

ENGD01, English in Society, 15 credits

Engelska i samhället, 15 högskolepoäng

First Cycle / Grundnivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by The pro-dean for First-Cycle Studies at the Faculties of Humanities and Theology on 2020-03-12 and was last revised on 2023-12-11 (U 2023/1010). The revised syllabus comes into effect 2024-03-01 and is valid from the autumn semester 2024.

General information

The course is included in the Bachelor's programme in English Studies, semester 3. It can be included in a first or second cycle degree.

Language of instruction: English

The language of instruction is English. The majority of the required reading is in English. A small part may be in Swedish, for example, an article, a report, an investigation or regulatory documents within the education sector.

Main field of study *Specialisation*

English G2F, First cycle, has at least 60 credits in first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Learning outcomes

On completion of the course, the students shall be able to

Knowledge and understanding

- account for sociolinguistic theory and the social factors and dimensions that are relevant to different communicative situations
- account for key concepts in the field of language variation, such as regional and social dialects, gender and age, ethnicity, social networks, etc.
- account for key concepts in the field of language use, such as style, registers, politeness, cross-cultural communication, attitudes and stereotypes, etc.

- account for key concepts in the fields of language policy and planning, language standardisation and multilingualism, such as language change, standard and vernacular languages, language choice, language shift, etc.
- provide a basic account of different research methods in sociolinguistics, such as interviews, questionnaires, corpus-based approaches, etc.

Competence and skills

- apply key theoretical concepts to describe the use of the English language in Swedish society (historically and until the present day) and more globally
- apply theoretical concepts and research methods in a minor academic study on a relevant topic
- use different English-language genres, such as for example English-language fiction, as a source of knowledge to increase their understanding of descriptions of experiences of language variation and use
- use and formulate English independently and with appropriate terminology in oral and written assignments and presentations

Judgement and approach

- discuss and evaluate the influence of various social factors in language use in different communicative situations/contexts and different environments/speech communities
- discuss and evaluate some consequences of the increased use of the English language in different domains in Sweden and globally
- critically reflect on changing attitudes and assumptions about languages and language varieties, by linking these to discussions in social and linguistic theory more broadly

Course content

The course provides a broad and advanced introduction to sociolinguistics with a focus on language variation and use. Theoretical studies are alternated with practical application of the key concepts in the course. The course participants encounter and apply theory, theoretical concepts and basic research methods in these fields by engaging with different texts and genres - academic, fictional, digital/media communication, informal discourse, etc. - and by carrying out a minor research project on a relevant topic. The main focus is on English-speaking countries and on Sweden, where the presence of English is increasing.

Course design

Teaching consists of lectures, seminars, and student presentations. Attendance is not compulsory, but attendance at 80 percent of the meetings or above may constitute a small portion of the overall grade (equivalent to five percent of the total grade).

Assessment

The course is assessed through 1-3 written assignments (paper, poster etc.) and 1-3 oral and/or multimodal presentations.

The examiner, in consultation with Disability Support Services, may deviate from the regular form of examination in order to provide a permanently disabled student with a form of examination equivalent to that of a student without a disability.

Grades

Grading scale includes the grades: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction
Students can be awarded a combined maximum of 100 points for the examination tasks and for attendance (a maximum of 5 points can be awarded for attendance).
For a grade of Pass on the course, at least 67 points are required, and for a grade of Pass with Distinction, a minimum of 85 points are required.

Entry requirements

To be admitted to the course, the student must have completed 60 credits from the Bachelor's programme in English Studies in semester 1 and semester 2, or equivalent.

Further information

- The course is offered at the Centre for Languages and Literature, Lund University.
- The credits allocated for course content that in whole or in part is commensurate with another course can only be credited once for a degree.
- For further details, see the current registration information and other relevant documentation.