

The public is invited to attend a dissertation defense presentation to be held
on

Monday, July 27 at 2pm
in 014 Trimble

by
Lynnelle Rhinier Brown

**A Corpus Study of Requests in Naturally Occurring Spoken American
English:
a Context Analysis Approach**

Given the variety of ways that speakers of American English can make requests, relatively little has been discovered on why speakers choose the forms they do. Using data from the *Santa Barbara Corpus of Spoken American English*, this study investigates what requestive forms speakers use, as well as the contextual conditions that are produced with these forms. The study identifies categories of requestive forms, including *let* statements, *if* statements, modal statements, *need/want* statements, imperatives and modal interrogatives, and the contextual parameters that occur with them, including social distance, social power, contingency, entitlement and sequential positioning, among others. Implications for the results of this analysis include applications for learners of English as well as for a theoretical paradigm that best accounts for the data.