Contact Linguistics: Syllabus

LING 26310/36310                          Tu/Th 10:30-11:50, Social Science 108
SLAV 20600/30600

Victor Friedman                         Lenore Grenoble
vfriedm@uchicago.edu               grenoble@uchicago.edu
405 Wieboldt                       401 Wieboldt
Office hours: by appt.             Office hours: by appt

This seminar focuses on current research in contact linguistics in a global perspective, including but not limited to the impact of languages of wider communication (e.g. English, Russian) in contact with other languages. Topics to be covered include the following: language/dialect contact, convergence and language shift resulting in attrition and language endangerment and loss. Other contact-induced linguistic changes and processes to be considered include borrowing, code-switching, code-shifting, diglossia, loss of linguistic restrictions and grammatical permeability, and the impact of language contact in the emergence and/or historical development of languages.

Course requirements

Readings (posted on Chalk):
Coursework will consist of active participation in class discussions of the assigned readings. Individual students will be responsible for presenting each day’s reading to the class.

Discussion questions:
All students are required to post one discussion question for the assigned reading by 9PM on the day prior to class. These questions should stem directly from the reading and should be designed to provoke discussion. If you are citing material directly from the reading, be sure to give the page number (e.g. “As Thomason & Kaufman (1988:42) state….”)

Note: comprehension/content questions can be posted to Chalk but do not count as discussion questions

Term paper:
Each student will write a term paper; the exact topic will be determined by meeting with one of the faculty members in Week 2. We will set up these meetings toward the end of the first week. All students will give presentations of their topic to the class in Week 9 or 10.

Writing workshops:
Fridays, required for undergraduate students
Grading:
- class attendance (including timeliness)
- discussion questions (including timeliness of posting)
- class presentation, week 9 or 10
- term paper

**Key textbooks on Contact Linguistics:**


**Week 1**

**Tuesday, January 6**

Introduction

**Thursday, January 8**

*read, no meeting*

Readings:


**Week 2**

**Tuesday, January 13**

*Sprachbund: The Balkans as paradigmatic*

Readings:


**Thursday, January 15**

Readings:


**Week 3**

**Tuesday, January 20**

*The Balkans (continued) & The Caucasus*

Readings:


**Thursday, January 22**

*The Caucasus*

Guest: Maria Polinsky, Department of Linguistics, Harvard University.

**Week 4**
**Tuesday, January 27**
**Further theoretical issues**
*Readings:*

**Thursday, January 29**
*Readings:*

**Week 5**
**Tuesday, February 3**
**Bilingual speech**
*Readings:*

**Thursday, February 5**
*Readings:*

Also note:

**Week 6**
**Tuesday, February 10**
**Amazonia**
*Guest: Adam Singerman*

*Instructions: Read Epps (20008) and Stenzel (2005) completely. For Heggarty (2007), focus on sections 3.3, 4, and 5 (pp. 16 -28); Heggarty (2008), focus on sections 1-4 (pp. 1-14)*


**Thursday, February 12**  
Creoles  
Guest: Dorothea Hoffmann


**Friday, February 13**  
LVC Workshop Marianne Mithun (3:00)  
Marianne Mithun: Department of Linguistics, University of California, Santa Barbara

**Week 7**

**Tuesday, February 17**  
Mixed languages  
Warning: the readings by Muysken and Bakker & Papen are unnecessarily long.

Read  
Readings:


**Thursday, February 19**  
Mixed languages, continued

Readings:


**Friday, February 20**  
First draft of paper due by 5PM!!!
Week 8
Tuesday, February 24  
Clicks and contact in Africa

Readings:
read: pp. 35-47.
Also look at the map that accompanies this chapter: [http://wals.info/feature/142A#2/30.8/145.5](http://wals.info/feature/142A#2/30.8/145.5)

Thursday, February 26  
German in America  
Guest: Ross Burkholder

Readings:


Week 9  
Historical Perspectives on Reconstructing Contact

Tuesday, March 3
Readings:

Thursday, March 5  
Language Shift  
Guest: Pia Lane

Pia Lane: Department of Linguistics and Scandinavian Studies, University of Oslo  
PI of *Standardising Minority Languages Project*
Core team member of *The Centre for Multilingualism in Society across the Lifespan*

**Readings:**

**Week 10**

**Tuesday March 10**

**Minority language standardization**

Guest: Pia Lane

**Readings:**

**Thursday March 12**

optional wrap-up

**Monday, March 16**

Term paper due by 5PM!