. **Please only request an appointment if it is impossible for you to meet during regularly-scheduled office hours.**

## Draft Review Policy

Students often ask me whether I'll look at major assignment drafts and give advice on how to improve them. The answer is yes, with two requirements. First, students who wish for me to review an entire draft must come to office hours or make an appointment to do so and must bring a print copy of the draft with them. I will not review drafts that are emailed to me with no explanation; over email, I will only address specific questions that can be answered in a brief email response. **Students who are taking this class long-distance (more than an hour drive away from the Killeen campus) and therefore cannot come in to physical office hours should let me know so that we can set up a conversation via Canvas chat or another distance-learning tool.** Second, students who wish for me to review an entire draft must also come to the meeting with two or three specific areas in their assignment that they'd like to discuss. They might mention punctuation, paragraph structure, thesis statement strength, document organization, or other such topics. This does not mean that I will not comment on other areas for improvement; I have just found that beginning by discussing specific aspects of the project identified by the student helps to make the meeting time more effective and focused.

## Online Etiquette

Students are to maintain a high level of collegiality and respect when interacting with one another and the instructor. Please refrain from using profanity or slurs in interactions related to this course (including public postings and emails). When interacting with others online, write in complete sentences and avoid informal abbreviations (for example, type out "you" rather than writing "u").

Please also observe professional email etiquette when corresponding with the instructor and your classmates. Emails should include a line of address with a professional salutation, a concise message, and a signature. I prefer that you address me as Dr. Dunai or Professor Dunai. If you have a preferred name other than the one listed in the roster (“Nick” rather than “Nicholas,” for example), please indicate this during the first week of class so that your classmates and I can use it.

## Late Submission Policy

I do not accept late/make-up work for minor assignments unless the student has missed the deadline due to a documented, university-excused absence or emergency (for example, an illness or an accident experienced by the student or a member of his or her immediate family).

If you miss a deadline due to a university-approved, documented reason, it is your responsibility to initiate a discussion regarding a deadline extension in a timely manner, ideally within 24 hours of missing the deadline. Documentation must be presented before a new deadline will be scheduled, and must be provided within 24 hours of the extension request. After a new deadline for the assignment is established and the confirmation of the new deadline is emailed to you, you must abide by this deadline or else receive a zero on the assignment. *In all situations regarding missed and/or extended deadlines, it is the student’s responsibility to contact the professor if any issues arise. If I do not hear from you and do not have your submission after a deadline passes, I will assume that you do not intend to turn in the assignment and will put a zero in the gradebook.*

## Extra Credit Policy

Extra credit, when offered, is offered to the entire class. I do not assign extra credit on an individual basis, and I do not offer it unless an opportunity presents itself which will significantly augment understanding of course material (such as a relevant lecture or exhibit). Students should proceed with coursework under the assumption that they will **not** be given the opportunity to earn extra credit.

## Attendance Policy

Because this is a 100% online class, there is no set meeting time. However, students are encouraged to log in to the site daily (excluding weekends and holidays) in order to view materials, check email, and complete assignments in a timely manner.

## Program Assessment Statement

To ensure the learning outcomes are met in the English Department, there is a program-wide artifact collection process. To that end, some of the projects you complete for ENGK 400 this

semester may be used for programmatic assessment. Please note that all efforts will be made to keep your identity anonymous; as such, all identifying markers will be removed from your work if used for programmatic assessment. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Dr. Dunai.

## Drop Policy

If you discover that you need to drop this class, you must complete a Drop Request Form, found through the [Registrar's web page](https://www.tamuct.edu/departments/business-office/droppolicy.php): <https://www.tamuct.edu/departments/business-office/droppolicy.php>

Professors cannot drop students; this is always the responsibility of the student. The Registrar's Office will provide a deadline on the University Calendar for which the form must be completed, signed and returned. Once you return the signed form to the Registrar's Office, you must go into Warrior Web and confirm that you are no longer enrolled. If you still show as enrolled, FOLLOW-UP with the Registrar's Office immediately. You are to attend class until the procedure is complete to avoid penalty for absence. Should you miss the drop deadline or fail to follow the procedure, you will receive an F in the course, which may affect your financial aid and/or VA educational benefits.

