

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
Department of Linguistics

Course Number: Ling 115
Title: Language and Society
GE categories: C: Social Analysis + G: Citizenship in a Diverse World
Semester: Fall 2022
Lecture: Tue and Thu, 12.30-1.50 GFS106
Discussion sections: Fridays; time, place and name of teaching assistant
8.00 38850 Lucy Kim GFS111
9.00 38846 Lucy Kim GFS 220
9.00 38922 Silvia Kim GFS 213
10.00 38848 Silvia Kim VHE 220
10.00 38924 Lucy Kim GFS 222
11.00 38844 Lucy Kim KAP 138

TA email addresses: Lucy Kim kyoungsk@usc.edu
Silvia Kim silbiaki@usc.edu

Professor: Andrew Simpson
Office: GFS 333
Office hours: By appointment (either in-person/office, or by Zoom, online). Please email me to arrange a time to meet.
e-mail: andrew.simpson@usc.edu
homepage: www.usc.edu/schools/college/ling/people/faculty

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines the various ways that language, society and culture interact with and influence each other. We consider why people speak in different ways, and how the language we make use of has important consequences for the projection of identity and self-image in society. Specific topics studied in the course will include the following:

- Language and Dialects
- Languages with Special Roles: National and Official Languages
- Languages under Pressure: Minority Groups and Language Loss
- Diglossia and Code-Switching
- Pidgins and Creoles: the Birth and Development of New Languages
- The Globalization of English
- Language(s) in the United States
- Bilingualism
- Language and Thought: the Linguistic Relativity Controversy
- Language and Gender
- Language Variation and Change

REQUIRED COURSE READING:

A. TEXTBOOK

The required textbook for this course is:

Language and Society. 2019. Andrew Simpson, Oxford University Press

B. ON BLACKBOARD

Certain additional readings will be posted as pdf files on Blackboard.

NOTE: All GE classes in the Social Analysis category require students to carry out a substantial amount of reading. The official recommendation is 100 pages of class-related reading per week. For Ling 115, you will need to read a chapter of the textbook every week + certain additional readings.

LECTURE PRESENTATIONS

Lectures will be presented with a combination of Powerpoint slides and blackboard work. Notes with much (but not all) content from the Powerpoint slides will be distributed before each new unit, but the full set of Powerpoint slides will not be distributed. You should be prepared to take notes in class, to supplement the content provided from the Powerpoint slides.

Lectures for this course will NOT be recorded. If you miss a class/lecture, you will be able to catch up through reading the textbook chapter, using the **reading-review notes** which will be sent out to all the class every week after each unit has been completed.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

In addition to the readings, the requirements for this course include:

- Two mid-term exams (each 20% of final grade)
- One final exam (25% of final grade)
- Assignment 1: Language Planning in Central Asia (8% of final grade)
- Assignment 2: Investigation of an ethno-linguistic group (4% of final grade)
- Assignment 3: (10% of final grade; due at the end of the semester)
- Unscheduled, in-class pop quizzes (9%)
- Commentary on films: (a) 'the Linguists' and (b) 'American Tongues' (total 4% of final grade)

Attendance in the lectures and discussion sections is not taken and is not mandatory. However, in all past years, students who regularly attended both lectures and discussion sections tended to score higher in the course and received better grades.

LATE-SUBMITTED WORK/MAKE-UP TESTS:

For the mid-term exams, if a *documented* emergency occurs, a student will be allowed to reschedule or make up a midterm. A rescheduled make-up midterm exam must be taken within five days of its original scheduled date and will receive a 5% deduction.

A 10% deduction will apply to any late submissions of assignments and the film commentaries, up until one week after the due date. Assignments/film commentaries will

NOT be accepted later than one week after the due date. Assignment 3 MUST be submitted on time, by the due date (Dec 11th) and no late submission of Assignment 3 will be accepted.

The final exam must be taken on the scheduled date UNLESS you have two other finals scheduled for the same day. In this case, please contact me to make different arrangements for the final (normally this will involve you taking the final one day later, on December 14th).

There will be a total of 11 pop quizzes, each worth one point, and a maximum of 9 points can be scored in total for the pop quizzes (so, if you pass all of the 11 pop quizzes, you will still receive 9 points). The pop quizzes are ‘open book’ – you will be allowed to use the textbook and your notes. Pop quizzes must be taken in class and submitted at the end of class. Pop quizzes which are submitted at any later time will not be accepted (no exceptions).

IMPORTANT: In order to take a pop quiz, you must be in class at the time it is announced that there will be a pop quiz (normally this will be some time in the second half of class). Students arriving late in class, after a pop quiz has been announced will not be permitted to take the pop quiz. There are no make-ups for missed pop quizzes.

