



COURSE UNIT DESCRIPTION

Course unit title	Code
Sociolinguistic situation and language policy in Lithuania	

Academic staff	Core academic unit(s)
Coordinating: Inga Daraškienė	Faculty of Philology, Department of Lithuanian Studies
Other:	

Study cycle	Type of the course unit
First cycle	Elective and compulsory

Mode of delivery	Semester or period when it is delivered	Language of instruction
Face-to-face	4th semester	English

Requisites	
Prerequisites: None	Co-requisites (if relevant):

Number of ECTS credits allocated	Student's workload (total)	Contact hours	Individual work
5	135	32	103

Purpose of the course unit
This course aims to introduce students to the current state of the language and linguistic community situation in Lithuania and other Baltic States, introducing basic elements of the evaluation of the sociolinguistic situation: the relationship between language and society, between the use of languages and the social structures in which the users of language live.

Learning outcomes of the course unit	Teaching and learning methods	Assessment methods
Students will become familiar with sociolinguistic concepts, ethno-demographic and sociolinguistic processes in Lithuania, current language use and attitudes, and linguistic diversity. Students will acquire knowledge about key researchers and institutions and will be able to critically evaluate the information presented in the sources and research studies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lectures. In-class discussions. Individual tasks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparation and participation in discussions at the seminars. Presentation at the seminar on the chosen topic. Exam.

<p>Students will acquire knowledge about the sociolinguistic situation and language policy in Lithuania.</p> <p>Students will be able to identify and analyse the main sociolinguistic and language policy aspects relevant to Lithuania.</p> <p>Students will get acquainted with and gain an understanding of the changes in the Lithuanian language in contemporary society.</p> <p>Students will be able to choose the aims and objectives of their studies, pursue them independently and collaboratively, and critically discuss selected phenomena of sociolinguistics and language policy both orally and in writing.</p>		
---	--	--

Course content: breakdown of the topics	Contact hours						Individual work: time and assignments		
	Lectures	Tutorials	Seminars	Workshops	Laboratory work	Internship/work	Contact hours, total	Individual work	Assignments
1. Basic sociolinguistic concepts: varieties of language (languages, standard languages, dialects, social dialects, vernacular), speech communities, language choice, bilingualism, diglossia, code-switching.	2						2	6	Analysis of literature, discussion, and additions to the seminar topic. Practical analytical tasks. Reading: Holmes, Wilson
2. Historical overview of ethno-demographic and sociolinguistic processes in Lithuania. The development of the written language. Standardization of the Lithuanian language.	6						6	25	Analysis of literature, discussion, and additions to the seminar topic. Practical analytical tasks. Reading: Hogan et al.; Dini; Zinkevičius
3. The Lithuanian language during the Soviet period, the Russification policy, restricted sociolinguistic functions of Lithuanian, and asymmetric bilingualism.	4						4	12	Analysis of literature, discussion, and additions to the seminar topic.

								Practical analytical tasks. Reading: Hogan et al.; Dini; Zinkevičius
4. Present language use and attitudes, linguistic diversity, bilingualism, and multilingualism in Lithuania. Regional dialects. Language use and attitudes in urban and rural areas of Lithuania. Language and ethnic identity in Lithuania. Minority languages.	8					8	30	Analysis of literature, discussion, and additions to the seminar topic. Practical analytical tasks. Reading: Hogan et al.; Hogan-Brun, Ramonienė, Dini; Ramonienė (2019)
5. Language policy. Language ideologies. Language policy and language planning in Lithuania and other Baltic States. Status planning, corpus planning, and language education policy. Language Planning and Personal Naming in Lithuania. Language ideologies in Lithuania.	6					6	20	Analysis of literature, discussion, and additions to the seminar topic. Practical analytical tasks. Reading: Barakos, Unger; Hogan et al.; Hogan-Brun, Ramonienė, Ramonienė (2007)
6. State language status, implementation of linguistic legislation, language intellectualization, and modernization. Law on the state language of the Republic of Lithuania. The State Commission of the Lithuanian Language. The Language Inspectorate. Language ideology.	6					6	10	Analysis of literature, discussion, and additions to the seminar topic. Practical analytical tasks. Reading: Hogan et al.; https://e-seimas.lrs.lt/portal/legalActPrint/lt?jfwid=rivwzvpg&documentId=TAIS.21941&category=TAD
Total	32					32	103	

