

ENGL 7/8514: Sociolinguistics (CRN: 12012)

TH 5:30 – 8:30

Spring 2026

Sage L. Graham



#47290743

-COUGH -THROUGH

-ROUGH -THOUGH

NONE OF THESE WORDS RHYME.

BUT FOR SOME

GODFORSAKEN REASON

PONY AND BOLOGNA DO.

ENGLISH IS WEIRD.

Sociolinguistics is the study of how language serves and is shaped by the social nature of human beings. In its broadest conception, sociolinguistics analyzes the many and diverse ways in which language and society entwine.

In this class we'll use language as a lens to explore the interplay between communicative choices and social relationships. Using factors like age, gender, ethnicity, geography, and social class, we'll examine naturally-occurring spoken, written, and digital language. Students will choose from a wide range of contexts and conduct research on how the language choices people make reflect (and reinforce) our sense of the world and our relationships with one another.