

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

NOTE: ANY CHANGES TO A CSD MUST GO THROUGH ALL OF THE RELEVANT APPROVAL PROCESSES, INCLUDING LTTPC.

Academic School/Department:	Communications, Arts and Social Sciences
Programme:	Communications
FHEQ Level:	5
Course Title:	Language and Society
Course Code:	COM 5100
Course Leader:	John Chua
Student Engagement Hours:	120
Lectures:	22.5
Seminar / Tutorials:	22.5
Independent / Guided Learning :	75
Semester:	Fall, Spring, Summer
Credits:	12 UK CATS credits 6 ECTS credits 3 US credits

Module/Course Description:

The course examines the way language works in relation to communication and culture. Students study the systematic and structural aspects of language as a base for the exploration of broader questions, such as language and social class, identity, gender, technology, and bilingualism. The variety of languages spoken by students in the classroom provides a unique opportunity to explore language from international and intercultural perspectives.

Prerequisites: ARW 4195

Aims and Objectives:

The class aims to develop the acquisition, development and consolidation of a variety of transferable skills through the study of a subject which relies heavily on abstract theoretical concepts. The particular skills the class focuses on include problem solving, critical thinking, the ability to apply complex abstract concepts to a variety of past and current social and political situations, research and writing skills. An ability to synthesize is practised through oral and written quizzes. These skills are rehearsed in the context of a multilingual student body which enables the course to exploit a variety of languages. Students therefore get a unique perspective both on the shared features as well as the

commonalities of the different tongues represented in the class. This fosters the internationalism and interculturalism that are at the heart of the University's mission.

Programme Outcomes :

5A(i); 5A(iii); 5B(iii); 5C(iii); 5D(ii)

A detailed list of the programme outcomes are found in the Programme Specification. This is located at the Departmental/Schools page of the portal.

Learning Outcomes:

At the end of the course successful students:

- Have developed a detailed understanding of the intercultural dimension of language and of the centrality of language to social and national identity.
- Have learned to think 'linguistically' and have developed a detailed understanding of socio-political and intercultural aspects of language.
- Are able to define and put to productive use the vocabulary and concepts of linguistic description and analysis.
- Have gained a detailed awareness of the universality of linguistic concepts to languages in the world that are used by people in their everyday life and shape their culture and identity.
- **Are able** to apply their theoretical knowledge in practical exercises, demonstrating the capacity to bring their own experience to bear on their understanding of language in their own work and everyday life.

Indicative Content:

- Linguistic terms
- Language and gender
- Language change
- Language varieties
- Language and globalization
- Language and identity
- Language and social class

Assessment:

This course conforms to the Richmond University Standard Assessment Norms approved at Academic Council on June 28, 2012.

Teaching Methodology:

This course combines lectures and interactive discussion. Students are invited to reflect on their own experiences with language and are expected to participate fully in classroom discussions. Learning is supported by a range of readings and by classroom tasks which

