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Linguistics 200: Language in a Pluralistic America
Course description and syllabus
Spring 2008

A. Description

This course, an American Pluralism cognate, examines the many languages and the many varieties of English that co-exist in the United States. We will see how this linguistic diversity correlates with race, ethnicity, class, religion and gender, as well as other factors.

B. Grades

Your final course grade will be calculated as follows:

Average of 2 tests.....	50%
Quizzes.....	15%
Written projects	35%

C. Required text

Language in the USA: Themes for the Twenty-first century, ed. by Edward Finegan and John R. Rickford. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2004.

There will be additional required reading from Internet sources.

D. Course policies

1. All assignments must be handed in on time.
2. There will be no make-up quizzes or tests. Best 4 of 6 regular quizzes are counted.
3. In addition to the 6 regular quizzes, there will be 4 very short unannounced quizzes.
4. Students should always contact their TAs first (by e-mail or in person). TA contact information and office hours are on UBLearn under "Staff Information".

Semester schedule: Linguistics 200 - Spring 2008

Week	Date	Topic	Textbook	Test/Paper
1	Jan. 14	Introduction		
	Jan. 16	Pluralism	Foreword	
	Jan. 18	Multilingualism in America	Chapter 7	
2	Jan. 21	Martin Luther King Day	(no class)	
	Jan. 23	Immigration, maintenance and shift		
	Jan. 25	European immigration		
3	Jan. 28	German		
	Jan. 30	German		Quiz 1
	Feb. 1	Pennsylvania German/ Amish		
4	Feb. 4	Yiddish		
	Feb. 6	Language and religious separation		
	Feb. 8	French/Creoles	Chapter 8	
5	Feb. 11	Spanish	Chapter 10	
	Feb. 13	Spanish	Chapters 11	Quiz 2
	Feb. 15	Asian languages	Chapter 13	
6	Feb. 18	Indigenous languages		
	Feb. 20	Indigenous languages	Chapter 9	
	Feb. 22	Indigenous languages		1st paper due
7	Feb. 25	Indigenous languages		
	Feb. 27	Sign language and the deaf	Chapter 12	Quiz 3
	Feb. 29	Sign language and the deaf		
8	Mar. 3	Language policy and politics	Chapter 17	
	Mar. 5			Test 1
	Mar. 7	Language and education		
	Mar. 10-14	SPRING		BREAK
9	Mar. 17	American English	Chapter 2	
	Mar. 19	Introduction to linguistic variation		
	Mar. 21	Geographic variation	Chapter 3	
10	Mar. 24	Geographic variation		
	Mar. 26	Geographic variation		Quiz 4
	Mar. 28	Variation and social class	Chapter 4	
11	Mar. 31	Variation and social class		
	Apr. 2	Variation and social class		
	Apr. 4	Variation and ethnicity		
12	Apr. 7	African-American English	Chapter 5	
	Apr. 9	African-American English	Chapter 16	2nd paper due
	Apr. 11	Special topic		
13	Apr. 14	African-American English		
	Apr. 16	Language and age	Chapter 19	Quiz 5
	Apr. 18	Slang		
14	Apr. 21	"Political correctness"		
	Apr. 23	Language and gender	Chapter 22	Quiz 6 (general)
	Apr. 25	Language and gender		
15	Apr. 28			Test 2