

SOCIOLINGUISTICS

Description: This course is an introduction to the key concepts in Sociolinguistics. It will start with an overview of developments in the field in terms of change in focus and inquiry methods over the history of this field. Themes of interest to the current multicultural/Multilingual world will be discussed in light of the different perspectives to sociolinguistics such as language in society and connections to ethnicity and identity in the context of globalization. Discussions will focus on how sociolinguistics can be an area of interest to Master students in applied linguistics and prospective English language teachers.

General objectives:

The course is an opportunity for students in linguistics to develop an understanding of key concepts in sociolinguistics, appreciate old and more recent approaches to research in this field, and become aware of its implications for English Language Teaching.

Specific objectives:

Upon completing this course, students will understand:

- key concepts in sociolinguistics across contexts
- Prevailing attitudes towards languages, dialects, and their speakers across languages
- The impact of the status of English as a global language on its (native and non-native) speakers

Course delivery:

The course will consist of a mixture of teacher-led lectures, discussions of the readings and 30-minute student presentations (see topics in schedule below). A selection of readings will be made available accordingly.