

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

Dr. Ginger Pizer

TR 12:30-1:45



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

Assignments will include several training projects and quizzes as well as a final research paper with presentation.

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 which they will present to the class, and they will write a longer final paper.