Linguistics 194: Dialects of English     Course Syllabus, Fall 2007

MWF 300-350 pm
Phelps 1508

Instructor: Robert Kennedy
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Office Hours Wednesdays 1-2
Fridays 1-2

Course website: http://www.linguistics.ucsb.edu/classes/ling194_f07

Course Description

This course offers a comprehensive and in depth survey of regional dialects of English throughout America and around the world. We will examine dialect variation through descriptive analysis as well as socio-historic accounts of the emergence of particular varieties. Students will acquire tools to describe and differentiate dialects at the levels of accent, lexicon, syntax, and discourse. This course counts toward the major in linguistics or sociocultural linguistics and toward the sociocultural linguistics minor.

Prerequisites: Linguistics 20 (Language and Linguistics)

Text

Volumes 1 and 3: required
Volume 2: recommended
Other readings as noted

Course Requirements

Assignments 20%
Midterm 15%
Paper 25%
Final 25%
Participation 15%

Policies

- Assignments must be typed but will not be accepted via e-mail unless they have been converted to PDF with fonts properly embedded.
- Dates for exams are not negotiable.
- Any breach of university policy regarding cheating or plagiarism will be reported to the Dean of Students for appropriate disciplinary action.

updated 9/26/2007
Proposed schedule of Topics and Readings (subject to change)

September 28: no class.

Week 1 (Oct 1-5): Preliminaries, accent as phonological system, tools for analysis
   Wells 1-2

Week 2 (Oct 8-12): California and the west; Midwest, Northern Cities
   Wells 6.1
   ANAE 14, 19, 20

Week 3 (Oct 15-19): NE Corridor: New York, Boston, Philadelphia
   Project proposal due Oct 19
   Wells 6.3, 6.4
   ANAE 16, 17

Week 4 (Oct 22-24): The South, Texas, Midterm
   Wells 6.5
   ANAE 18

Week 5 (Oct 29-Nov 2): Islanders, Canada
   Blake, Renee, and Meredith Josey. The /ay/ diphthong in a Martha’s Vineyard community: What can we say 40 years after Labov? Language in Society 32. 451-485.
   Wells 6.2

Week 6 (Nov 5-Nov 9): Canada cont’d, UK
   Wells 4

Week 7 (Nov 14-16): England, Scotland, Ireland, Wales
   Wells 5

Week 8: (Nov 19-21): Australia, New Zealand
   Wells 8.1-8.3

Week 9 (Nov 26): Hawaii, Caribbean
   Wells 7.1, 7.2, 9.3

Week 10: (Dec 3-Dec 7): Other post-colonial varieties, wrap-up
   Wells 9.1-9.2

Final Exam Sat Dec 15, 12:00 – 3:00 pm

updated 9/26/2007