ENGL 8230, American English

This American English course studies the phonological, lexical, syntactic, semantic, and discourse developments of English in America from social, regional, and historical perspectives. The course takes into account the various issues of American English as a contact variety of English, standard American English as a lingua franca, and the notions within linguistics concerning gender, community language and literacy, identity, and cultural discourse. It traces American English from the early settlements to the present, surveys the major work in regional dialectology, and examines basic studies in social dialectology including pidgin-creole studies.

Through the micro-research studies, this course examines English language issues in America. Through the comprehensive micro-study project resulting in oral presentations and the research essay, the course focuses on linguistic questions concerning language components, history, and culture in the U.S. and their application to academic uses. This study may be applied to anthropology, sociolinguistics, pedagogy, and literature.