

ET324-15 Multilingualism and Culture

26/27

Department

Applied Linguistics

Level

Undergraduate Level 3

Module leader

Jo Angouri

Credit value

15

Module duration

10 weeks

Assessment

50% coursework, 50% exam

Study location

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

The module critically examines the complex and multilayered relationship between multilingualism, society and culture. Moving beyond narrow notions of multilingualism, as only proficiency or nation-level varieties, the module situates language practices within broader social, political, and ideological frameworks. Multilingualism is explored through the perspective of lived, negotiated, and often contested practices shaped by histories of migration, colonialism, and transnational mobility.

[Module web page](#)

Module aims

Students will engage with cutting-edge research in relevant fields to examine how multilingualism intersects with identity, belonging, as well as issues of in/equality and in/exclusion. We look into how multilingualism operates in institutional and public contexts, such as education, policy, and the workplace as well as everyday and mundane spaces.

Sociocultural practices are considered in tandem with linguistic repertoires, highlighting the ways in which individuals navigate, resist, and, sometimes, transform dominant ideologies and norms. Case studies and empirical material from diverse geopolitical contexts are used to explore the lived experience of bi/multilingualism, including issues of gatekeeping, linguistic commodification,

and the symbolic capital of languages.

Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

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- Critical perspectives on multilingualism and cultural diversity
- Language ideologies and the politics of multilingualism/politics of language
- Multilingualism, mobility, and identity in urban settings
- Linguistic landscapes -language in public space
- Multilingualism and power: voice, silence, and symbolic capital
- Designing multilingual fieldwork
- Approaches to mixed methods and multimodal, multilingual data

Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- Demonstrate your understanding of key concepts, terminology, research methods and theories related to multilingualism
- Demonstrate a critical understanding of issues related to multilingualism and culture
- Describe and discuss the use of language by multilinguals and in multilingual contexts
- Critically evaluate theoretical and empirical research in multilingualism
- Communicate the results of your study/research to peers, specialist and wider international audiences

Indicative reading list

[Reading lists can be found in Talis](#)

[Specific reading list for the module](#)

Interdisciplinary

This module demonstrates how the study of multilingualism is inherently interdisciplinary. We can study multilingualism from a number of different perspectives including linguistic, psycholinguistic, sociolinguistic and applied linguistics.

International

In an increasingly globalised and mobilised world, speakers of different languages are interacting with one another more and more, perpetuating local and global multilingualism. It is therefore critical to understand how an individual and/or a society becomes multilingual, how multilingual

individuals interact, how the multilingual mind works, and how multilingualism can be supported (or not) through policies and education.

Subject specific skills

- Critical analysis of multilingual practices: Develop the ability to critically analyse multilingualism within diverse cultural, institutional, and digital contexts, employing interdisciplinary theoretical frameworks from sociolinguistics, linguistic anthropology, and discourse studies.
- Evaluation of language policies: Assess the impact of language policies and planning on multilingual communities, considering factors such as identity construction, social inclusion, and power dynamics.
- Application of multiple perspectives: Engage with decolonial and critical perspectives to examine how multilingualism intersects with issues of knowledge production, cultural hegemony, and social justice.

Transferable skills

- Advanced research skills: Design and conduct independent research micro-projects using methods associated with different paradigms and approaches.
 - Interdisciplinary synthesis: Integrate insights from various disciplines to construct well-rounded arguments and analyses concerning multilingualism and culture.
 - Effective presentation: Articulate complex ideas and research findings clearly and persuasively in both written and oral forms, tailored to diverse audiences.
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Study

Study time

Type	Required
Lectures	9 sessions of 2 hours (12%)
Seminars	9 sessions of 1 hour (6%)
Other activity	2 hours (1%)
Private study	119 hours (79%)
Assessment	2 hours (1%)
Total	150 hours

Private study description

Reading subject materials
Homework tasks
Assignments-Project
Revision

Other activity description

Engagement with online material

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

You do not need to pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Assessment group C5

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
Assessment component			
2000 word assignment	50%		Yes (extension)
Reassessment component is the same			
Assessment component			
Online Examination ~Platforms - WAS	50%	2 hours	No

- Online examination: No Answerbook required

Reassessment component is the same

Feedback on assessment

Written feedback on the assignment will be provided on the Centre's standard feedback sheets, which conform to Faculty regulations. This will include both summary and detailed feedback. Where appropriate, additional feedback may be provided via personal meetings with the tutor.

[Past exam papers for ET324](#)

Availability

Courses

This module is Optional for:

- Year 3 of UETA-Q311 in English Language and Linguistics (with Intercalated year)