

Fall 2017, MW 2:00-3:15pm

Ling 490/590:

Ethnolects

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Ethnolects are language varieties whose roots lie in multilingualism: one language (often, that of an ethnic minority group) influences and shapes another language (often, the local majority language). In the New Mexico context, examples are Spanish in contact with English (“**Chicano English**”) or Indigenous languages in contact with English (“**American Indian English**”).

This course will take a close look at these forms of language, their history, and their social motivation. When and why is **ethnic identity** expressed in language? How, and by whom? How do phenomena like **code-switching**, **loan words**, and **substrate features** work? How do current theories of **language contact** explain ethnolects?

The course takes a linguistic and sociolinguistic perspective on ethnolects. It is open to all students regardless of their background in linguistics.