Murray State University

DEPARTMENT: English and Philosophy

COURSE NUMBER: ENG 362

CREDIT HOURS: 3.0

I. TITLE: Ethnolinguistics in the US

II. COURSE DESCRIPTION: From an ethnolinguistic perspective, this course provides an introduction to the study of varieties of English across the United States. Students will examine the history of linguistic diversity in the United States, along with perspectives on language and identity and current issues in language policies in the US. Prerequisites: ENG 105 (or ENG 104).

III. PURPOSE: The purpose of the course is to broaden students’ general knowledge of the field of ethnolinguistics, and, more specifically, of how language and culture intersect in the United States. After completing the course, students should be able to understand the way that communicative events are patterned within various speech communities, and the ways in which communicative events interact with other systems of culture.

IV. COURSE OBJECTIVES: Class activities will be centered on the attainment of the course objectives listed below. These objectives are understood to be reflective of, but not limited to those behaviors advocated by the Kentucky Education Reform Act guidelines. Following each objective, and enclosed in parentheses, are numbers which reference the Kentucky Teacher Standards for Preparation and Certification (KTS) addressed by that objective. Students who have completed the course should be able to

A. identify characteristics of major speech communities in the US such as African American, immigrant, and refugee communities; (KTS #1, 4, 8)
B. use linguistic methods to assess varieties of speech in English; (KTS #3, 4, 5)
C. characterize and analyze important issues that affect language policy in the US; (KTS #1, 3) and
D. understand the history of language development in the US. (KTS #1)

The EPSB Themes of Diversity, Assessment, and Literacy/Reading will also be explored in the course through classroom discussion and classroom projects.

V. CONTENT OUTLINE: The interaction of language and culture will be examined through several foci: a historical overview of language diversity and policy in the United States, examination of the ethnolinguistics of specific language and ethnic groups in the US (including texts, contexts and issues in education and the culture at large), and a close analysis of current issues in language use and policy from an ethnolinguistic perspective.

VI. INSTRUCTIONAL ACTIVITIES: Instruction for the course will include lecture, discussion, Blackboard posts, and student presentations.

VII. FIELD, CLINICAL AND/OR LABORATORY EXPERIENCES: None.

VIII. RESOURCES: Students will have access to University resources, including electronic course materials and library resources.
IX. GRADING PROCEDURES: Students will be graded on their understanding of the material they have read and on their ability to communicate, in an intellectually rigorous and imaginative way, what they have learned through activities such as course assignments, discussions, and projects. Grades will be assigned according to the standard scale (90-100% = A; 80-89% = B; 70-79% = C; 60-69% = D; <60% = E).

X. ATTENDANCE POLICY: The Attendance Policy in the current MSU Undergraduate Bulletin will be followed.

XI. ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY: The Academic Honesty Policy in the current MSU Undergraduate Bulletin will be followed.

XII. TEXTS AND REFERENCES: Texts may include

XII. PREREQUISITES: ENG 105 (or ENG 104)

XIV. NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY STATEMENT: Murray State University endorses the intent of all federal and state laws created to prohibit discrimination. Murray State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, religion, age, veteran status, or disability in employment, admissions, or the provision of services and provides, upon request, reasonable accommodation including auxiliary aids and services necessary to afford individuals with disabilities equal access to participate in all programs and activities. For more information, contact Director of Equal Opportunity, 103 Wells Hall. 270-809-3155 (voice), 270-809-3361 (TDD).