

GE3110

English in Society



香港城市大學
City University of Hong Kong

Introduction

- This course aims to introduce students to a systematic description of the use of the English language in society and the skills needed to apply their knowledge to the analysis of authentic language data from a sociolinguistic perspective.
- Under the guidance of the instructor, students will discover the patterns of authentic language use in real-life situations and present their findings in innovative and stylistically appropriate ways.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes

- Discover the sociolinguistic aspects of English language use in society;
- Identify sociolinguistic processes of dialect variation, diachronic change, and code-switching in the English language;
- Compare different varieties of world Englishes;
- Compare and contrast theories and methods in sociolinguistics;
- Critically apply the knowledge learnt in the course to analyse authentic language data in everyday life;
- Critically apply the knowledge learnt in the course to reflect on the ways in which the English language is used in different modes of communication;
- Critically apply the knowledge learnt in the course to reflect on the ways in which English language use relates to identities (e.g., gendered, sexual, class, national, etc.)

Teaching and Learning Activities

- Interactive lecturing
- In-class activities and discussions
- Language analysis

Topics Covered

- Language variation and change
- Code-switching
- Speech community
- Language and computer-mediated communication
- Varieties of English
- World Englishes
- Language and identity
- Language and gender

Reading List

- Holmes, J., & Wilson, N. (2017). *An introduction to sociolinguistics (5th ed.)*. Routledge.
- Bauer, L. (2003). *An introduction to international varieties of English*. Edinburgh University Press.
- Jenkins, J. (2015). *Global Englishes: A resource book for students (3rd ed.)*. Routledge.
- Setter, J., Wong, C.P., & Chan, B.H.S. (2002). *Hong Kong English*. Edinburgh University Press.