

Multilingualism – European Perspectives (6/9ECTS)

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In this seminar, we study multilingualism in Europe from different angles, considering what multilingualism means for individuals as members of social groups, for societies (that are, more often than not, conceptualized as monolingual) and for European institutions who deal with the diverse linguistic competences of populations on a daily basis. The focus of the class will be on understanding multilingualism as a social phenomenon and as the ability to use linguistic resources according to social contexts and demands. This implies to engage with the ideas that we are all users of multilingual, diverse resources, that separate languages are social constructs and that monolingualism is a powerful ideological mechanism of exclusion. A critical questioning of dominant European and Western ideas about language as separate and normed entities, and of concepts such as language testing or linguistic integration, is thus central in this course. We also have a look at contemporary European language policies and how they affect language education in school and at university. Students will be invited to apply their new theoretical knowledge to critically inspect their own globalized and multilingual life-worlds – in local contexts and educational institutions, in private encounters or in online activities. The overall aim of the class is to develop an understanding as language as social practice that is embedded in culture, history and politics.

Workload: 20 hours in-class / 130 hours independent study (6 ECTS)

GRADING

Home essay (8 pp.):	40 %
1 presentation (10 minutes):	20 %
Participation/Engagement:	40 %

TERMS

Presence

Students are requested to attend to classes in order to get graded. **More than one absence will automatically lower your final grade after your point total is calculated**, unless you can **document** that **all** the absences are related to an illness and/or official university event. For each additional absence your final grade will be lowered by 1/3 (a B becomes a B-, etc.). Late arrival and early departure will not be tolerated.

Policy on Academic Integrity. Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University. Since such dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced.

Your writing must be your own work. If you plagiarize egregiously on an assignment, you will fail the course. Simple rule of thumb: "If you use words or ideas that are not your own you must cite your sources. Otherwise you will be guilty of plagiarism."

	Topic	Readings	Recommended
1	Foundations in Sociolinguistics	Horner & Weber 2018: Ch. 1 & 4 Coulmas 2018: 47-58	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holmes, Janet, and Nick Wilson. 2022. <i>An Introduction to Sociolinguistics</i>. London: Routledge. • Meyerhoff, Miriam, and Erik Schleeff, eds. 2010. <i>The Routledge Sociolinguistics Reader</i>. London: Routledge. • Mooney, Annabelle, and Betsy Evans. 2019. <i>Language, Society and Power</i>. London: Routledge.
2	Individual Multilingualism	Coulmas 2018: Ch.5 Horner & Weber 2018 Ch.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blommaert, Jan, James Collins, and Stef Slembrouck. 2005. "Spaces of Multilingualism." <i>Language and Communication</i> 25:197-216. • Joseph, John E. 2004. <i>Language and Identity. National, Ethnic, Religious</i>. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.
3	Multilingual Communities and Multilingual Education	Coulmas 2018: Ch.7 Horner & Weber 2018: Ch.9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Byram, Michael, and Lynne Parmenter, eds. 2012. <i>The Common European Framework of Reference: The Globalisation of Language Education Policy</i>. Bristol: Multilingual Matters. • Wright, Sue. 2000. <i>Community and Communication: The Role of Language in Nation State Building and European Integration</i>. Clevedon: Multilingual Matters.
4	Mediated Multilingualism – Written and Online Discourse	Coulmas 2018: Ch.9 Sebba, Mark. 2013. "Multilingualism in Written Discourse: An Approach to the Analysis of Multilingual Texts." <i>International Journal of Bilingualism</i> 17:97-118.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Androutsopoulos, Jannis K. 2010. "Multilingualism, Ethnicity and Genre in Germany's Migrant Hip Hop." In <i>The Languages of Hip Hop</i>, edited by Marina Terkourafi, 19-43. London: Continuum. • Deumert, Ana. 2014. <i>Sociolinguistics and Mobile Communication</i>.

			Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press.
5	Social Discourses and Beliefs about Multilingualism	Horner & Weber 2018: Ch. 13 Horner & Weber 2018: Ch. 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stevenson, Patrick. 2006. "'National' Languages in Transnational Contexts: Language, Migration and Citizenship in Europe." In <i>Language Ideologies, Policies and Practices: Language and the Future of Europe</i>, edited by Patrick Stevenson and Clare Mar-Molinero, 147-161. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan. Stevenson, Patrick, and Clare Mar-Molinero. 2006. "Language, the National and the Transnational in Contemporary Europe." In <i>Language Ideologies, Policies and Practices: Language and the Future of Europe</i>, edited by Patrick Stevenson and Clare Mar-Molinero, 1-10. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.
6	Institutional Multilingualism and European Language Policies (& Guest talk by Maggie Bullock de Oliveira on bilingual study programmes in Europe)	Coulmas 2018: Ch. 6 [110-127] Unger, Johann W., Michal Krzyzanowski, and Ruth Wodak. 2014. "Introduction: Encountering Multilingualism in Europe's Institutions." In <i>Multilingual Encounters in Europe's Institutional Spaces</i> , edited by Johann W. Unger, Michal Krzyzanowski and Ruth Wodak, 1-12. London: Bloomsbury.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://www.coe.int/en/web/language-policy https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/fiches_techniques/2013/051306/04A_FT(2013)051306_EN.pdf Saraceni, Mario, Britta Schneider, and Christine Bélanger. 2021. "'Brexit' and the Postnational Dimension of English in Europe." In <i>Routledge Handbook in World Englishes</i>, edited by Andy Kirkpatrick. London: Routledge. van Avermaet, Piet. 2009. "Fortress Europe? Language Policy Regimes for Immigration and Citizenship." In <i>Discourse on Language and Integration</i>, edited by Gabrielle Hogan-Brun, Clare Mar-Molinero and Patrick Stevenson, 15-44. Amsterdam: Benjamins.

COURSE READINGS

Coulmas, Florian. 2018. *An introduction to multilingualism. Language in a changing world*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Horner, Kristine, and Jean-Jacques Weber. 2018. *Introducing multilingualism. A social approach*. London: Routledge.

• Sebba, Mark. 2013. "Multilingualism in Written Discourse: An Approach to the Analysis of Multilingual Texts." *International Journal of Bilingualism* 17:97-118.

Unger, Johann W., Michal Krzyzanowski, and Ruth Wodak. 2014. "Introduction: Encountering Multilingualism in Europe's Institutions." In *Multilingual Encounters in Europe's Institutional Spaces*, edited by Johann W. Unger, Michal Krzyzanowski and Ruth Wodak, 1-12. London: Bloomsbury.

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