

**Dr. Kate Anderson**

**ENGL 4314: Sociolinguistics**

This course will explore contexts and details of language use, including differences in the ways individuals and groups speak, beliefs, attitudes, and research about different language varieties, and how contexts for communication shape language. Students will better understand how language not only allows for communication, but also shapes identities and communities. Topics we will cover include: language variation and change, multilingualism, language planning, discourse studies, language attitudes, stylistics, and links between language and social categories like region, gender, race, and class.

**Requirements:** Contribute to interactive discussion grounded in course readings. Apply class topics to representations of individuals or groups as types of speakers in media, literature, educational policy, and your own experiences through essays, mini-projects, and presentations. Design and carry out a final, collaborative research project that examines language use and its social consequences in a real life context.

**Required Texts:**

- An Introduction to Sociolinguistics (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.) by Janet Holmes. 2008. Pearson Longman.
- The Craft of Research (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.) by Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, and Joseph M. Williams. University of Chicago Press.