

## English 3521: The American Language

This course examines the changing nature and variety of American English, especially in vocabulary and usage, its range, formal, informal, written, colloquial, and standard and dialectal variations. We will discuss the functions and effects of dialectal variation, and how factors such as geography, ethnicity, gender, social status, and other sociolinguistic variables interact with language and contribute to variation. Adopting a multicultural perspective on the role of language in daily life, we will also explore how societal perceptions and attitudes and linguistic bias contribute to the differential valuation of American English varieties.