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Chaya Nove's 347:01 October 31, 2016 was a delight to behold. The class commenced with a generous (and humorously articulated) invitation to the students to attend Nove's presentation at the Graduate Center on linguistic variation on Hasidic Yiddish. There was also the announcement of the hashtag *#SpookyTalesForLinguists* in celebration of Halloween. Nove conducted the class with intelligence, generosity and deep engagement. The group analyzed the linguistics of President Obama's "A More Perfect Union Speech". She showed clips from both the President's speech and Reverend Wright's sermon that inspired the President's response. The students were so bright and insightful and Nove seamlessly built upon their interventions. In the course of the session the class discussed how the language around being "articulate" (well spoken) is racially overdetermined, the relationship between *passion* and so-called nonstandard English, the context of the President's speech in terms of the "ambiguity" around his "racial positioning", the complexities surrounding the President's appeal in the speech to upward mobility narratives, an analysis of his formulation of "the untrained ear," the linguistic concept of supra-segmentals and different levels of discourse, and how language and linguistic practices differ in public and private interpretive communities.

At all times the students were deeply engaged and Nove cultivated a most impressive fun, safe, and exciting learning environment.

What I really appreciate about this session was after all that, Nove pivoted the discussion toward formalist directions. The class ended on a fantastic discussion on the tripartite structure of the American Jeremiad and how this tripartite structure (1. Assertion of Chosen/Promise Nation State 2. Itemization of Misdeeds 3. Call for Action) was employed in both Reverend Wright's sermon and President Obama's reply.

**A wonderful class and a highly favorable review:** In the follow up conference I will convey these points, show Nove a Jonathan Demme video-short entitled *Reverend Robert Castle: Notes on a Sermon* that responds to the Reverend Wright controversy and answer any questions or concerns.