

English Sociolinguistics

Code: 100197
 ECTS Credits: 6

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

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Use of languages

Principal working language: english (eng)
 Some groups entirely in English: Yes
 Some groups entirely in Catalan: No
 Some groups entirely in Spanish: No

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.
- Describe synchronously the main grammar units, constructions and phenomena of the English language.
- Develop critical thinking and reasoning and knowing how to communicate effectively both in your mother tongue and in other languages.
- Distinguish and contrast 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.

- Generate innovative and competitive proposals in research and professional activities.
- Respect the diversity and plurality of ideas, people and situations.
- Rewrite and organize information and arguments coming from several sources in English and presenting them in a coherent and summarised way.
- Students have the ability to gather and interpret relevant data (normally within their study area) to issue judgments that include reflection on important issues of social, scientific or ethical.
- Students must be capable of communicating information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialised and non-specialised audiences.
- Students must develop the necessary learning skills in order to undertake further training with a high degree of autonomy.
- Students must have and understand knowledge of an area of study built on the basis of general secondary education, and while it relies on some advanced textbooks it also includes some aspects coming from the forefront of its field of study.
- 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. Apply the acquired knowledge in order to improve the general knowledge of linguistic and cultural diversity.
3. Apply the acquired knowledge to the generation of innovative and competitive research on a basic level.
4. Applying the acquired knowledge about intercultural communication to the work in multicultural and interdisciplinary environments in English.
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. Communicating in the studied language in oral and written form, properly using vocabulary and grammar.
10. Demonstrate a master of the specific methods of individual academic work that prepare the student for a postgraduate specialised education in the same or a different field of study.
11. Demonstrate a sound knowledge about the topics related to the study of linguistics.
12. Describing and identifying the main differences, possibilities and limitations of the theoretical and methodological models of sociolinguistics.
13. Describing the field of study of sociolinguistics and knowing the main analysis topics.
14. Developing a critical point of view about the relations between several social groups.
15. Developing a labour and research bond in multicultural and interdisciplinary environments in English that contribute to international collaboration.
16. Effectively communicating and applying the argumentative and textual processes to formal and scientific texts.
17. Generate strategies to facilitate the increase and improvement of mutual respect in multicultural environments.
18. Issue appropriate critical assessments based on the comprehension of relevant information about social, scientific or ethical issues related to linguistics.
19. Localising scientific sources in the library or Internet related to synchronic English linguistics.
20. Locating and organising relevant information in English that is available on the Internet, in databases, etc.
21. Mastering the advanced knowledge and scientific methodologies related to linguistics, literature, history and culture that prepare the student for a postgraduate specialised education in the same or a different field of study.
22. Produce new professional initiatives.

23. Reflecting on the value of the language and recognising the its implication in the exercise of power and social domination.
24. Students must be capable of comprehending advanced academic or professional texts in their own language or the another acquired in the degree.
25. Students must be capable of precisely arguing ideas and opinions in their own language or another acquired in the degree.

Content

1. Key concepts in the study of language and society
2. Quantitative sociolinguistics: language 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

It will be based on the activities specified in the following table:

Activities

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
Type: Directed			
Classroom and moodle discussions	4.5	0.18	4, 7, 25, 15
Theoretical classes	45	1.8	5, 6, 4, 7, 24, 15, 20
Two assignments and question sets	30	1.2	5, 3, 7, 25, 24, 20
Type: Supervised			
Individual and group work	18	0.72	6, 3, 25, 22
Type: Autonomous			
Collection and analysis of sociolinguistic data	0	0	5, 6, 4, 3, 7, 25, 15, 22, 20
Presentations and active participation in class	45	1.8	25

Evaluation

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

30% is based on two assignments to be done 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 available) 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. The maximum grade that can be obtained in the re-assessment is **5**.

Evaluation activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
Two exams	60%	7.5	0.3	1, 5, 6, 4, 3, 2, 7, 25, 24, 11, 21, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 18, 16, 9, 17, 22, 19, 20, 23, 8

Bibliography

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

Bayley, R., R. Cameron, and Ceil Lucas (eds.). 2013. *The Oxford Handbook of Sociolinguistics*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

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.
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- 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.
- Saville-Troike, Muriel. 1982. *The Ethnography of Communication*. Oxford: Blackwell.
- Wardhaugh, Ronald. 2010. 6th edition. *An Introduction to Sociolinguistics*. Oxford: Blackwell.
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- Wolfram, Walt and Natalie Schilling-Estes. 1998. *American English*. Oxford: Blackwell.