MID-TERM/ASSIGNMENT/POP-QUIZ SCORES POSTED ON BLACKBOARD

All mid-term, assignment and pop quiz scores will be posted on Blackboard. If you think that any of your mid-term, assignment or pop quiz scores have NOT been posted correctly, you must contact your TA about this no later than two weeks after the mid-term, assignment or pop quiz. Please monitor your scores on Blackboard regularly through the semester. There will be no correction of scores for mid-term exams, assignments or ‘missing’ pop quizzes made at the end of the semester.

GRADE DIVISIONS:

94-100% = A

90-93% = A-

87-89% = B+

84-86% = B

80-83% = B-

77-79% = C+

74-76% = C

70-73% = C-

60-69% = D+

Pass: C- or above

F: below 60

EXTRA CREDIT: It is not possible to offer extra credit opportunities for this course, so please do not expect or ask for extra credit assignments.

STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND PLAGIARISM

USC seeks to maintain an optimal learning environment. General principles of academic honesty include the concept of respect for the intellectual property of others, the expectation that individual work will be submitted unless otherwise allowed by an instructor, and the obligations both to protect one's own academic work from misuse by others as well as to avoid using another's work as one's own. All students are expected to understand and abide by these principles. *Scampus*, the Student Guidebook, contains the Student Code of Conduct in Section 11.00, while the sanctions are located in Appendix A: <https://policy.usc.edu/student/scampus/>

Students will be referred to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards for further review, should there be any suspicion of academic dishonesty.

USC Policy on Acts of Plagiarism (abbreviated)

http://scampus.usc.edu/files/2009/08/appendix_a.pdf

1. Copying answers from other students on any course work.
Penalty: F for course.
2. One person allowing another to cheat from his/her exam or assignment.
Penalty: F for course for both persons.
3. Possessing or using material during exam (crib sheets, notes, books, etc.) which is not expressly permitted by the instructor.
Penalty: F for course.
4. Having someone else complete course work for oneself. Suspension or expulsion from the university for both students. F for the course.
5. Plagiarism — Submitting other's work as one's own or giving an improper citation.
Penalty: F for course.
6. Submission of purchased term papers or papers done by others.
Penalty: F for course and recommendation for further disciplinary action (possible suspension).

STUDENTS QUALIFYING FOR SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

Any student qualifying for academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with the Office of Student Accessibility Services (OSAS). A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from OSAS. Please be sure the letter is sent to me as early in the semester as possible.

SYLLABUS SCHEDULE

AUGUST

23 and 25: **Languages and Dialects:** How do we distinguish languages from dialects and other forms of speech?

30 **Languages with Special Roles: National and Official Languages (Part 1):** the rise of official and national languages, and the structured manipulation of language habits

SEPTEMBER

1 **Languages with Special Roles: National and Official Languages (Part 2)**

6 and 8: **Languages under Pressure: Minority Groups and Language Loss:** how patterns of language use undergo change and lead to the local and global loss of languages.

13 **Film: 'The Linguists'.** Commentary on film due September 21st.

15 and 20 **Diglossia and Code-Switching:** the use of different varieties of language in different areas of life, and the mixing of more than one language in a single act of speaking.

22 **Pidgins and Creoles (Part 1):** the birth and development of new languages in contact situations

27 **First mid-term exam**

29 **Pidgins and Creoles (Part 2):**

OCTOBER

4 **Assignment 1 due:** Language planning in Central Asia

4 and 6: **The Globalization of English:** the spread of English throughout the world and its many social and linguistic consequences.

11: **Language(s) in the USA (Part 1):** issues relating to the promotion and support of language in the USA and official policies and public attitudes towards minority languages.

13 Fall Recess – no class

18 and 20: **Language(s) in the USA (Part 2): African American Vernacular English, the Ebonics Debate and language in education:** attitudes to non-standard varieties of English and the use of language in the classroom.

25: **Second mid-term exam**

27: **Bilingualism (Part 1):** social, cognitive and educational issues relating to the acquisition of two or more languages.

NOVEMBER

1: **Bilingualism** (Part 2)

3: **Assignment 2 due** (Investigation of an ethno-linguistic group in the Los Angeles area)

3 and 8: **Language and Thought: the Linguistic Relativity Controversy:** how language use may influence and structure our perception of the world.

10 and 15: **Language and Gender:** the existence and significance of differences between male and female ways of speaking.

17: Film: **War of the Sexes: Language**

22: Film: **American Tongues.** Commentary on film due Dec 2nd.

24: Thanksgiving Recess – no class

29: **Language Variation and Change** (Part 1): social causes and consequences of innovations in speech among individuals and communities.

DECEMBER

1: **Language Variation and Change** (Part 2)

Dec 3-6 **Study days**

Dec 11th: **Final Project due** (submit online in Blackboard, by 11.59 p.m.)

Dec 13th 11.00-1.00 **Final Exam.** ALL students must take the final exam on this date. USC does not permit final exams to be scheduled on any other/earlier dates. Only exception: if you have two other final exams on the same day.

NOTE THE UNUSUAL TIME OF THE FINAL.