



Bachelor's courses Faculty of Humanities

VU University Amsterdam - Student- & Onderwijszaken - Exchange programme Vrije Universiteit - 2019-2020

Language, Culture and Variation

Course code	L_AABACIW205 ()
Period	Period 6
Credits	6.0
Language of tuition	English
Faculty	Faculty of Humanities
Coordinator	prof. dr. L.J. de Vries
Examinator	prof. dr. L.J. de Vries
Teaching staff	prof. dr. L.J. de Vries
Teaching method(s)	Study Group, Lecture
Level	200

Course objective

- knowledge of basic concepts of the field such as dialect continuum, standard language, code switching, sociolect, idiolect, creole, jargon, pidgin, linguistic repertoires, ethnolect, basolect, mesolect, acrolect;
- knowledge of the linguistic subtypes of variation: phonological, morphological, syntactic, lexico-semantic and pragmatic variation;
- the capacity to accurately describe, analyse, and critically examine language in its social setting;
- the ability to find and critically reflect on theoretical and empirical studies in the relevant subfields and to apply these within their own analysis of data;
- the ability to write in clear and coherent fashion on topics within the relevant subfields of linguistics;
- insights in the ways in which academic knowledge of the relationships between language, culture and variation can be applied to specific domains of society (politics, education, language policy).

Course content

Central to this module are topics, theories and research methodologies in the subfields of linguistics which focus on the complex relationships between language and society: sociolinguistics, dialectology and anthropological linguistics. Student will engage with the many ways in which language variation correlates with, and shapes, the social and cultural dynamics of gender, age, class, nation-state formation, migration and many other factors.

Form of tuition

Reading and research using module reading list, lecture follow-up, seminar preparation, and wider reading and research within and beyond the module description. Two meetings per week (one lecture, one seminar).

Type of assessment

written exam with essay questions.

Target group

2nd year students in Communication and Information Studies, tracks <Language Learning and Language Teaching>; and <English Language and Communication Studies>.