## Incompletes

Incompletes are only assigned due to unexpected, life-altering emergency situations which occur after the final drop date (for example, a life-threatening medical situation experienced by the student). If you simply find yourself unable to keep up with the semester's assignments, you do not qualify for an incomplete. If you experience an emergency which you believe will prevent you from completing the semester's work before the final drop date, you are expected to drop. If you experience an unexpected emergency situation after the final drop date which you believe will prevent you from completing the semester's work, please contact me as soon as possible so that we can discuss whether you qualify for an incomplete. *Incompletes are a measure of last resort and will not be entered into in the absence of an unexpected, **documented** emergency situation.*

## Technology Statement

### Technology Requirements:

Because this is a 100% online course, it is important that you have regular access to a computer with an internet connection in order to keep up with course assignments. All work submitted must be in Microsoft Word or PDF format, and you must be able to open Microsoft Word and PDF files.

This course will use the TAMUCT Instructure Canvas learning management system.

Logon to TAMUCT Canvas [<https://tamuct.instructure.com>]

Username: Your MyCT username

(xx123 or everything before the "@" in your MyCT e-mail address)

Password: Your MyCT password

### Technology Support:

For technology issues, students should contact Help Desk Central.

24 hours a day, 7 days a week:

Email: [helpdesk@tamu.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamu.edu)

Phone: (254) 519-5466

Web Chat: <http://hdc.tamu.edu>

*When calling for support please let your support technician know you are a TAMUCT student.*

For issues with **Canvas**, select "chat with Canvas support," submit a support request to Canvas Tier 1, or call the Canvas support line: 1-844-757-0953, links to all are found inside of Canvas using the "Help" link.

For issues related to course content and requirements, contact your instructor.

## Academic Integrity

Texas A&M University -Central Texas values the integrity of the academic enterprise and strives for the highest standards of academic conduct. A&M-Central Texas expects its students, faculty, and staff to support the adherence to high standards of personal and scholarly conduct to preserve the honor and integrity of the creative community. Academic integrity is defined as a commitment to honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Any deviation by students from this expectation may result in a failing grade for the assignment and potentially a failing grade for the course. Academic misconduct is any act that improperly affects a true and honest evaluation of a student's academic performance and includes, but is not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism and improper citation of sources, using

another student's work, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials. All academic misconduct concerns will be reported to the university's Office of Student Conduct. Ignorance of the university's standards and expectations is never an excuse to act with a lack of integrity. When in doubt on collaboration, citation, or any issue, please contact your instructor before taking a course of action.

Plagiarism is the act of presenting another person's work as if it were your own. This might be done by quoting a source without indicating that you are quoting (if you neglect to include quotation marks and/or a citation); paraphrasing without making significant changes to and/or acknowledging the source text; and/or *intentionally or unintentionally* taking part or all of another text and presenting it as your own. Self-plagiarism means submitting part or all of an assignment that you previously submitted to another class for credit; submitting work done for previous courses, including previous iterations of this course, is not permitted. You are responsible for understanding how to use sources correctly and ethically. You are also responsible for understanding the difference between quoting and paraphrasing, and understanding how to cite a source which you have quoted, paraphrased, or summarized. *Even if a student is ignorant of what constitutes plagiarism, s/he is not exempt from the consequences for plagiarizing.*

If you have questions about using and citing sources, please ask. Any assignments that fail to attribute sources properly, were written in part or in whole by someone other than the student who submitted it, and/or were previously submitted for credit to another course will receive a grade of zero and will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct. All major writing assignments will be checked for plagiarism via a plagiarism detection service such as VeriCite.

## Academic Accommodations

At Texas A&M-Central Texas, we value an inclusive learning environment where every student has an equal chance to succeed and has the right to a barrier free education. The Department of Access and Inclusion is responsible for ensuring that students with a disability receive equal access to the University's programs, services and activities. If you believe you have a disability requiring reasonable accommodations please contact the Department of Access and Inclusion at (254) 501-5831. Any information you provide is private and confidential and will be treated as such.

For more information please visit our [Access & Inclusion webpage](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/access-inclusion.html):  
<https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/access-inclusion.html>.

