Course description

This course introduces the interaction between language and social life in multilingual societies. It is designed for novices -- any one interested in languages, literature, sociology, psychology, and behavior science.

Since most societies in the world are composed of multilingual rather than monolingual speakers, we will first look at some important issues in multilingual societies. We focus on how languages develop as the official, national or vernacular language in a multilingual society; how language policy made to accommodate both the needs of cross-ethnic communication and maintenance of minority languages; how do political and economic factors affect speakers’ language choice, such as between Mandarin, Southern Min, Hakka, and English?

Each class meeting is composed of two parts: the teacher’s introducing general concepts in sociolinguistics with examples from various speech communities around the world, and students’ discussion and presentation of how these concepts are applied to the speech community they have observed or participated in. Foreign students should be reminded that while the text book provide rich examples of language use around the world, more examples situated in Taiwan will be cited for classroom discussion.

Text book

Articles related to sociolinguistics will be assigned as homework for oral presentation.
The book is available at 成大書城; TEL-06-2604180; 台南市東區崇善路158號 (忠孝國中斜對面,漢堡王隔壁)

Syllabus

WK1-2  Ch1: What do sociolinguists study?
WK3-4  Ch2: Language choice in multilingual communities
WK4    Course evaluation 期初教學意見反應調查
WK5-6  Ch3: Language maintenance and shift
WK7-8  Ch4: Linguistic varieties and multilingual nations
WK9-10 Ch5: National languages and language planning
WK11-12 Ch15: Attitudes and application
WK13-14 Midterm exam
WK15    Ch6: Regional and social dialect
WK15    Course evaluation 期末教學意見反應調查
WK16-17 Oral presentation of group homework II
WK18    Final exam

Evaluation
Group homework I

Written exam 10%; by 20121106, WK8; 15 minutes

Written exam 30%; written test; WK13-14 (70-90% from May's lecture and textbook; 10-20% about what you have learned from your group homework or other groups' presentation)

Group homework II

Reflective writing 20%; WK16-17; 15 -20 minutes

Reflective writing 15%; by 20130104 (Friday of Week 16); at least FOUR reflective writing about (1) your observation of linguistic behaviors of people around you or any communication event, (2) Relate your observation to what we have learned in the class, (3) how what we learn in the class is meaningful for you. Your reflective writing can be in English or in Chinese.

Overall participation 30%; students' attendance rate; pop quizzes on ‘before next class’; in-class participation; WK1-WK18

Notes/備註

本課程選課人數上限為 48 人，歡迎有興趣者選課，欲加選之學生：

1. 請自行從網路加選。
2. 若因額滿無法從網路加選，請於第一週至第三週準時參與本課，任課老師 May 可於名額有餘情形下，為準時並全勤參與第一週至第三週之同學加簽。
3. 本課程注重學生之準時與全程參與(第一週至第十八週)，若未出席任何一堂課，需依照 Moodle'線上請假專區'之說明，完成請假手續，為依照規定者，均視為曠課。
4. 為不干擾課堂進行，學生務必準時出席。

The maximal number of students for this course is 48. Anyone interested in this course are welcome to register.

5. Please register via the online system.
6. Those who fail to register via online are advised to attend this course during WK1 to WK3. The teacher (May) will sign in students under two conditions: (a) The student has attended this course with an on-time and full attendance record during the first three weeks; (b) the final number of students does not exceed 48.
7. This course values greatly on students' on-time and full attendance (from WK1 to WK18). Students who miss any class meeting need to complete their leave request via an online system. Please visit the section 'Leave Request System' on the moodle website of this course. Students who fail to complete the mentioned requirements will be regarded as a case of 'unexcused absence'.
8. To avoid any interruption of the class interaction, students must attend the class on time.