NB: McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore all students must understand the meaning and

Access to the instructor: Please e-mail me if you have questions or concerns about

double-spaced), in which you either: a) discuss and take a position on one of the topics from the following list, with a critical review of at least five articles, chapters or books on your topic; or b) report on your own investigation of linguistic variation and/or change, based on data from at least 20 people. In either case, you may work **individually** or in a **group** with other students, as you prefer.

Term paper essay option A: Essay

Students pursuing Option A should choose one of the following seven topics:

1) Standard vs. non-standard: take a position on the role of the standard variety of English or another language. Is "correct" usage important or not, and why? Should it be taught in schools, or required in certain professional contexts? Is it realistic to expect public evaluations of non-standard varieties to change?

2) The role of the mass media in linguistic variation and change: do the modern mass media, including social media and the internet, serve to encourage or limit regional and/or social variation in language? Do they speed up language change or slow it down? Can you identify specific examples of such influence? In linguistic terms, will the digital age produce one global monolithic culture or a new diversity of specialized communities, each with unique characteristics?

3) English as a global language

ability has struggled to identify exactly which features of speech people rely on in these identifications. Review and compare several production and/or perception studies of the features of LGBT speech and offer your own view of what constitutes identifiably gay-sounding speech.

The main goal of this type of term paper is for you to deepen and broaden your knowledge of your chosen topic well beyond the discussion in the textbook, by developing a thesis or position on it or a research question to explore, and by finding, reading and discussing at least five books, book chapters or journal articles

other published studies. If you are studying variation in words or spellings you should

<u>Policy on submission of written assignments (data collection assignment and term paper)</u>: either individual or group work and submissions are acceptable. For group submissions, names of all members should be clearly indicated and all members will receive the same grade.

Written work should be submitted by email (to charles.boberg@mcgill.ca) as a Word or pdf attachment, by 11:59 pm (23h59) on the date indicated in the schedule below. It is the student's responsibility to ensure timely and effective submission of all written work; any irregularities in this respect, including late submissions, should be communicated clearly to the

If you have any additional questions or concerns about written assignments, you are encouraged to consult the instructor as early as possible.

<u>Policy on attendance</u>: attendance in classes is not mandatory but is strongly encouraged, as students who do not attend-0.2(s) -re

student who photographs an exam or is suspected of sharing copies or images of an exam with other students, or of receiving such copies or images, will be reported to the authorities.

<u>Policy on use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) applications</u>: the written work you submit in this class should represent your own research, thinking and writing. Using AI tools to produce written work limits your learning as a student and misrepresents the skills and achievements that are being assessed in this course. Inappropriate use of AI will be treated as a form of cheating and reported to the Disciplinary Officer.

Date	Day	Lecture topic/Exam	Readings due, etc.
01.07	TU	Introduction (review of course outline, etc.)	
01.09	TH	No class: instructor absent (at conference)	
01.14	TU	Introduction: variation and linguistic theory	Ch. 1
01.16	TH	Regional & social varieties; style; speech	Ch. 2, 5
		communities; networks	
01.21	TU	Dialectology: regional variation	Ch. 6
01.23	TH	Regional variation, continued	
01.28	TU	Regional variation, continued	
01.30	TH	Linguistic variables; social variation	
02.04	TU	Variation studies: theory & method; statistics	
02.06		1.55 5 5 5 5 6 7 6 7 6 7 6 7 6 7 6 7 6 7 6	(1) 0 0, (1) 0 2 (2) 00 2 (1) 0.2 (1+0) 0.2 (0+) 0.2 (0+) 0 1 (0+0.2)

Tentative schedule of lectures, readings, assignments and exams: