Variation is an inherent part of language. This would appear to pose a challenge for language learners, both in first and second language acquisition, who must in some way abstract away from this to arrive at an appropriate linguistic representation of the variable input to which they are exposed as well as construct a grammar that appropriately yields variable output. This course will examine variation and its challenges for language acquisition: in production, principally from a sociolinguistic perspective (children and adults); in speech perception (children and adults); and in early reading (children).

This course is marked Pass/Fail. Students must make a presentation, in groups of two, on one of the themes below. Presentations should include discussion of general issues, methodological concerns and some focus on specific results. All students are expected to have read all of the assigned readings and to come to class prepared to discuss them. More readings are listed below than will be covered. The students in charge of a given theme, in consultation with the instructor, will reduce the list to 3 or 4 readings per session. Approximately 10 days before a given group’s presentation, the group will meet with the instructor to discuss which readings they would like the class to focus on. The final list for each theme will be provided to all other students one week before the class devoted to that theme. Students in charge of a theme should feel free to consult other works and to modify the list as they see fit, in consultation with the instructor.

**SEPT 13TH:**
**ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING AND INTRODUCTION**

**OCT 4TH:**
(SOCIOLINGUISTIC) VARIATION AND L1 ACQUISITION

Overview papers:

Specific studies:
OCT 18TH:
(SOCIOLINGUISTIC) VARIATION AND L2 ACQUISITION

Overview papers:

Specific studies:

NOV 1ST:
VARIATION AND L1 SPEECH PERCEPTION

Overview papers:

Specific studies:
**NOV 15th:**
**VARIATION AND L2 SPEECH PERCEPTION**

**Overview papers:**

**Specific studies:**

**NOV 29th:**
**VARIATION AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF READING IN CHILDREN**

**Overview papers [to be shortened by HG]:**

**Specific studies [to be shortened by HG]:**


