



Joint Faculties of Humanities and Theology

## **SASB03, Multilingualism: Individual and Societal Perspectives, 7.5 credits**

*Multilingualism: Individual and Societal Perspectives, 7,5 högskolepoäng*  
**First Cycle / Grundnivå**

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### **Details of approval**

The syllabus was approved by The Pro Dean of First and Second Cycle Studies at The Joint Faculties of Humanities and Theology on 2026-05-06 (U 2026/234). The syllabus comes into effect 2026-06-01 and is valid from the spring semester 2027.

### **General information**

Subject: Linguistics.

The course is offered as a single course. It can normally be included as part of a general degree at the undergraduate or graduate levels.

*Language of instruction:* English

*Main field of  
study*

*Specialisation*

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G1N, First cycle, has only upper-secondary level entry requirements

### **Learning outcomes**

On completion of the course the student shall

### **Knowledge and understanding**

- describe and discuss different types of bi- and multilingualism;
- account for factors that determine bi- and multilingual acquisition outcomes and distinguish linguistic and extra-linguistic factors;
- distinguish issues of individual and societal bilingualism;

## Competence and skills

- in speech and in writing, discuss and compare different types of bilingualism;
- describe and interpret empirical studies of multilingual language acquisition;
- critically discuss multilingual acquisition outcomes taking intra- and extralinguistic factors as well as methodologies into account;
- write simple scientific reports and give brief presentations on multilingualism;

## Judgement and approach

- take an ethical approach to linguistic variation in language acquisition and processing;
- at a basic level, discuss ethical approaches in connection with linguistic data collection;
- at a basic level evaluate different theoretical approaches to multilingualism.

## Course content

The course explores multilingualism from both individual and societal perspectives. It provides students with a deeper understanding of the language acquisition process in cases where there is more than one language, and the ways in which it is shaped by linguistic factors (e.g., typological proximity or distance, markedness) as well as extralinguistic factors (e.g., state policies, attitudes, and social background). The course covers bilingual and trilingual first language acquisition in children, as well as language maintenance and attrition among individuals who have grown up as early bilinguals in migrant, dialectal, or other minority contexts. It also addresses trilingualism in adulthood and the potential benefits of bilingualism. In addition, the course examines situations in which bilingualism is challenged by societal factors, such as discrimination faced by migrant or dialectal minorities, or cases where minority groups have been compelled to adopt the majority language in post-war contexts. Empirical cases will be illustrated through research findings, with reference to lexical, phonological, and morphosyntactic properties.

## Course design

The teaching consists of lectures, exercises and two compulsory student conferences. Absence from compulsory components is to be compensated for by written assignments.

## Assessment

The assessment is based on an oral presentation (2,5 credits), a pilot study (2,5 credits), and a take-home assignment (2,5 credits).

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: U=Fail, E=Sufficient, D=Satisfactory, C=Good, B=Very Good, A=Excellent

A is the highest grade, and the lowest passing grade is E. A non-passing result is awarded the grade U (fail).

The final course grade is calculated in accordance with the following method:

- (1) Each letter grade corresponds to a numerical value: 5 for A, 4 for B, 3 for C, 2 for D, 1 for E, and 0 for U.
- (2) The numerical grade for each course component is multiplied by the number of credits assigned to that component.
- (3) The products are summed, and the total is divided by 7.5 (= the total number of credits for the course).
- (4) The resulting average determines the final course grade. 4.50–5.00 yields the grade A; 3.50–4.49 yields the grade B; 2.50–3.49 yields the grade C; 1.50–2.49 yields the grade D; 0–1.49 yields the grade E.
- (5) In order to receive any grade other than Fail (U), the student must have obtained at least the grade E in all course components.

## **Entry requirements**

General requirements

## **Further information**

- The course is offered at the Centre for Languages and Literature, Lund University.
- Students are required to have good knowledge of written and spoken English.
- The credits allocated for the 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.