



## LING 395: Language and Society (1.5 units) Spring 2026 – University of Victoria



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### Schedule

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, & Fridays from 10:30am until 11:20am

### Prerequisites

A second year standing is required.

### Description

Do you expect a 20-year-old university student from British Columbia to sound the same as a 70-year-old farmer from rural Alberta, or even a 20-year-old university student from Texas? Would you write an email to a professor in the same way you would write a text message to a friend? LING 395 explores why we sound different from others, as well as what assumptions we might make about others based on how they speak. Students will learn about the social factors that influence the use of language, with a focus on language variation within and across speech communities. The course will offer a guided overview of key concepts in sociolinguistics while offering the flexibility for students to delve deeper into specific areas of interest and examine language use in their own speech communities. Students will have a hands-on opportunity to learn about research design and analysis through conducting a sociolinguistic interview.

### Textbooks

- Meyerhoff, M. (2018). *Introducing Sociolinguistics* (3rd edition). New York: Routledge.

### Instructor

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