School of Arts and Letters
LIN2605 – Introduction to Sociolinguistics

Course Description
This course introduces students to the study of how social and cultural factors affect human communication. Topics such as language attitudes and policies, dialects vs. standards, class variation, and culture and gender will be discussed.

3 credits

Course Competencies
Competency 1: The student will demonstrate an understanding of language varieties by identifying and explaining the differences between standard languages, regional dialects, accents and how perception of such variations influence interaction

Competency 2: Students will demonstrate an understanding of how language and power interact by identifying and explaining the differences between powerful and powerless language with respect to the roles of various interlocutors

Competency 3: Students will demonstrate an understanding of the interrelations of language and culture by identifying and explaining the effects that race, gender, and social class have on communication

Competency 4: Students will demonstrate an understanding of the behavior of speakers by recognizing, identifying, and explaining common speech acts such as apologies, requests, greetings, partings, expressing gratitude, etc. in daily conversations

Competency 5: Students will demonstrate an understanding of strategic competence, linguistic competence, grammatical competence, and communicative competence by identifying and explaining the differences of how speakers use such competencies to compensate for linguistic deficiencies

Competency 6: Students will demonstrate an understanding of the multiple factors affecting both verbal and non-verbal communication by identifying and explaining ways in which the setting, participants, ends/goals of the participants, etc. influence the way people communicate