SYLLABUS

ML 471 & 511: Language and Society, Spring 2005
CRN 21861 & 26087

Mondays & Wednesdays 12:30-1:45 – Computer Center, Room 117

Instructor:
Humphrey Tonkin, Professor of Humanities (tonkin@hartford.edu)
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Course Objective:
To provide students with a general understanding of the role played by languages and linguist diversity on the world scene and in the larger society.

Course Goals:
By the end of the semester, students should
(1) be able to recognize and analyze multilingual situations with a sound understanding of the issues involved,
(2) be conversant with the basic terminology and concepts of the field, and
(3) demonstrate an in-depth understanding of one or more sub-fields.

Required Texts:
(2) David Crystal. Cambridge Encyclopedia of Language. 2nd ed. Cambridge Univ. Press.
Crystal and Romaine are available from the University Bookstore.
Copies of Tonkin will be distributed at the beginning of the course (it is also available at: http://www.globaled.org/issues/178F.pdf).
Additional readings will be assigned as needed.

Attendance: Students are expected to attend all sessions, unless they have notified the instructor in advance and made arrangements to cover the material missed.

Assignments:
1. Students will be expected to keep journals (preferably on their computers so that they can be easily printed out), in which they should note down incidents, reading, newspaper stories, etc. having a bearing on the subject matter of the course. The instructor will
review them from time to time and offer comments. Students will be asked to bring interesting articles etc. to class.

2. There will be short written assignments throughout the semester. Rewrites for a grade change permitted.

3. Students will be asked to write a somewhat longer final paper, due on Monday, December 12. This will be a research paper the details of which will be negotiable with the instructor. Details will be provided in the course of the semester.

4. There will be non-graded, self-corrected quizzes from time to time.

5. There will be a final exam, probably in take-home form.

6. Students taking ML 471 will write an additional paper on some aspect of language study, to be agreed upon between student and instructor and due on the same date as the final paper.

Grading:

ML 471: Class participation will count for 15% of the grade, short papers and other assignments for 25%, the final paper for 20%, the final exam for 20%, and the additional paper for 20%. All work must be completed before a semester grade is awarded.

ML 511: Class participation will count for 20% of the grade, short papers and other assignments for 30%, the final paper for 25% and the final exam for 25%. All work must be completed before a semester grade is awarded.
Provisional Schedule
(The schedule may change as the semester progresses.)

1. Introduction
Wednesday, August 31
- Read Tonkin by September 7.
- Write brief “linguistic autobiography” for September 7.

2. Introduction: Language and Society
Wednesday, September 7
- Discussion of linguistic autobiographies.
- Discussion of Tonkin: the study of language, languages in the world, speaking more than one language, languages interacting, spoken and written language, language and community, language rights, changing languages, world English, a language for international communication, translation and interpretation, language learning.
- Read Romaine, chapter 1, by September 12.
- Write c. 500 words on language and dialect for September 12.

3. Language in Society / Society in Language
Monday, September 12
Wednesday, September 14
- Conclude discussion of Tonkin.
- Discussion of Romaine, chapter 1: Language vs. dialect, register and style, speech communities, language and reality.
- Read Romaine, chapter 2, by September 19
- Write c. 500 words on language choice for September 19

4. Language Choice
Monday, September 19
Wednesday, September 21
- Discussion of Romaine, chapter 2: Societal multilingualism (and individual multilingualism), domains, diglossia, shift and death, code-switching.
- Read Romaine, chapter 3, by September 26.
- Write c. 500 words on standardization for September 26.

5. Sociolinguistic Patterns
Monday, September 26
Wednesday, September 28.
- Discussion of Romaine, chapter 3: social class, style, gender (see also Romaine ch. 4), age, language and social network, standardization.
- Read Crystal, material covering same and similar ground as Romaine ch. 1, for October 3.
• Write c. 500 words on “What is language?” for October 3.

6. Language in Society / Society in Language (2)
Monday, October 3
Wednesday, October 5.
• Discussion of Crystal, material covering same ground as Romaine ch. 1.
• Additional readings from Crystal for October 10
• Write c. 500 words on languages of the world for October 10.

7. Languages of the World, Varieties of Language
Monday, October 10
Wednesday, October 12.
• Discussion of additional readings from Crystal: The languages of the world: geography, typology, statistics; the study of language: fields and terminology; spoken and written language; writing and writing systems; language and power; language and identity (individual, group, ethnicity, nationhood); language and culture.
• Read Crystal, material covering same and similar ground as Romaine ch. 2, for October 17.
• Write c. 500 words on language death for October 17.

8. Language Choice (2)
Monday, October 17
(No class on October 19)
Monday, October 24
Wednesday, October 26.
• Discussion of Crystal, material covering same ground as Romaine ch. 2.
• Additional readings from Crystal for October 31
• Read Romaine chs. 5-7 for October 31
• Write c. 500 words on language policy.

9. Language Change and Language Policy
Monday, October 31
Wednesday, November 2.
• Discussion of additional readings from Crystal: Linguistic colonization and imperialism; languages in contact: liminal and interlingual phenomena (see also Romaine ch. 6); language change (see also Romaine ch. 5); language policy; language policy in education (see also Romaine ch. 7); language and ideology; language planning (Can language be planned?); strategies for overcoming difference (modeling difference, translation, language learning, lingua francas and vehicular languages [see Romaine ch. 6], language technology).
• Read Crystal, material covering same and similar ground as Romaine ch. 3, for November 7.
• Write c. 500 words on language and gender.

10. Sociolinguistic Patterns
Monday November 7  
Wednesday, November 9.  
- Discussion of Crystal, material covering same ground as Romaine ch. 3.  
- Additional readings from Crystal for November 14.  
- Write c. 500 words on world language systems for November 14.

11. World Language Systems  
Monday, November 14.  
(No class on November 16)  
Monday, November 21  
- Discussion of additional readings from Crystal: Dictionaries, literature, role and economics of print, language institutions, language rights, world language systems and the international use of language, the European Union and the United Nations, English as a world language, planned language, interlingualism.  
- Write proposal for final paper by November 21.

12. Planned Language  
Monday, November 28  
Wednesday, November 30.  
- Read article by Pool & Fettes (to be distributed) by December 5.

13. Interlingualism  
Monday, December 5  
Wednesday, December 7.

14. Conclusion  
Monday, December 12  
Conclusion.  
- Final paper due.

August 17, 2005