Instructor: Dr. Alicia Pousada
personal e-mail: pousada.a@gmail.com or apousada@benfalado.com
personal website: http://aliciapousada.weebly.com
course website: https://sites.google.com/a/benfalado.com/ingl-8007/
course email list: ingl-8007@googlegroups.com
course Google Group: http://groups.google.com/group/ingl-8007?hl=en

Office hours: Mondays & Wednesdays 12 -1 pm and Fridays 12-4 pm in Pedreira 4 or Pedreira 108 (Richardson Seminar Room), extensions 2035, 2553, or 3641.

Course Title: Language Birth and Language Death

Course Number: INGL 8007

Number of Credit Hours: 3

Prerequisites: A graduate level course in sociolinguistics or creoles.

Course Description: Analysis of the "life cycle" of languages, beginning with birth and proceeding through change, spread, maintenance, shift, death, and revival. These stages are considered from the perspective of the individual speaker as well as that of the speech community. The causes, processes, and results of each stage are delineated, and language planning is explored as a means of regulating the cycle. Special attention is paid to the role of English in the world today and to the complicated language situation of the Caribbean; however, examples are taken from the full gamut of human language varieties.

Course Objectives: The student will be able to:

• define and exemplify the basic terminology involved in the fields described in the course;
• explain the development of a given speech community utilizing the metaphor of the human life cycle;
• comprehend the urgency attached to the plight of dying languages today;
• apply the theories and models encountered around the world to the current and historical situation of the Caribbean.

In addition, the student will be able to: