

(SPAN 320) Sociolingüística
Docentes: Profesor Alejandro Parini

Programa de Estudios Argentinos y Latinoamericanos
Universidad de Belgrano
Programa del curso 2017 2 / Course Syllabus 2017 2

Course Information

Contact hours: 60

C1: Tuesdays and Thursdays 14.30-16:00

Second semester 2017

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Office 20, 12th floor (Tuesdays and Thursdays)

Course Description

This course offers an insightful introduction to the study of the Spanish language in its social and cultural context. The course focuses on the relationship and the constant interaction between society and language, discussing both traditional and recent issues including: language variation, language and social class, language and gender, language and age, language and context, language and identity, and language and new media. The course seeks to familiarize students with the wider macro-social phenomena and the micro-level analysis of both face-to-face and computer-mediated interactions, thus providing an opportunity for a better understanding of the interface between sociolinguistics and pragmatics. In addition, attention is also given to the various sociolinguistic approaches and the methods for collecting data for the study of language and society.

Course Requirements

Students must meet the requirement of 75% attendance in order to maintain good standing. The attendance control system is electronic and the student must swipe his/her card during the class's regular schedule. The instructor will also monitor and maintain a record of attendance, as attendance is a factor in the final assessment. Tardiness (arriving more than ten minutes late) or leaving before the end of the class, will be considered half an absence. In the case of an absence, it is the student's responsibility to contact their peers or teacher to get the assignment and complete the tasks assigned for the next class.

Students are expected to participate actively in class. During the semester, students will have homework assignments and tasks for each class, which will be assessed as detailed below. In addition, there will be a final essay exam or a group paper of some 3,000 words that explores a topic in sociolinguistics. This paper will include field work, an analysis of methodology, and a conclusion. Any delay in turning in assignments will negatively affect the grade on the assignment. No assignment will be accepted more than two class sessions after its due date. Having missed the previous class does not justify not doing the assigned task.

Grading Policy

Participation in class	10 %
Preparation of assigned readings and comments (3)	15%

Group oral presentations (2)	20 %
Midterm exam (written)	20 %
Final group essay	35 %

For a better understanding of the system of grade equivalency and transfer to the European or North American systems, consult the comparative table in the on-line student manual.

Required Textbooks and Materials

Alejandro Parini, ed. Course Reader. Materials can be acquired in Workshop (Taller) 4.

Academic Calendar

- Week 1 Course introduction. What is sociolinguistics? Variationist sociolinguistics versus interactional sociolinguistics. How does sociolinguistics relate to other areas of language study in society such as the sociology of language, the ethnography of communication and pragmatics?
- Week 2 Features of Spanish of the River Plate: Usage and styles.
- Week 3 Spanish speakers and different types of communities: linguistic community, speech community, discursive community and community of practice. Methods for Sociolinguistic Research: quantitative and qualitative and ethnographic methods. Notions and constructs for sociolinguistic research: variable, variant, variation and variety. Phonological, morphosyntactic and lexical variables.
- Read and comment on: "Field Methods in Sociolinguistics", de The Routledge Companion to Sociolinguistics (12-18).
- Week 4 The variables that affect the use of Spanish: Age, social class, ethnicity and gender.
- Week 5 Language and Gender: Gender as a sociocultural category and its relationship with the use of Spanish. Different perspectives for addressing gender as a variable in the study of sociolinguistic.
- Week 6 Group presentations of the following chapters from the book Sociolingüística y Pragmática del Español: 1) "Lengua, Variación y dialectos" (Language, Variation and Dialects); 2) "Teoría de la variación y sociofonología" (Variation and sociophonology theory); 3) "Variación y cambio" (Variation and change).
- Week 7 Style and linguistic repertoires: Linguistic accommodation and audience design. Text analysis: Identification and commentaries on the different marks of the language that are used in various texts for the construction of social meaning. Reinforcement of the topics covered as a review for the midterm exam.
- Week 8 Tuesday, September 19: Midterm exam. Instructions and preparation for exploratory research work that the

Students will turn in during Week 14. Selection of topics, presentation of objectives and discussion of methodologies to be used.

- Week 9 Multilingualism, diglossia and contact between languages: Change of code and loans. Spanish in contact with English.
Read and prepare comments on: "El papel de la televisión y de las redes sociales en la difusión lingüística,"(111-128) from Lengua y Sociedad.
- Week 10 Language and identity. Identity as a category and social practice. Language as a resource in building both individual and group identities.
- Week 11 The notion of context. Different types of context: linguistic context, social and cultural context, cognitive context. The importance of context in the use and variation of language.
- Week 12 The difference between writing and orality. Conversation and speech acts.
- Week 13 Language and new technologies: linguistic and sociocultural aspects.
Read and prepare comments on: "La problematización del contexto en la CMC,"(145-166) from the book Lenguaje, Discurso e Interacción en los Espacios Virtuales.
- Week 14 Computer-mediated communication (CMC). Spanish on the Internet. Digital interaction spaces as discursive spaces. Delivery of written research group work.
- Week 15 Oral presentation of the results of the research project. Professor distributes comments on research. Course closure. Grades close & status sheet closed/signed (**Compulsory attendance**).

Students with a tourist visa will not be able to sit for the final exam; they must regularize their immigration status on the 17th floor before taking the exam.

Core Bibliography

Llamas, C.; Mullany, L. y Stockwell P. (2007) The Routledge Companion to Sociolinguistics. London: Routledge.

Parini, A. y Zorrilla, A. (2006) Lengua y Sociedad. Buenos Aires. Editorial Áncora.

Silva-Corvalán, C. (2001) Sociolingüística y pragmática del español. Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University Press.

Parini, A. y Giammatteo, M. (2014) Lenguaje, Discurso e Interacción en los Espacios Virtuales. Mendoza, Argentina: Editorial Universidad Nacional de Cuyo.

Additional Bibliography

Blas Arroyo, J.L. (2005) Sociolingüística del Español. Desarrollos y perspectivas en el estudio de la lengua española en contexto social. Madrid: Cátedra

- Fetzer, A. y Oishi, E. (eds.) (2011) *Context and Contexts*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.
- Jasper, J; Östman, J. y Verschueren, J. (2010) *Society and Language Use*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.
- Labov, W. (2006) *The Social Stratification of English in New York City*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Mesthrie, R. (ed.) (2011) *The Cambridge Handbook of Sociolinguistics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Moreno Fernández, F. (1998) *Principios de sociolingüística y sociología del lenguaje*. Barcelona: Editorial Ariel.
- Swann, J.; Dumert, A.; Lillis, T. y Mesthrie, R. (2004) *A Dictionary of Sociolinguistics*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press.