

Sociology/Linguistics 366.1
Field Methods in Socio-Linguistics
2003-2004

Introduction

The objectives of this course, together with its sequel, SOC/LIN 367.2, are to introduce students to the techniques, purposes and problems of collecting linguistic and socio-linguistic data in the field. Students will learn through actual practice, how to describe a language and its variation and use. In the first semester (SOC/LIN 366.1) students are introduced in the classroom situation to recording linguistic data, first from English speakers, and subsequently from speakers of languages they do not yet know.

In the first semester, students are introduced to the experience and objectives of field work, followed by an introduction to articulatory phonetics and its recording. Students practice transcribing sounds and eventually entire words. From the phonetic level, students learn how to construct a phonological system for a language and how to devise a set of symbols for its representation. Lexical information is collected in the context of the grammar of the language. Techniques will be demonstrated and practiced for discovering the morphology and syntactical principles governing the language.

Most work will be done in class, by students in the course of exercises. Attendance is obligatory, and work missed cannot be made up. Classes missed because of illness will require a medical excuse. There will be two in-class tests during the term, one at mid-term of the year and one during the final week. Students will submit in writing the results of exercises done during and outside of class. Marking will be on the basis of attendance, participation in class exercises, tests, and written work.

Attendance	15 per cent
Participation	15 per cent
Tests	40 per cent
<u>Written work</u>	<u>30 per cent</u>
Total	100 per cent

The attendance mark will be arrived at in the following way:

Number of classes attended	Grade
<u>All</u>	<u>A+</u>
13	B+
12	B-
11	C
10	D
0-9	F

The following books are required reading and are available in the Saint Mary's campus bookstore:

R.M.W. Dixon, *Searching for Aboriginal Languages. Memoirs of a Field Worker*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1984.

Bert Vaux and Justin Cooper, *Introduction to Linguistic Field Methods*. Munich: LINCOM Europa, 1999.

Classes and office hours:

Instructional materials will also be made available to students as required. Your professor is Dr. Ronald Cospér. His office is located in MS411, and he is in the office for consultation Tuesdays 5:00 to 6:00 pm, Wednesdays 2:00 to 4:00 pm, and Thursdays from 2:30 to 5:30 pm. The professor can be reached by telephone at 420-5871; the E-mail address is Ronald.Cospér@smu.ca. The website for the course can be found at the site for linguistics and at <http://www.stmarys.ca/academic/arts/sociology/Home.html>. Classes are Wednesdays from 4:00 PM to 6:30 PM in MM215B.