

Master in Applied Linguistics (LM-39)

Course title:	Language Variation and Change
Course year:	1st
Semester:	2nd
Course code:	54106
Scientific sector:	L-LIN/12
Lecturer:	Gatti Maria Cristina MariaCristina.Gatti@unibz.it
Module:	/
Lecturer other module:	/
Credits:	6
Total lecturing hours:	30
Total Hours of availability for students and tutoring:	18
Office hours:	from Monday to Friday by appointment via email.
Attendance:	according to the regulation
Teaching language:	English
Propaedeutic course:	none
Course description:	This course will provide students with an introduction to the study of language variation and change with an emphasis on the sociolinguistic components. This includes both correlational sociolinguistics and the sociology of language. Included among the latter, are situations of language contact (pidgins and creoles, multilingualism, etc.) as well as situations related to the spread of English as a global language.
Specific educational objectives:	The course aims at providing students with a basic knowledge of the social effects on language use demonstrating how sociolinguistics interconnects with the study of language change. They will be lead towards an understanding of the principles of variation within a speech community. They will be informed by cutting edge research and will familiarize with hands-on analysis of data.
List of topics covered:	Epistemological backdrop, the interdependance of language and communication, impact of social factors on language variation, variables and patterns of variation, research in sociolinguistics: variables and data collection, speech communities, idiolects, world Englishes, types of variation across Englishes, pidgins and creoles: origin and characteristics, the English Today debate, British English Standard language and emerging sub-varieties.
Teaching format:	lecture
Learning outcomes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge and understanding : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - knowledge of key concepts in the sociolinguistics of variation;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - understanding of the epistemological backdrop of studies on variation and change; - understanding of the variables and patterns of change - knowledge of methodologies and approaches for the analysis of data. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applying knowledge and understanding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ability to read data from studies on language variations in local and global contexts; - capacity to understand variation and change phenomena in specific contexts ; • Making judgements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - students can critically evaluate the quality of sociolinguistic analysis in the field of language change and provide individual contributions and/or suggestions; • Communication skills <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - students can present and discuss their own or other people’s analyses in the field of language variety and change in a clear and precise way; • Learning skills <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - students can apply qualitative methodologies and approaches for autonomous enquiry in the field; - they can identify varieties of English used in diverse sociolinguistic contexts globally and analyze how different sociolinguistic and multicultural, and contexts of function influence language use.
Assessment:	Final oral evaluation.
Evaluation criteria and criteria for awarding marks:	Clear and coherent exposition; ability to critically analyze and reflect upon aspects and phenomena of language variation and change.
Required readings:	Chambers J.K. and Schilling N. (2013). <i>The Handbook of Language Variation and Change</i> . Malden, Oxford:John Wiley&Sons Wiley Blackwell, second edition. Kirkpatrick, A. (2010). <i>The Routledge handbook of World Englishes</i> . London: Routledge Handbooks.
Supplementary readings:	Crystal, D. (2004). <i>English as a Global language</i> . Cambridge University Press, second edition. Nelson C., Zova P., and Davis D. (eds) (2019) <i>The Handbook of World Englishes</i> . Malden, Oxford:John Wiley&Sons Wiley Blackwell, second edition.