

ENGL 7/8514: Sociolinguistics

Dr. Sage Graham

Wednesdays 5:30pm-8:30-pm

Language is all around us, and we make choices constantly about how to use it to achieve our goals. In this class we will use language as a lens to explore the interplay between language and society – and how social structures influence our language choices. Using factors like age, gender, ethnicity, and social class, we'll examine how language reflects and/or reinforces social relationships and structures (such as bias in political language or how language affects the educational system).

We'll discuss these questions and more in this course:

- Do we adjust our language when talking to younger or older people?
- What assumptions or prejudices do our language choices reflect?
- How does where you live affect the way you talk?
- How do race, gender, and social class affect our language?