Instructor: Dr. Chris Sams  
Email: samsc@sfasu.edu

Office Hours: Zoom by mutually convenient appointment

Please contact me with at least 48 hours’ notice for an appt. and all the times you have available--not just those most convenient for you.

Course Description

In this course, we will investigate the intersection of linguistics and sociology i.e. the effect that society has on language. We will focus on data from Spanish. Topics to be covered include: language vs dialect, style and register, jargon and slang, standard vs nonstandard dialects, phonetic, phonological, morphological, syntactic, and lexical variation, regional and geographic variation, social factors of variation such as socioeconomic, age, gender, and ethnicity.

This course is 3 credit hours and meets 150 minutes per week for the full semester, typically twice per week for 75 minutes or three times per week for 50 minutes. Students complete a variety of formal and informal assignments, which require, on average, six hours of work outside the classroom each week and may include outside readings, data analyses, written responses, projects, and/or exams.

Prerequisite(s) None.

Required Texts

All course materials will be provided by the instructor.

Student Course Learning Outcomes

1. The student will demonstrate the ability to think critically about the scientific study of language and the major subfields covered in the course: phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, pragmatics, sociolinguistics, and dialectology and their specific application to Hispanic sociolinguistics.

2. The student will demonstrate higher-order thinking skills (application and synthesis/correlation) by observing how the core areas of linguistics work within Hispanic sociolinguistics.

3. The student will demonstrate the ability to comprehend and apply both traditional and contemporary methods in linguistics to the Spanish language.
4. The student will demonstrate the ability to integrate theories and methodologies of the linguistics course with that of other disciplines taught at the university.

5. The student will demonstrate the ability to perform data analysis relevant to sociolinguistic study.

6. The student will demonstrate the ability to effectively communicate results of data analysis in a medium appropriate for the academic level.

**Coursework Requirements and Grading Policy**

- Your final course grade will be determined by a project due Friday, June 25, 2021 at 12:00 noon CDT. Details will follow by the third week of class.

**Final Course Grade**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>100-90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>89.9-80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>79.9-70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>69.9-60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>59.9 and below</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Excellent**

**Good**

**Average**

**Below Avg.**

**Course Policies**

- Adults make arrangements. They also take responsibility, are held accountable, and accept the consequences of their actions.

- Attendance, Participation, and Preparation
  
  - Regular, prompt attendance, active participation, preparation, and adherence to the syllabus policies are expected.
  
  - If you have a camera, I highly encourage you to keep it on. This allows us to have a more organic experience and for me to be able to use body language to see how the material is being received. Just like in a face-to-face classroom, I don’t have an issue with turning your camera off if you need to step away (the equivalent of leaving class to go to the bathroom or take an emergency phone call). Your microphone should remain off unless you are asking a question or interacting with me or your classmates. If you have a comment or question, please raise your hand in Zoom (under the Participants button) and I’ll call on you. Please don’t forget to put your hand down once I have gotten to you. It is inevitable that we experience technological issues from time-to-time. If I am not in class by 12:10 pm, you are free to go. Please check your SFA Jacks email for communication from me.

  - After each class, I will post a link to the recording of that day’s class in D2L/Brightspace under Content > Zoom Class Recordings. However, there is no guarantee that all classes will be recorded due to potential technological issues. In that case, after speaking to a classmate, if you have specific questions, you can contact me. I will not give private lectures over what was missed in class. Period.
- I do not monitor or respond to emails sent via D2L; all emails should be sent to samsc@sfasu.edu. For D2L technical support, contact student support in The Center for Teaching and Learning at d2l@sfasu.edu or 936-468-1919. If you call after regular business hours or on a weekend, please leave a voicemail.

- Students should check their SFA Jacks email account daily during the week. I return most emails within 24 hours. If you don’t hear back from me within 24 hours on a weekday, please resend your email—I may not have received it. This is a professional atmosphere; emails should have a subject, salutation (if for initial contact), body, and signature.

**Acceptable Student Behavior**

Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program (see the Student Conduct Code, policy D-34.1). Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic, or other penalties. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom. Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the Early Alert Program. This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance available to help SFA students succeed.

**Academic Integrity (A-9.1)**

Academic integrity is the responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways, including instruction on the components of academic honesty as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism. Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one’s own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one’s paper without giving the author due credit. Please read the complete policy at:

http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp.

*In cases where there exists a violation of academic integrity (whether intentional or unintentional), I reserve the right to fail a student for part of or the entire assignment in question or the entire course.*
Withheld Grades Policy (A-54)

The following is taken from SFASU’s Policy Manual (2012), “Semester Grades Policy” (A-54). At the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms, the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

Students with Disabilities

To obtain disability-related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.

Mental Health Resources

SFASU values students’ mental health and the role it plays in academic and overall student success. SFA provides a variety of resources to support students mental health and wellness. Many of these resources are free, and all of them are confidential.

On-campus Resources:
SFASU Counseling Services
www.sfasu.edu/counselingservices
3rd Floor Rusk Building
936-468-2401

SFASU Human Services Counseling Clinic
www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp
Human Services Room 202
936-468-1041

Crisis Resources:
Burke 24-hour crisis line 1(800) 392-8343
Suicide Prevention Lifeline 1(800) 273-TALK (8255)
Crisis Text Line: Text HELLO to 741-741

Tentative Course Outline

We will divide up our time among the following topics:
language vs dialect, style and register, jargon and slang, standard vs nonstandard dialects, phonetic, phonological, morphological, syntactic, and lexical variation, regional and geographic variation, social factors of variation such as socioeconomic, age, gender, and ethnicity.

**End-of-Semester Procedures**

Final assignment and course grades will be posted on D2L and uploaded to mySFA during finals week.

“JackText grade notification is available to students who sign up for it. This service sends a text to the student each time a grade is posted to their account. This should eliminate some of their anxiety when awaiting grades posting, as they will be notified the moment the grade is rolled into their academic history. Instructions for signing up for JackText can be accessed at [http://www.sfasu.edu/5418.asp](http://www.sfasu.edu/5418.asp).”