Description: Introduction to Sociolinguistics

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:

1. demonstrate an understanding of the scope of sociolinguistics and identify language related issues as part of the field;
2. compare different language varieties, demonstrate an understanding of societal attitudes towards them and discuss their implications for education and the society as a whole;
3. discuss the factors influencing the choice of different languages used as a means of communication in various contexts;
4. discuss and describe the interrelationship between language and culture and how culture affects our everyday communication;
5. demonstrate cross-cultural sensitivity and the ability to apply culturally sensitive and appropriate approaches in educational practices;
6. compare the gender-specific characteristics of speech and develop a sensitivity to language related stereotypes;
7. identify and describe factors that contribute to language death and demonstrate the ability to critically analyse and suggest ways of language revitalisation;
8. suggest ways of reversing language shift and propose ways of promoting minority languages;
9. discuss language policy documents of international significance;
10. 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, and language and gender</td>
<td>15.00</td>
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<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, and language policy and planning</td>
<td>40.00</td>
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</tbody>
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**TEXT and MATERIALS required to be PURCHASED or ACCESSED**

ALL textbooks and materials are available for purchase from USQ BOOKSHOP (unless otherwise stated). Orders may be placed via secure internet, free fax 1800642453, phone 07 46312742 (within Australia), or mail. Overseas students should fax +61 7 46311743, or phone +61 7 46312742. For costs, further details, and internet ordering, use the 'Textbook Search' facility at http://bookshop.usq.edu.au click 'Semester', then enter your 'Course Code' (no spaces).


**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.


Fishman, JA (ed) 1999, *Handbook of Language and Ethnic Identity*, Oxford University Press,

Holmes, J 1992, *An Introduction to Sociolinguistics*, Longman,
STUDENT WORKLOAD REQUIREMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>HOURS</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assessment</td>
<td>25.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Directed Study</td>
<td>96.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Private Study</td>
<td>50.00</td>
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ASSESSMENT DETAILS

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Marks out of</th>
<th>Wtg(%)</th>
<th>Due date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ASSIGNMENT 1</td>
<td>30.00</td>
<td>30.00</td>
<td>01 Apr 2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DISCUSSION BOARD / JOURNAL 1</td>
<td>5.00</td>
<td>5.00</td>
<td>01 Apr 2005</td>
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<tr>
<td>ASSIGNMENT 2</td>
<td>60.00</td>
<td>60.00</td>
<td>10 Jun 2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DISCUSSION BOARD / JOURNAL 2</td>
<td>5.00</td>
<td>5.00</td>
<td>10 Jun 2005</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTES

1. Students need to submit journal OR discussion board entries with each assignment (500 - 1000 words).
2. Students need to submit journal OR discussion board entries with each assignment (500 - 1000 words).

IMPORTANT ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

1 Attendance requirements:
   There are no attendance requirements for this course. However, it is the students’ responsibility 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/corporateservices/calendar/part5.htm or in 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.