



LUND
UNIVERSITY

Faculties of Humanities and Theology

SPVM10, Language and Linguistics: Language in Society, 7.5 credits

Språk och språkvetenskap: Språk och samhälle, 7,5 högskolepoäng
Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by The pro-dean for First-Cycle Studies at the Faculties of Humanities and Theology on 2023-03-15 to be valid from 2023-03-15, autumn semester 2023.

General Information

The course is an elective component of the Master of Arts programme in Language and Linguistics. It may also be offered as a freestanding course and can be included in a first or second cycle degree.

Language of instruction: English

Main field of studies

Language and Linguistics

Depth of study relative to the degree requirements

A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Learning outcomes

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

Knowledge and understanding

- give an overall account of the study of language in society,
- give an account of the effect of regional, social and other factors such as age, gender and ethnic background on linguistic variation,
- give an account of how language use can affect social dynamics and relations,
- describe and discuss, in an informed way, selected topics from one or more sub-field(s) within sociolinguistics,

Competence and skills

- analyze and discuss linguistic variation, and attitudes towards linguistic variation,

- in the light of current sociolinguistic theories,
- identify and formulate sociolinguistic research questions and to discuss and evaluate various suggestions for analysis, in dialogue with previous research in the field,
- present a line of argument and analyses in an appropriate manner in accordance with the conventions of scholarship,
- carry out small-scale empirical investigation on a selected topic using an appropriate sociolinguistic method,

Judgement and approach

- discuss and critically evaluate linguistic diversity in the global digital society of today,
- discuss and critically evaluate concepts such as standard language in relation to geographical and social linguistic variation,
- discuss concepts such as age, gender, ethnicity and social sustainability in relation to language use and linguistic variation.

Course content

The course aims to provide students with broad knowledge and understanding of the role of language in society, including modern sociolinguistic theories and research, and some understanding of how sociolinguistics differs from sociology of language. The course examines geographical and social explanations to linguistic variation and change as well as attitudes to different linguistic variants. Basic concepts such as language variation, standard varieties, dialects, sociolects, gender, power, multilingualism, code switching, language contact (including language maintenance and loss, pidgins, creoles) and language policies and planning are presented and studied. The course will also look at digital discourse and digital language variation.

Various research methods which are applied in sociolinguistics are presented and discussed throughout the course. Examples from a variety of languages, societies, countries and other situations and contexts where language is used are presented and discussed.

Course design

The teaching consists of lectures and seminars. Students will do one or two written assignments and one or two oral presentations, either individually or in group.

Assessment

Module 1: one oral presentation and one written assignment, either individually or in group, 3 credits (grades: Fail, Pass)

Module 2: a final individual course paper dealing in a qualified way with one of the topics covered by the course, 4.5 credits (grades: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction)

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.

Subcourses that are part of this course can be found in an appendix at the end of this document.

Grades

Marking scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction.

In order to get a Pass with distinction on the whole course, students must receive a Pass on both modules, and a Pass with distinction on module 2.

Entry requirements

To be admitted to the course, students must have a Bachelor's degree with 60 ECTS in a language subject or linguistics or the equivalent. Furthermore, students must have English 6 from Swedish upper secondary school or the equivalent.

Further information

1. The course is offered at the Centre for Languages and Literature, Lund University.
2. 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.

Subcourses in SPVM10, Language and Linguistics: Language in Society

Applies from H23

2301 Assignments: Oral and Written, 3,0 hp
Grading scale: Fail, Pass

2302 Course Paper, 4,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction