Syllabus, Linguist 9752B/SP9713B “Sociophonology” 2013
Department of Modern Languages & Literatures
Western University

Instructor: Dr. Yasaman Rafat
Office: UC 317

Lectures: Wednesdays: 11:30-2:30, UC 317
Office hours: Mondays 10:30-11:30

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COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course offers an overview of theoretical and empirical issues in the study of phonetic and phonological variation both in production and perception, and its conditioning by linguistic, cognitive and social factors. An introduction to acoustic phonetic analysis will also be provided. The languages examined will include but are not be limited to French, Spanish, English, German, Arabic, Korean and Japanese. Students will design and carry out a (socio)-phonetic/phonological project.

OBJECTIVES
1) To introduce students to theories of variation and sound change by exploring linguistic, cognitive and social factors.
2) To familiarize students with some of the topical issues in sociophonetics/sociophonology.
3) To help students develop skills in experimental design and data analysis.
4) To provide the necessary discussions for students to develop their analytical and critical thinking and identify their area of interest.

TEXT MATERIALS

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
Attendance and participation: 10%
Final project proposal: 20%
Article presentations: 20%
Final paper presentation: 10%
Final paper: 40%

- **Attendance and active participation** (10%): Students are required to have read the assigned materials for each class prior to coming to class and to have prepared questions and/or comments for discussion.
- **Final project proposal** (20%): this will involve submitting your project including the main research question(s) and hypotheses; (some of) the previous research on the topic; a brief outline of possible experimental methodology including the task(s) and stimuli; and potential variety of Spanish to be tested.
- **Article presentations** (20%): You will be responsible for doing two 20 minute PowerPoint
presentation on one or two of the articles listed below. You will need to address the research questions, hypotheses, methodology, and the main findings and provide a critical evaluation of the article presented.

- **Term paper presentation (10%)**: You will present your course project/term paper (PowerPoint presentation). Your presentation must include your research questions, hypotheses, methodology, results, discussion, conclusions and future work.

- **Term paper (40%)**: The final paper consists of a pilot experimental study of some aspect (consonants, vowels/or prosody) of a variety of Spanish. The study must contain a critical review of previous research as well as data analysis. The paper should not exceed 15 pages (Times New Roman, 12 pts, 1.5 spaces). A hard copy of the papers together with an electronic copy must be submitted to the instructor by email. The date of submission is last day of class, April 10th. The term paper must be submitted on time.

### CALENDAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week/Date</th>
<th>Theme / Structure (Target language)</th>
<th>Readings &amp; Assignments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1: W, January 9</td>
<td>Introduction to sociophonetics/sociophonology and interests</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
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<tr>
<td>2: W, January 16</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ch. 1 McGuire &amp; Babel (in press); Mazzaro (2010)</td>
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<td>5: W, February 6</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ch. 4 Solé (2002); Díaz-Campos, &amp; Gradoville (2006);</td>
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<tr>
<td>6: W, February 13</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ch. 4 Ueda (2010); Fuchs &amp; Martine (2010)</td>
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<td>7: W, February 20</td>
<td>Reading week</td>
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<tr>
<td>9: W, March 6</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ch. 8 Alfaraz (2011); Jin (2012)</td>
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<td>10: W, March 13</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ch. 9 Drummond (2012); Khattab (1999)</td>
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<tr>
<td>11: W, March 20</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ch. 10 McGuire, &amp; Babel (in press); Campbell-Kibler (2007)</td>
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<tr>
<td>12: W, March 27</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ch. 11 Clopper, &amp; Pisoni, (2004);</td>
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CLASS MANAGEMENT
- Students are expected to come to class regularly, having read the materials assigned and prepared to take part in pair and group discussions.
- Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department. It is your responsibility to contact me prior to or within the week of a missed course term test, or assignment.
- UWO's Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness: (https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm)
  - Downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC): https://studentservices.uwo.ca under the Medical Documentation heading
- Course materials and announcements: Lectures and announcements will be posted on SAKAI. Student must therefore set up a SAKAI account. The address for SAKAI is http://owl.uwo.ca/portal. In order to access SAKAI you must have a UWO account. To log on the system will ask you to give your account name and your secret password.

PLAGIARISM
Plagiarism is a major academic offense (see Scholastic Offense Policy in the Western Academic Calendar). Plagiarism is the inclusion of someone else's verbatim or paraphrased text in one's own written work without immediate reference. Verbatim text must be surrounded by quotation marks or indented if it is longer than four lines. A reference must follow right after borrowed material (usually the author's name and page number). Without immediate reference to borrowed material, a list of sources at the end of a written assignment does not protect a writer against the possible charge of plagiarism. This also applies to work facilitated or written for students by third parties. The University of Western Ontario uses a plagiarism-checking site called Turnitin.com.

EMAIL COMMUNICATION WITH THE COURSE INSTRUCTOR
- At times, the course Instructor may decide to send out important course information by email. To that end, all students are required to have a valid UWO email address. You are responsible for ensuring that your UWO email address is set up.
- Forwarding your UWO.ca email to a Hotmail, Gmail, Yahoo or other type of email account is not advisable. In some cases, messages from UWO.ca addresses sent to Hotmail, Gmail or Yahoo accounts are filtered as junk mail, which means that emails from your course instructor may end up in your spam or junk mail folder.
- You are responsible for:
  - Ensuring you have a valid UWO email address
  - Checking your UWO email account on a regular basis.
- Appropriate use: e-mail correspondence should be used only for administrative matters (e.g. make-up tests due to illness). All inquiries concerning course content including evaluations must be asked in class or discussed during office hours;
• Self identification: please identify yourself clearly by including the course designator ‘SPA3314 F’ in the subject line and your full name with student number in the message.
• Response time: I will reply to all messages within 24 hours of receiving them. Please note that no correspondence will occur during weekends. If you do not receive a reply within this period, resend your message.

COURSE READINGS

(a) Imitation and dialect classification

(b) Sound change and variation
(i) audio-visual motivations


(ii) Phonetic and articulatory, aerodynamic factors

(iii) Frequency effects

(iv) Social factors


(d) Contact-induced change


(e) Sociopholinguistics in L2 phonological acquisition


SELECTED WEB-BASED RESOURCES
• IPA Fonts (Go to Fonts > SIL Encore IPA Fonts > DoulosSIL)
  http://www.sil.org/
• The sounds of Spanish, English and German:
  http://www.uiowa.edu/~acadtech/phonetics/
• The sounds of the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA):
  http://www.sil.org/computing/speechtools/ipahelp.htm
• IPA chart, IPA handbook, Online phonetics lab:
  http://web.uvic.ca/ling/resources/ipa/handbook.htm
• Variation in Spanish:
  http://www.uiowa.edu/~acadtech/dialects/
  http://lab.chass.utoronto.ca/rescentre/spanish/
• Information about the world’s languages:
  http://www.ethnologue.com
CAVEAT
This syllabus is not etched in stone, and any information on this syllabus is subject to change at any time. Although we try to minimize change as much as possible, we may need to make some necessary adjustments (not, however, test, or assignment dates). Any changes will be announced in class and on the course webpage. Thus, it is your responsibility to be there, ask your fellow classmates or the instructor, or check the course webpage to be informed of any such changes.