

**University of Puerto Rico  
Rio Piedras Campus  
College of Humanities  
Graduate Program in Linguistics**

**LING 6995, section OU1**

**Interdisciplinary Approaches to Linguistics: Theories of Identity, Context, and Indexicality**

**Course website:** <https://ling6995.weebly.com/>

**2018-19, 2<sup>ND</sup> semester**

Professor: Don E. Walicek, Ph.D.

Email: don.walicek@upr.edu

Office hours: Friday 4:00 – 4:50 (appointments preferred)  
hours)

Credits: 1 credit (15 contact

Classroom: LPM 309

Meeting time: Friday 5:00 – 7:50

Duration: 5 weeks (3 classroom meetings, 2 online exercises)

**Prerequisites:** Graduate standing or permission of the instructor.

**Description:** This course is a seminar focused on theory and practice related to the convergences between linguistics and other disciplines, including social anthropology, history, and geography. As indicated in its title, the course will deal with 3 central concepts: identity, context, and indexicality and their application to different types of scholarly work in the field of sociolinguistics. The course will provide students with opportunities to use theoretical tools to conceptualize their own ideas, projects, and research goals.

**Objectives:** By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- Define each of the three key concepts in accordance with relevant scholarship in linguistics
- Articulate how each of the three key concepts can contribute to insights in sociolinguistics
- Recognize the types of data that assist sociolinguists in discussing the three key concepts from an interdisciplinary perspective
- Apply each of the key three concepts to their own ideas and arguments in ways that are relevant to their own writing or research.

**Readings:** Recent scholarship provided by instructor in electronic format. Additional readings will be made available upon request.

**Course Outline:**

- Week 1: Introductions; discussion of syllabus, questionnaire; discussion of identity
- Week 2: Discussion of context; quiz 1
- Week 3: Discussion of indexicality; quiz 2; discussion of rubric for final paper
- Week 4: Online exercise 1
- Week 5: Online exercise 2

**Assessment strategies:** Questionnaire, critical assessment of scholarship, rubric for final paper, application of theory

**Evaluation:**

Participation and discussion in classroom	20%
In-class quizzes (2)	20%
Online exercises (2, max. 1 page each)	20%
Abstract and final paper (5-7 pages)	<u>40%</u>
Total:	100%

\*Discussion and assignments for this course can be in either English or Spanish.

**Grading system:**

A	100-90
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	< 60

**Policy on sexual harassment:**

The University of Puerto Rico prohibits discrimination based on sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity in any of its forms, including that of sexual harassment. According to the Institutional Policy Against Sexual Harassment at the University of Puerto Rico, Certification Num. 130, 2014-2015 from the Board of Governors, any student subjected to acts constituting sexual harassment, must turn to the Office of the Student Ombudsperson, the Office of the Dean of Students, and/or the Coordinator of the Office of Compliance with Title IX for an orientation and/or a formal complaint.

**Course Bibliography:**

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Anderson, K.T. (2008). Justifying race talk: Indexicality and the social construction of race and linguistic value. *Journal of Linguistic Anthropology*, 18(1), 108-129.

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- Figueira Guimarães, T., & Lopes, L.P.M. (2017) Trajectories of a viral text in different communicative events: entextualisation, indexicality, identity performances and ethnography. *Alfa: Revista de Lingüística* 61 (1), pp. 11-32.
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- Guzzardo Tamargo, R., Rivera, Y. & D. Walicek (2017). *Caribbean Studies Special Issue: Language Contact, Creoles, an Multilingualism: Stigma, Creativity, and Resilience*, 45 (1-2). Universidad de Puerto Rico, Recinto de Río Piedras: Instituto de Estudios del Caribe, Facultad de Ciencias Sociales.

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