

**English Sociolinguistics****2015/2016**Code: 100197  
ECTS Credits: 6

| Degree                  | Type | Year | Semester |
|-------------------------|------|------|----------|
| 2500245 English Studies | OT   | 3    | 0        |
| 2500245 English Studies | OT   | 4    | 0        |

**Contact**

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**Use of languages**

Principal working language: english (eng)

**Prerequisites**

1. Students enrolling for this course should be interested in exploring the use of English from a practical perspective. They will also be expected to collect sociolinguistic data and to carry out an analysis of that data.
2. C2 level of proficiency in English as defined by the *Common European Framework of Reference for Languages: Learning, Teaching, Assessment*.
3. A more detailed syllabus will be distributed at the beginning of the course with a detailed schedule of activities and readings.

**Objectives and Contextualisation**

The goals of *English Sociolinguistics* are to familiarize students with language variation from a quantitative labovian perspective and with linguistic practices from a qualitative ethnographic perspective related to English language from a synchronic perspective. The content of this course is meant to complement other courses students in English Philology have taken where English is treated as a fixed or standard System. A practical approach to the subject is adopted. Students will have a chance to gain some experience with collecting sociolinguistic data and applying theoretical and conceptual knowledge presented in the course to real life communicative situations and also to gain an understanding of the ways social inequality and exclusion get (re)produced through language.

**Skills****English Studies**

- Critically assessing the scientific, literary and cultural production in the English language.
- Developing critical thinking and reasoning and communicating them effectively both in your own and other languages.
- Distinguishing and contrasting the various theoretical and methodological models applied to the study of the English language, its literature and its culture.
- Effectively working individually or in teams in multicultural and interdisciplinary environments in English and other languages, applying values of a culture of peace, and the characteristic democratic values of a degree in a foreign language that trains the student for intercultural communication.
- Producing innovative and competitive proposals in research and professional activity.
- Respecting the diversity and plurality of ideas, people and situations.
- Rewriting and organising information and arguments coming from several sources in English and presenting them in a coherent and summarised way.
- Synchronously describing the main grammar units, constructions and phenomena of the English language.

- Utilising new technologies in order to capture and organise information in English and other languages, and applying it to the personal continued training and to the problem-solving in the professional or research activity.
- Working in an autonomous and responsible way in a professional or research environment in English or other languages, in order to accomplish the previously set objectives.

## Learning outcomes

1. Analysing, interpreting and presenting data and results of the student's own or other researches about synchronic English linguistics in academic written or oral English.
2. Applying the acquired knowledge about intercultural communication to the work in multicultural and interdisciplinary environments in English.
3. Applying the acquired knowledge in order to improve the general knowledge of linguistic and cultural diversity.
4. Applying the acquired knowledge to the generation of innovative and competitive research on a basic level.
5. Applying the acquired methodologies of work planning to work in an environment in the English language..
6. Applying the acquired scientific and work planning methodologies to the research in English.
7. Applying the information in English that is available on the Internet, in databases, etc. to the work and/or research environments.
8. Appropriately summarising the content of scientific sources related to synchronic English linguistics.
9. Describing and identifying the main differences, possibilities and limitations of the theoretical and methodological models of sociolinguistics.
10. Describing the field of study of sociolinguistics and knowing the main analysis topics.
11. Developing a critical point of view about the relations between several social groups.
12. Developing a labour and research bond in multicultural and interdisciplinary environments in English that contribute to international collaboration.
13. Localising scientific sources in the library or Internet related to synchronic English linguistics.
14. Locating and organising relevant information in English that is available on the Internet, in databases, etc.
15. Producing new professional initiatives.
16. Producing strategies that help increase and improve mutual respect in multicultural environments.
17. Reflecting on the value of the language and recognising the its implication in the exercise of power and social domination.
18. Students must be capable of comprehending advanced academic or professional texts in their own language or the another acquired in the degree.
19. Students must be capable of precisely arguing ideas and opinions in their own language or another acquired in the degree.

## Content

1. A conceptual approximation to the subject
2. Quantitative sociolinguistics: variation in the system
3. Sociolinguistic variables: language, social class, ethnicity and style
4. Language and social categorization
5. Qualitative sociolinguistics and language as social action
6. Language and culture
7. Language and gender
8. Multilingual societies

## Methodology

60% of the final grade is based on 2 partial exams (30% each).

30% is based on an assignment to be carried out outside the class.

10% is based on question sets

Please note:

- The exams and assignments are obligatory.
- The minimum grade on assignments and exams to form average is 4.
- Submission of 20% of assessment items (assignments / exercises / exams) excludes the possibility of obtaining the status of "not submitted" (NP) as a final course grade.
- The level of English will account for 25% of the grade in oral presentations and the correction of written work including the exams.
- VERY IMPORTANT: Total or partial plagiarism of any of the exercises will automatically be considered "fail" (0) for the whole course, not only for the plagiarized item. Plagiarism is copying one or more sentences from unidentified sources, presenting it as original work (THIS INCLUDES COPYING PHRASES OR FRAGMENTS FROM THE INTERNET AND ADDING THEM WITHOUT MODIFICATION TO A TEXT WHICH IS PRESENTED AS ORIGINAL). Plagiarism is a serious offense. Students must learn to respect the intellectual property of others, identifying any source they may use, and take responsibility for the originality and authenticity of the texts they produce.

