

English 7/8514: Sociolinguistics

This course examines the major theories and methods of sociolinguistics, the study of the relationship between language and society. With special emphasis on the applicability and use of such theories and methods to culturally and linguistically diverse educational settings and communities, we will examine language use in relation to social interaction and power structures and dialects and varieties of English. Topics include communicative competence, multilingualism, language contact, diglossia, codeswitching, verbal repertoires, language and identity, language socialization, language ideology, and language variation as they relate to educational policy and practice. An exploration of attitudes and ideologies about language will be of particular importance to understanding the relationship between language and its context.