The University of Southern Queensland

Course Specification

**Description: Introduction to Sociolinguistics**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Cat-Nbr</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Mode</th>
<th>Units</th>
<th>Campus</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LIN</td>
<td>8015</td>
<td>24062</td>
<td>2, 2003</td>
<td>ONC</td>
<td>1.00</td>
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**Academic Group:** OPACS  
**Academic Org:** OPACSP  
**HECS Band:** 1  
**ASCED Code:** 091521

**STAFFING**

Examiner: Aniko Hatoss  
Moderator: Francis Mangubhai

**SYNOPSIS**

Language is inextricable from the society in which it is used. This course provides students with a comprehensive coverage of the most relevant topics related to the interrelationship between language and society, as well as language and culture. It provides educators, applied linguists and language teachers with an understanding of the social aspects of language, including the most topical issues of language planning and policy, societal aspects of language use, attitudes towards social dialects and other language varieties. This course is useful not only for teachers and educators, but also for those who take advocacy in maintaining native and community languages, including language program managers at institutional as well as national levels.

**OBJECTIVES**

On successful completion of this course students will be able to:

- demonstrate an understanding of the scope of sociolinguistics and identify language related issues as part of the field;
- compare different language varieties, demonstrate an understanding of societal attitudes towards them and discuss their implications for education and the society as a whole;
- discuss the factors influencing the choice of different languages used as a means of communication in various contexts;
- discuss and describe the interrelationship between language and culture and how culture affects our everyday communication;
- demonstrate cross-cultural sensitivity and the ability to apply culturally sensitive and appropriate approaches in educational practices;
• compare the gender-specific characteristics of speech and develop a sensitivity to language related stereotypes;
• identify and describe factors that contribute to language death and demonstrate the ability to critically analyse and suggest ways of language revitalisation;
• suggest ways of reversing language shift and propose ways of promoting minority languages;
• discuss language policy documents of international significance;
• critically analyse language policies and language planning in the Australian context as well as in the learners’ own context and offer alternative solutions.

TOPICS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Weighting (%)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Introduction: Definition of sociolinguistics and the sociology of language</td>
<td>5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Language, Dialects and Varities: Language varieties and dialects Pidgins and Creoles Language and gender</td>
<td>15.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Choosing a code: Diglossia Code switching</td>
<td>15.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Language and culture: Language, culture and thought Ethnography and ethnomethodology Linguistic etiquette in a cross-cultural perspective</td>
<td>25.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Multilingualism and language policy: Multilingualism and multiculturalism Language maintenance and shift Language death - Language rights language policy and planning</td>
<td>40.00</td>
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</table>

TEXT and MATERIALS required to be PURCHASED or ACCESSED:

Books can be ordered by fax or telephone. For costs and further details use the ’Book Search’ facility at http://bookshop.usq.edu.au by entering the author or title of the text.
LIN8015 study package available from USQ bookshop.


REFERENCE MATERIALS

Reference materials are materials that, if accessed by students, may improve their knowledge and understanding of the material in the course and enrich their learning experience.


Holmes, J. 1992, *An Introduction to Sociolinguistics*, Longman,


Spolsky, B. 1998, *Sociolinguistics*, Oxford University Press,


**STUDENT WORKLOAD REQUIREMENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>HOURS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assessment</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Directed Study</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private Study</td>
<td>50</td>
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</table>

**ASSESSMENT DETAILS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Marks Out of</th>
<th>Wtg(%)</th>
<th>Required</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ASSIGNMENT 1</td>
<td>25.00</td>
<td>25.00</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>29 Aug 2003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASSIGNMENT 2</td>
<td>65.00</td>
<td>65.00</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>07 Nov 2003</td>
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<tr>
<td>REFLECTIVE JOURNAL</td>
<td>10.00</td>
<td>10.00</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>07 Nov 2003</td>
</tr>
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**IMPORTANT ASSESSMENT INFORMATION**

1. Attendance requirements:
   It is the students' responsibility to attend and participate appropriately in all activities (such as lectures, tutorials, laboratories and practical work) scheduled for them, and to study all material provided to them or required to be accessed by them to maximise their chance of meeting the objectives of the course and to be informed of course-related activities and administration.

2. Requirements for students to complete each assessment item satisfactorily:
   To complete each of the assessment items satisfactorily, students must obtain at least 50% of the marks available (or at least a grade of C-).

3. Penalties for late submission of required work:
   A penalty may be applied if an arrangement for an assignment extension has not been negotiated before the due date.

4. Requirements for student to be awarded a passing grade in the course:
To be assured of receiving a passing grade a student must achieve at least 50% of the available weighted marks for the summative assessment items.

5 Method used to combine assessment results to attain final grade:
The final grades for students will be assigned on the basis of the weighted aggregate of the marks (or grades) obtained for each of the summative assessment items in the course.

6 Examination information:
N/A

7 Examination period when Deferred/Supplementary examinations will be held:
N/A

8 University Regulations:
Students should read USQ Regulations 5.1 Definitions, 5.6. Assessment, and 5.10 Academic Misconduct for further information and to avoid actions which might contravene University Regulations. These regulations can be found at the URL http://www.usq.edu.au/SECARIAT/calendar/Part5/ or in the printed version of the current USQ Handbook.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS
1 Over the two assignments and the journal/discussion board entries, students will be expected to achieve at least 50% of the marks.
2 Students must submit both assignments and the journal/discussion board entries.