LING 0600: Introduction to Sociolinguistics
Spring 2023

COURSE TIME: 10:15-11:15 am Mon. & Wed.
LOCATION: DRLB A5
INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Lacey Wade
CONTACT: laceya@sas.upenn.edu
TEXTBOOK: No textbook. Readings posted on Canvas

<u>COURSE OVERVIEW</u>

This class is about how we use language in our everyday lives. You will learn about how social context and our social identities shape our language use, and how the way we use language use in turn influences how others perceive us and what kinds of experiences we have in life. You'll also learn about how sociolinguists do practical research on these topics.

The course is a SAIL course, which stands for *Structured, Active, In-class Learning*. Instead of listening to lectures and taking tests, you will learn by engaging in the same kinds of activities that working sociolinguists do every day: reading papers, discussing case studies, analyzing data, and writing reports about what you have learned. Just like a working sociolinguist, you will do a lot of these activities collaboratively with others. Sociolinguistics as a field is ideally suited to active learning. We all have experience with language in social context, and the data we need to study it more carefully is all around us!

Course topics include:
- How language varies across social dimensions like regional background or social group affiliation
- What makes people talk differently in different situations
- Real-world consequences of variability, including forensic linguistics, human-computer interactions, and linguistic discrimination
- How language and social information are intertwined in the human mind

By the end of the course you should feel comfortable:
- Talking and writing about language variation and its social determinants
- Reading and discussing academic research articles
- Analyzing and interpreting quantitative sociolinguistic data
- Presenting and explaining sociolinguistic research to your peers

Course assessment is based on projects, in-class work, readings, and other homework assignments.