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| **Course Title: SOCIOLINGUISTICS** |
| **Course Code:** LL 204 |
| **Semester:** |
| **Course Instructor:** |

**Course Description:**

This course is an introduction to sociolinguistics, the study of the relationship between language and society. The basis of Sociolinguistics is that what language is cannot be separated from how and why it is used. Accordingly, the focus is on an investigation of how language varies according to context. We will look at variation at all levels of language and how such variation constructs and is constructed by identity and culture. An exploration of attitudes and ideologies about these varieties will be of particular importance to understanding this relationship. The variations of language use that are found in relation to age, gender, ethnicity, geographical location and social structure are some of the areas for investigation in the course.

**Course Learning objectives**

Students who pass this course should be able to:

* outline the major relationships between language and society
* define the main sociolinguistic concepts used to analyse these relationships
* identify the main features of studies of sociolinguistic variation
* describe the most common methodologies for studying language in society

**Course Learning Outcomes**

On completing this course students will:

* Begin to notice how language is used and how it varies across the array of contexts in which we engage daily.
* Understand the theoretical underpinnings of the tradition of Sociolinguistics.
* Understand different perspectives on context, including identities, social institutions, cultural values and their relationships with language
* Make the clear link between the use of language and the context of that use.
* Link theory to the practical reality of language variation in the community.
* Articulate why and how some varieties of language are more highly valued than others.
* Engage productively and respectfully with their peers.

**Course Topics**

1. Introduction and overview of the tradition of Sociolinguistics
2. Language variation – language user and language use
3. Relationship between language and society
4. Register and Style
5. Theories of origin of pidgin to Creole
6. Language and Dialect
7. Dimensions, Manifestations and Effects of Bilingualism
8. Language Diversity and Speech Communities
9. Bilingualism and Multilingualism
10. Diaglossia and Bilingualism
11. Language Choice: Domain Theory
12. Code choice: Code-switching, Code-mixing
13. Language and gender
14. Language and social class
15. Language and racism

**Course Textbook**

* Trudgill, Peter. Sociolinguistics: An Introduction to Language and Society. 2nd ed. Harmondsworth: Penguin. 1983.
* Wardhaugh, R. 1986, *An Introduction to Sociolinguistics,* Oxford: Basil Blackwell

**Additional Recommended Reading**

* Stockwell, P. 2003, *Sociolinguistics: A resource book for students,* London: Routledge
* Hudson, R.A. 1996, *Sociolinguistics.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press
* Trudgill, Peter. Introducing Language and Society, London: Penguin. 1992.

**Evaluation:**

10% Class participation and discussion (includes preparation for class based on readings)

15% Quizzes

10% Assignments

10% Presentation

25% Mid Term Paper

40% Final Paper