

| LANGUAGE, POWER & SOCIETY IN THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING WORLD | |
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| Discipline <i>Academic field</i> | Sociolinguistics |
| Enseignant <i>Teacher</i> | Etienne Chasson |
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| Niveau de formation <i>Academic level</i> | 2 ^{ème} année |
| Volume horaire <i>Hours</i> | 20 |
| Langue <i>Language</i> | English |

Description du cours / Course outline

This course will examine the emergence of English as the first global language, its interplay with the history of imperialism and globalisation, and its impact on the diverse societies that use it to varying degrees – as a majority mother tongue or as a second language for business, education or diplomacy.

If language is the ideal field in which to observe how power is constructed, exercised and contested, it is because it constitutes the most crucial component of identity – be it political, cultural or individual. This means that, by looking at bottom-up linguistic practices as well as top-down language policy across the English-speaking world, we can gain revealing insights into how a wide range of societies function and define themselves.

This course will ultimately aim to explore how the rules of English, despite their power to establish and reinforce dominant norms (related among others to gender, race and class), can equally be used as an effective tool to challenge those norms and effect profound social and cultural change.

Objectifs pédagogiques du cours / Course objectives

Students will gain insights into what makes English a global language, looking both at its changing practical applications and at its contested symbolic status around the world. They will add a new dimension to their understanding of such central phenomena as imperialism, globalisation and social domination. They will also become familiar with linguistic practices and policies across a wide range of societies, from the UK to South Africa and from Singapore to India.

Compétences acquises / Learning outcomes

Students will learn to perceive and analyse the ways in which power dynamics play out in the field of language. They will be equipped to describe essential linguistic phenomena such as language change, standardisation or variation, and to interpret their social and political implications in context.

Plan de cours par séance / Course content for each session

We will explore some of the most fundamental questions in sociolinguistics, using case studies from around the English-speaking world to give nuance and context to the discussions:

- English or Englishes: what defines a language and how does it shape human thought?
- 'Say it right': the myth of standard English and attitudes to language variation
- Language, class and social identity
- Can a language be sexist? English and the contest over gender norms
- One nation, many languages: language planning in multicultural societies
- Raciolinguistics: Why language is central to race and racism
- 'The master's tools': English as the language of empire
- Between resistance and reappropriation: English and postcolonial nation-building
- English as the lingua franca of a globalized world
- What is the future of English?

Références bibliographiques / *Bibliography*

- Janet Holmes, *An Introduction to Sociolinguistics*, 4th ed., Routledge, 2013
- Annabelle Mooney & Betsy Evans, *Language, Society & Power: An Introduction*, 4th ed., Routledge, 2015

Mini CV de l'enseignant / *Mini CV of the teacher*

Etienne Chasson is an English teacher at Sciences Po Aix. In addition to teaching courses focusing on the culture, literature, politics and societies of the English-speaking world, he has a background in musicology.