Re-assessment:

- items may be re-assessed provided that the student has passed at least 70% of the course and has submitted all items. That is, only 30% of the course can be re-assessed and only if the student has done all the exercises.

## Activities

| Title   | Hours | ECTS | Learning outcomes                        |
|---|-------|------|--|
| <b>Type: Directed</b>                           |       |      |  |
| Classroom and moodle discussions                | 4.5   | 0.18 | 1, 2, 7, 19, 11, 12, 17                  |
| Theoretical classes                             | 45    | 1.8  | 5, 6, 2, 7, 18, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14        |
| Two assignments and question sets               | 30    | 1.2  | 1, 5, 4, 3, 7, 19, 18, 16, 13, 14, 8     |
| <b>Type: Supervised</b>                         |       |      |  |
| Individual and group work                       | 18    | 0.72 | 6, 4, 19, 9, 11, 15, 13, 17, 8           |
| <b>Type: Autonomous</b>                         |       |      |  |
| Collection and analysis of sociolinguistic data | 0     | 0    | 1, 5, 6, 2, 4, 7, 19, 11, 12, 15, 14, 17 |
| Presentations and active participation in class | 45    | 1.8  | 1, 19, 11, 8                             |

## Evaluation

60% of the final grade is based on 2 partial exams (30% each).

30% is based on an assignment to be carried out outside the class.

10% is based on individual or group class presentations and question sets

Please note:

- The exams and assignments are obligatory.
- The minimum grade on assignments and exams to form average is 4.
- Submission of 20% of assessment items (assignments / exercises / exams) excludes the possibility of obtaining the status of "not submitted" (No evaluable) as a final course grade.
- The level of English will account for 25% of the grade in oral presentations and the correction of written work including the exams.
- VERY IMPORTANT: Total or partial plagiarism of any of the exercises will automatically be considered "fail" (0) for the whole course, not only for the plagiarized item. Plagiarism is copying one or more sentences from unidentified sources, presenting it as original work (THIS INCLUDES COPYING PHRASES OR FRAGMENTS FROM THE INTERNET AND ADDING THEM WITHOUT MODIFICATION TO A TEXT WHICH IS PRESENTED AS ORIGINAL). Plagiarism is a serious offense. Students must learn to respect the intellectual property of others, identifying any source they may use, and take responsibility for the originality and authenticity of the texts they produce.

Re-assessment:

- items may be re-assessed provided that the student has passed at least 70% of the course and has submitted all items. That is, only 30% of the course can be re-assessed and only if the student has done all the exercises.

## Evaluation activities

| Title     | Weighting | Hours | ECTS | Learning outcomes                         |
|-----------|-----------|-------|------|---|
| Two exams | 60%       | 7.5   | 0.3  | 1, 5, 6, 19, 18, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 17, 8 |

## Bibliography

The readings listed below provide additional information and examples on the topics that are covered in the course.

Blommaert, Jan. 2005. *Discourse*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Bonvillain, Nancy. 2008. *Language Culture and Communication. The Meaning of Messages*. London: Pearson Education.

Coupland, N. and Jaworski, A. 2009. *The New Sociolinguistics Reader*. New York: Palgrave.

Coupland, N., S. Sarangi and C. N. Candlin (eds.). 2001. *Sociolinguistics and Social Theory*. London: Pearson Longman.

Coupland, N. 2007. *Style. Language Variation and Identity*. Cambridge: CUP.

- Duranti, Alessandro. 1997. *Linguistic Anthropology*. Cambridge: CUP.
- Fasold, Ralph. 1990. *Sociolinguistics of Language*. Oxford: Blackwell.
- Gay y Blasco, P. and Wardle, H. (2007). *How to Read Ethnography*. London: Routledge.
- Heller, Monica. 2007. *Bilingualism. A Social Approach*. London: Palgrave.
- Hill, Jane. 2008. *The Everyday Language of White Racism*. Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell.
- Holmes, Janet and Meyerhoff, Miriam. 2003. *Language and gender*. Oxford: Blackwell.
- LippiGreen, Rosina. 1997. *English with an accent*. London: Routledge.
- Mesthrie, R., J. Swann, A. Deumert, & W. L. Leap (eds.). 2000. *Introducing Sociolinguistics*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press.
- Meyerhoff, Miriam. 2006. *Introducing Sociolinguistics*. London: Routledge.
- Milroy, Lesley and Gordon, Matthew. 2003. *Sociolinguistics*. Oxford: Blackwell.
- Romaine, Suzanne. 1994. *Language in Society. An Introduction to Sociolinguistics*. Oxford: OUP.
- SavilleTroike, Muriel. 1982. *The Ethnography of Communication*. Oxford: Blackwell.
- Wardhaugh, Ronald. 2010. 6th edition. *An Introduction to Sociolinguistics*. Oxford: Blackwell.
- Wolfram, Walt and Natalie SchillingEstes. 1998. *American English*. Oxford: Blackwell.