



DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

SIK221 Language and Society, 7.5 credits

Språk och samhälle, 7,5 högskolepoäng

Second Cycle

Confirmation

This course syllabus was confirmed by Department of Languages and Literatures on 2014-10-14 and was last revised on 2022-04-25 to be valid from 2022-08-29, autumn semester of 2022.

Field of education: Arts 100%

Department: Department of Languages and Literatures

Other participating department

Department of Languages and Literatures

Position in the educational system

The course is offered as part of the programme Language and Intercultural Communication, but can also be studied as a freestanding course.

The course can be part of the following programme: 1) Master's Programme in Language and Intercultural Communication (H2SIK)

Main field of studies

Spanish

Chinese

French

African Languages

Japanese

Specialization

A1F, Second cycle, has second-cycle course/s as entry requirements

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German	A1F, Second cycle, has second-cycle course/s as entry requirements
Arabic	A1F, Second cycle, has second-cycle course/s as entry requirements
Russian	A1F, Second cycle, has second-cycle course/s as entry requirements
English	A1F, Second cycle, has second-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Entry requirements

The requirement for admission to the course is a Bachelor's degree of 180 credits or the equivalent foreign qualification including an individual assignment of 15 credits at advanced level. An additional requirement is English 6 from the Swedish upper-secondary school or the equivalent level from an internationally acknowledged test.

Depending on what the main field of study is, there is a requirement of 60 credits in English, French, Spanish or German, alternatively 90 credits in Arabic or Russian, or 120 credits in Japanese or Chinese, or the equivalent level of proficiency in respective language from an internationally acknowledged test. For students with African languages as their main field of study, there are no requirements of prior knowledge in the subject.

Learning outcomes

On successful completion of the course the student will be able to:

Knowledge and understanding

- understand and explain the role of the language in social structures in different cultures and during different epochs;
- describe how linguistic realities and considerations interact with and are influenced by social, cultural and political relations in a language area;

Competence and skills

- be able to explain the role of the language in social structures;
- use and apply sociolinguistic theories and methods in a specified and delimited field;

Judgement and approach

- demonstrate the ability to identify and critically analyse relations that have their basis in linguistic realities and language-political considerations in the main field of study.

Course content

The role of language in society and linguistic relations in the world are treated from sociolinguistic and intercultural perspectives. The course gives examples of, among other things, how history, politics, economics, religion and migration can influence language use, language planning and language policy of groups and societies. The course also deals with contact linguistics, aspects of power relations and the linguistic market, questions about minority languages and linguistic hierarchies. The questions posed in the course are treated from both diachronic, synchronic and ethical perspectives.

Form of teaching

Lectures and seminars.

Language of instruction: English

Assessment

Examination is done in English and in the language that the student has chosen as his/her main field of study. To what extent the student has achieved the aim of the course is tested through written and oral presentations as well as participation in seminars.

A student who has failed a course item is eligible for a retake exam/assignment. In connection with written assignments, supplementary assignments may be offered in order for the student to achieve a Pass grade. Such a supplementary assignment should be done within the stipulated time (normally five working days after the result has been posted). Otherwise a Fail grade will be reported.

A student who has completed an exam/assignment with a passing grade is not eligible for a retake for the purpose of receiving a higher grade. Nor may a student withdraw a test/assignment once it has been submitted for the purpose of avoiding receiving a grade for the work.

If a student, who has been failed twice on the same course component being examined, wishes to change examiner before the next examination, a written application shall be sent to the department responsible for the course, and shall be granted, unless there are special reasons to the contrary (Chapter 6, Section 22, Higher Education Ordinance).

If a student has received a recommendation from the University of Gothenburg regarding study support for students with disabilities, the examiner may decide, in the case where this is compatible with the learning outcomes for the course, and provided no unreasonable resources are required, to give the student an adjusted examination or an alternative form of examination.

In case the course has been discontinued or undergone any larger changes the student is guaranteed access to at least three additional examination sessions (including regular examination sessions) within the time of at least one year. The same applies to placements and professional placements (VFU), although this is restricted to just one additional examination session.

Grades

The grading scale comprises: Pass with Distinction (VG), Pass (G) and Fail (U).

To pass the course with distinction, the grade Pass with distinction is required on both parts of the course, Part 1: Language and Society: an introduction, 4 credits and Part 2: Language and Society, a specialization, 3,5 credits.

Course evaluation

The students are given the opportunity to make a written evaluation of the course. Results of the evaluation are published digitally.

Additional information

Equality aspects should be taken into account in content, literature, teaching and evaluation.