Assessment strategy	Weight %	Deadline	Assessment criteria
Active participation in class discussions.	20 %	Throughout semester	Weekly assignments and participation in seminar discussions are assessed: 2 points: excellent preparation for each seminar, active participation in the discussion, well-reasoned answers to questions. 0 points: missing more than 3 seminars for an unexcused reason.
Written paper	30 %	Second part of semester	At the end of the semester, students will have to prepare a presentation on one of the selected topics. Assessment:

and it's presentation, participation in discussions.			<p>3 points: the topic is assessed critically, visual material is presented, the student can answer questions and/or participate in the discussion.</p> <p>2 points: the topic is evaluated, visual material is presented, the student cannot answer questions but participates in the discussion.</p> <p>1 point: the topic is presented superficially, the visual material is insufficient, the student cannot answer questions and/or participate in the discussion.</p> <p>0 points: presentation was not submitted.</p>
Written final exam.	50 %	Examination session	<p>The exam consists of open-ended and closed-ended questions based on the material covered during the semester.</p> <p>Grading:</p> <p>10 (excellent). Excellent, exceptional knowledge and skills. 95–100% of questions answered correctly.</p> <p>9 (very good). Very good knowledge and skills. 85-94% of questions answered correctly.</p> <p>8 (good). Knowledge and skills above average. 75-84% of questions answered correctly.</p> <p>7 (average). Average knowledge and skills; there are a few minor errors. 65–74% of questions answered correctly.</p> <p>6 (satisfactory). Knowledge and skills are below average; there are errors. 55–64% of questions answered correctly.</p> <p>5 (poor). Knowledge and skills meet minimum requirements. Correctly answered 51–54% of questions.</p> <p>4, 3, 2, 1. Minimum requirements not met. 10 points corresponds to 50 % of the final grade.</p>

Author	Publishing year	Title	Issue of a periodical or volume of a publication; pages	Publishing house or internet site
Required reading				
Hogan-Brun G., Ozolins U., Ramonienė M., Rannut M.	2009	Language Policies and Practices in the Baltic States		Tallinn: Tallinn University Press
Barakos, E., J. W. Unger (eds.)	2016	Discursive Approaches to Language Policy		Palgrave Macmillan
Holmes, J., N. Wilson	2017	An Introduction to Sociolinguistics. Fifth Edition		Routledge: London and New York
Dini, P. U.	2014	Foundations of Baltic Languages		Vilnius: Vilniaus universiteto leidykla
Zinkevičius, Z.	1998	The History of the Lithuanian Language		Vilnius: Mokslo ir enciklopedijų leidybos institutas
Recommended reading				
Hogan-Brun, G., Ramonienė M.	2005	Perspectives on Language Attitudes and Use in Lithuania's	<i>Journal of Multilingual and Multicultural</i>	

		Multilingual Setting, in Language and Social Processes in the Baltic Republics Surrounding EU Accession	<i>Development</i> , Vol 26: Special Issue: Language and Social Processes in the Baltic Republics Surrounding their EU Accession, 425-441.	
Hogan-Brun, G., Ramonienė M.	2005	The Language Situation in Lithuania	<i>Journal of Baltic Studies</i> , Vol. XXXVI, Nr. 3, Special Issue: The Baltic Sociolinguistic Review, 345-370.	
Ramonienė M.	2007	Language Planning and Personal Naming in Lithuania	<i>Current Issues in Language Planning</i> , Vol. 8: 3, 422-436.	Multilingual Matters
Ramonienė M.	2019	Regional dialects in the Lithuanian urban space: skills, practices and attitudes	In Lazdiņa S. and Heiko M. (eds), <i>Multilingualism in the Baltic States: Societal Discourses and Contact Phenomena</i> , 123-152.	London: Palgrave Macmillan

Atnaujinta 2025-10-15