

# Multilingualism in the US (WR B220) -- syllabus --

**Instructor: Vanessa Petroj**  
**Term: Spring**

**Day/Time: TBD**

This writing course, intended for multilingual students, explores contemporary topics on multilingualism in the US with an intersection of perspectives from linguistics, sociology, anthropology, psychology, and education. It is designed for students interested in gaining a deeper understanding of some of the linguistic and cultural groups that make up US society and the issues that surround and confound them. Writing and reading assignments emphasize analysis and interpretation and support continued development of academic vocabulary, rhetorical techniques, and grammatical accuracy.

The course addresses the sociolinguistic and sociocultural dynamics of the most prominent cultural groups in the US and the role in which the intersection of language, power, and identity plays in the everyday life of the US society. With topics such as linguistic justice, aspects of language in the life of refugees and immigrants, as well as discussing major cultural groups in the US (Deaf culture and ASL, Native American languages, Spanish language variety and dialects, Asian languages, etc.), students will have the opportunity to get a comprehensive picture of the experiences of certain identities in the current US society.

## -- reading & other material --

We will primarily refer for three books (listed below), but we will also explore additional material (text and video). All material will be provided to you, but, if you have the means, you are encouraged to purchase the texts highlighted in bold for your personal use:

Finnegan, E. & Rickford, J. (Eds). (2004). *Language in the USA: Themes for the 21st Century*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

**Lippi-Green, R. (2012). *English with an accent : language, ideology and discrimination in the United States* (2nd ed.). Routledge.**

**Santa Ana, O. (2004). (Ed.). *Tongue-tied: The lives of multilingual children in public education*. New York: Rowman & Littlefield.**



# -- weekly topics --



Week	TOPIC	
1	Introduction: Overview of Individual and Societal Multilingualism in the U.S.	<input type="checkbox"/>
	AMERICAN ENGLISH VARIETIES	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	"Standard" English	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	Regional and Social Varieties	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	African American / Black English	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	Linguistic Justice	<input type="checkbox"/>
	MAJOR LANGUAGES & GROUPS IN THE US	
6	American Sign Language	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	Creole Languages	<input type="checkbox"/>
8	Spring Break - no classes	<input type="checkbox"/>
9	Native Americans	<input type="checkbox"/>
10	Spanish Language Varieties	<input type="checkbox"/>
11	Asian Languages	<input type="checkbox"/>
	MULTILINGUAL MATTERS IN THE US	
12	Language, Identity, and Power	<input type="checkbox"/>
13	Immigration, Refugees, and Displacement	<input type="checkbox"/>
14	Translanguaging in Everyday Life: Society, Literature, Media	<input type="checkbox"/>
15	Class Presentations	<input type="checkbox"/>

# -- assignments --



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## Discussion Posts

(5pts each = 50pts)

1) Due: \_\_\_\_\_

2) Due: \_\_\_\_\_

3) Due: \_\_\_\_\_

4) Due: \_\_\_\_\_

5) Due: \_\_\_\_\_

6) Due: \_\_\_\_\_

7) Due: \_\_\_\_\_

8) Due: \_\_\_\_\_

9) Due: \_\_\_\_\_

10) Due: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Mini Essays

1) *Definition*

2) *Cause & Effect*

3) *You choose*

(500 words / 2pgs) essays

(30pts each = 90pts)

1) Draft 1 due: \_\_\_\_\_

Gradable draft due: \_\_\_\_\_



2) Draft 1 due: \_\_\_\_\_

Gradable draft due: \_\_\_\_\_



3) Draft 1 due: \_\_\_\_\_

Gradable draft due: \_\_\_\_\_




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## Class Presentation

*Explore a concept from class from the perspective of your home country*

(10 minutes)

(20 pts)

Topic due: \_\_\_\_\_

Presentation day: \_\_\_\_\_



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## Final Essay

*Personal Narrative*

(at least 1500 words / 5 pgs)

(40 pts)

Rough draft due: \_\_\_\_\_

Draft 1 due: \_\_\_\_\_

Draft 2 due: \_\_\_\_\_

Gradable draft due: \_\_\_\_\_





## Extra Credit

(Writing Center visit: 10 pts)



50

90

20

40

200