TAMUCT supports students who are pregnant and/or parenting. In accordance with requirements of Title IX and guidance from US Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights,



the Dean of Student Affairs' Office can assist students who are pregnant and/or parenting in seeking accommodations related to pregnancy and/or parenting. For more information, please visit <https://www.tamuct.departments/index.php>. Students may also contact the institution's Title IX Coordinator. If you would like to read more about these [requirements and guidelines](#), please visit: <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf>

## The University Writing Center

Located in 416 Warrior Hall, the University Writing Center (UWC) at Texas A&M University-Central Texas is a free workspace open to all TAMUCT students from 10am-5pm Monday-Thursday with satellite hours in the University Library on Mondays from 6:00-9:00pm. Students may arrange a one-on-one session with a trained and experienced writing tutor by visiting the UWC during normal operating hours (both half-hour and hour sessions are available) or by making an appointment via [WOnline](https://tamuct.mywconline.com/) [<https://tamuct.mywconline.com/>]. In addition, you can email Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at [bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu](mailto:bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu) to schedule an online tutoring session. Tutors are prepared to help writers of all levels and abilities at any stage of the writing process. While tutors will not write, edit, or grade papers, they will assist students in developing more effective composing practices. By providing a practice audience for students' ideas and writing, our tutors highlight the ways in which they read and interpret students' texts, offering guidance and support throughout the various stages of the writing process. In addition, students may work independently in the UWC by checking out a laptop that runs the Microsoft Office suite and connects to WIFI, or by consulting our resources on writing, including all of the relevant style guides. Whether you need help brainstorming ideas, organizing an essay, proofreading, understanding proper citation practices, or just want a quiet place to work, the University Writing Center is here to help!

If you have any questions about the University Writing Center, please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at [bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu](mailto:bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu).

## Tutoring

Tutoring is available to all A&M-Central Texas students, both on-campus and online. On-campus subjects tutored include Accounting, Advanced Math, Biology, Finance, Statistics, Mathematics, and Study Skills. Tutors are available at the Tutoring Center in Warrior Hall, Suite 111.

If you have a question regarding tutor schedules, need to schedule a tutoring session, are interested in becoming a tutor, or any other question, contact Academic Support Programs at 254-519-5796, or by emailing Dr. DeEadra Albert-Green at [deeadra.albertgreen@tamuct.edu](mailto:deeadra.albertgreen@tamuct.edu).

Chat live with a tutor 24/7 for almost any subject on your computer! Tutor.com is an online tutoring platform that enables A&M-Central Texas students to log-in and receive FREE online

tutoring and writing support. This tool provides tutoring in over forty subject areas. Access Tutor.com through Canvas.

## Library Services

The University Library provides many services in support of research across campus and at a distance. We offer over 200 electronic databases containing approximately 250,000 eBooks and 82,000 journals, in addition to the 72,000 items in our print collection, which can be mailed to students who live more than 50 miles from campus. Research guides for each subject taught at TAMUCT are available through our website to help students navigate these resources. On-campus, the library offers technology including cameras, laptops, microphones, webcams, and digital sound recorders.

Research assistance from a librarian is also available twenty-four hours a day through our online chat service, and at the reference desk when the library is open. Research sessions can be scheduled for more comprehensive assistance, and may take place on Skype or in-person at the library. Assistance may cover many topics, including how to find articles in peer-reviewed journals, how to cite resources, and how to piece together research for written assignments.

Our 27,000-square-foot facility on the TAMUCT main campus includes student lounges, private study rooms, group work spaces, computer labs, family areas suitable for all ages, and many other features. Services such as interlibrary loan, TexShare, binding, and laminating are available. The library frequently offers workshops, tours, readings, and other events. For more information, please visit our homepage: <https://tamuct.libguides.com/>

## 911 Cellular

Emergency Warning System for Texas A&M University – Central Texas

911Cellular is an emergency notification service that gives Texas A&M University-Central Texas the ability to communicate health and safety emergency information quickly via email, text message, and social media. All students are automatically enrolled in 911 Cellular through their myCT email account.

Connect at [911Cellular](https://portal.publicsafetycloud.net/Texas-AM-Central/alert-management) [https://portal.publicsafetycloud.net/Texas-AM-Central/alert-management] to change where you receive your alerts or to opt out. By staying enrolled in 911Cellular, university officials can quickly pass on safety-related information, regardless of your location.