

**LINGUISTICS 160-3**  
*Language, Culture, and Society*  
**SPRING SEMESTER, 2014**  
*Syllabus*

**Instructor:** Dr. Zita McRobbie  
**Office:** RCB 8123  
**Telephone:** 778 782 3369 (office)  
778-782-4585 (messages)  
**Office Hours:** Tuesday 12:30-1:20  
Thursday 2:30-3:20 or, by appointment  
**Prerequisite:** None  
**Required Text:** Holmes, J. (2013). *An Introduction to Sociolinguistics* (4<sup>th</sup> Revised Ed.) Toronto: Pearson Education Ltd. (Longman). ISBN: 978-1-4082-7674-7.  
Be sure to obtain the correct edition. Older editions will not be used!

**Grading:**

Mid-term Exam 1 (February 18)	25%
Mid-term Exam 2 (March 11)	25%
Presentation	20%
Final Exam (April 22, 3:30-6:30)	30%

**Final letter grades will be calculated from total percentage scores on the exams and the presentation as follows:**

<b>100-96</b>	<b>A+</b>	<b>85-81</b>	<b>B+</b>	<b>70-66</b>	<b>C+</b>	<b>55-50</b>	<b>D</b>
<b>95-91</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>80-76</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>65-61</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>49-0</b>	<b>F</b>
<b>90-86</b>	<b>A-</b>	<b>75-71</b>	<b>B-</b>	<b>60-56</b>	<b>C-</b>		

## *Course Schedule*

Please be advised that the schedule may change if we need to spend more or less time on certain topics.

<b>WEEK</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>READINGS</b>	<b>WORK</b>
Week 1	Jan 7	Introduction: What do sociolinguists study?	Chapter 1	
Week 2	Jan 14	Language choice in multilingual communities.	Chapter 2	
Week 3	Jan 21	Language maintenance and shift. Linguistic varieties and multilingual nations.	Chapters 3 and 4	
Week 4	Jan 28	Natural languages and language planning.	Chapter 5	<b>Presentations</b>
Week 5	Feb 4	Regional and social dialects.	Chapter 6	<b>Presentations</b>
	Feb 11	<b><i>Reading Break</i></b>		
<b>Week 6</b>	Feb 18	Gender and age.	Chapter 7	<b>Mid-Term Exam 1 (one hour)</b>
Week 7	Feb 25	Ethnicity and social networks; Language change.	Chapter 8 and 9	
Week 8	March 4	Style, context and register; Speech functions, politeness and cross-cultural communication.	Chapters 10 and 11	<b>Presentations</b>
<b>Week 9</b>	March 11	Gender, politeness and stereotypes.	Chapter 12	<b>Mid-Term Exam 2 (one hour)</b>
Week 10	March 18	Language, cognition and culture.	Chapter 13	<b>Presentations</b>
Week 11	March 25	Analyzing discourse.	Chapter 14	<b>Presentations</b>
Week 12	April 1	Attitudes and applications.	Chapter 15	<b>Presentations</b>
Week 13	April 9	Conclusion and review.	Chapter 16	

### ***Class Structuring:***

Each class will consist of lecture/discussion periods in which the new material will be introduced. You should read prior to each class the chapter(s) from our textbook indicated here.

### **COURSE EXPECTATIONS:**

- Students are expected to attend all classes. Attendance and participation will be taken into account when final grades are computed (particularly in borderline cases).
- Students are expected to arrive on time so that classes may begin promptly and that they will not disrupt the class.
- Students are responsible for all materials covered in class. Some of the lectures will contain material *not* covered in the text book and may not appear on the transparencies. Lecture notes will provide only a skeletal treatment of the topics to be discussed. Students are expected to take notes.
- There will be two mid-term exams and one final exam.

#### Exam policy:

- Following departmental policy, missed exams will *not* be made up: make-up exams will not be given under any circumstances;
- If you have to miss an exam because of illness, you are expected to contact me prior to the exam. When you return to class, I will need a note from your doctor specifying the date of your absence and the reason. Note: I may call the doctor to confirm the note. If you have a doctor's note for the mid-term exam, the weight of that exam will be added to the final exam.
- Under no circumstances will students be allowed to write exams on dates other than the scheduled exam date. If you have travel or career plans during the semester, you are responsible for ensuring that they do not conflict with the examination schedule.
- All three exams will be closed-book exams, with a variety of tasks, such as definitions of concepts and short essay-type answers.

- Prior to each exam, formats will be explained and a review sheet will be provided.
- Presentation of *one* article.
  - Group presentations: maximum four students in a group.
  - Each group member is responsible for the quality of the fifteen-minute presentation; the grade given to the group will be recorded for each member.
  - The article to be presented will be assigned to the group two weeks prior to their presentation.
  - Presentation dates: **January 28, February 4, March 4, March 18, March 25, April 1.**
- Limit your e-mail messages to simple inquiries requiring *no more* than a one- sentence reply ([mcrobbie@sfu.ca](mailto:mcrobbie@sfu.ca)). Questions requiring longer replies should be asked in class or during office hours. Please always sign your name: anonymous messages will not be answered. In the Subject line indicate the course number. Further, I would appreciate questions that are expressed in an appropriately polite manner.
- Announcements will be regularly posted during the semester on the instructor's web site (<http://www.sfu.ca/~mcrobbie>).
- Lecture notes will be available on the above web site.  
Note: For pedagogical reasons some lecture notes will be posted *after* discussion in class.
- Do not bring food to class.
- Phones must be turned off!
- Academic dishonesty in all forms violates the basic principles of integrity and thus impedes learning. More specifically, academic dishonesty is a form of misconduct that is subject to disciplinary action and includes the following: cheating, fabrication, fraud, facilitating academic dishonesty, and plagiarism.

Please note that effective May 1, 2009, a grade of “FD” may be assigned as a penalty for academic dishonesty.

For more information on academic dishonesty and student conduct, please visit the following web sites:

[http://www.reg.sfu.ca/calendar/General\\_Regs.html#897900](http://www.reg.sfu.ca/calendar/General_Regs.html#897900)

<http://www.sfu.ca/policies/teaching/index.htm>

- Students should familiarize themselves with the Department's Standards on Class Management and Student Responsibilities at <http://www.sfu.ca/linguistics/undergraduate/standards.html>