

## Liverpool John Moores University

Title: LANGUAGE, COMMUNITY AND IDENTITY  
Status: Definitive  
Code: **4513MEDCUL** (114918)  
Version Start Date: 01-08-2011

Owning School/Faculty: Humanities and Social Science  
Teaching School/Faculty: St Helens College

Team	Leader
Clare Horrocks	Y

**Academic Level:** FHEQ4      **Credit Value:** 12.00      **Total Delivered Hours:** 43.50  
**Total Learning Hours:** 120      **Private Study:** 76

### Delivery Options

Course typically offered: Semester 2

Component	Contact Hours
Lecture	21.000
Seminar	21.000

**Grading Basis:** 40 %

### Assessment Details

Category	Short Description	Description	Weighting (%)	Exam Duration
Essay	AS1	1500 word essay from a choice of questions on relationship between dialectal variation and identity.	50.0	
Exam	AS2	Exam requiring response to one of a choice of questions on language and social change, the media, and the relationship between gender and language.	50.0	1.50

### Aims

*To introduce the concepts of personal and collective identity and explore their relationship to language variation and speech communities.*

*To explore different kinds of language variation and develop skills of description and analysis of language varieties.*

*To examine the relationship between language variation and identity, and how this relationship may be mediated by the mass media.*

*To examine gender and ethnicity as forms of community and identity.*

## **Learning Outcomes**

After completing the module the student should be able to:

- 1 Describe and explain some key features of the relationship between language variation, speech communities and identity
- 2 Describe and explore the relationship between standard language, dialect and identity
- 3 Describe language varieties in terms of significant markers of variation eg grammar, lexis and phonology
- 4 Describe how social and economic change is reflected in language change
- 5 Discuss competing arguments about the role of the media in relation to language variation, community and identity
- 6 Discuss the role of gender, ethnicity and subcultures in the constitution of identity

## **Learning Outcomes of Assessments**

The assessment item list is assessed via the learning outcomes listed:

1500 Word Essay	1	2	3
EXAM	4	5	6

## **Outline Syllabus**

*This module examines the dual aspects of personal and collective identity and looks at the connections between the language we use, the communities we belong to and a sense of identity. The role and history of standard language is explored in relation to national identity and the relationship between dialect and standard English is examined in relation to class identity. Social and cultural change is explored through a discussion of competing views of multi-culturalism and its impact on national identity. Analytical skills are developed in order to identify linguistic markers of language variation. Students will be introduced to the different levels of linguistic analysis – eg grammatical, lexical and phonological. Changes in the distribution of language varieties are explored in relation to social change, and modern urban and youth culture dialects are examined. The concept of genderlect is introduced and explored in relation to community and identity and it is contrasted with eg ethnicity as a marker of identity.*

## **Learning Activities**

Lectures, group work, exercises and large group discussion

## References

<b>Course Material</b>	Book
<b>Author</b>	Bex, T. and Watts, J.
<b>Publishing Year</b>	1999
<b>Title</b>	Standard English
<b>Subtitle</b>	The Widening Debate
<b>Edition</b>	
<b>Publisher</b>	Routledge
<b>ISBN</b>	

<b>Course Material</b>	Book
<b>Author</b>	Coates, J.
<b>Publishing Year</b>	2004
<b>Title</b>	Women, Men and Language
<b>Subtitle</b>	
<b>Edition</b>	
<b>Publisher</b>	Routledge
<b>ISBN</b>	

<b>Course Material</b>	Book
<b>Author</b>	Crystal, D.
<b>Publishing Year</b>	2005
<b>Title</b>	Stories of English
<b>Subtitle</b>	
<b>Edition</b>	
<b>Publisher</b>	Penguin
<b>ISBN</b>	

<b>Course Material</b>	Book
<b>Author</b>	Gillespie, M.
<b>Publishing Year</b>	1995
<b>Title</b>	Television, Ethnicity and Cultural Change
<b>Subtitle</b>	
<b>Edition</b>	
<b>Publisher</b>	Routledge
<b>ISBN</b>	

<b>Course Material</b>	Book
<b>Author</b>	Hughes, A. and Trudgill, P.
<b>Publishing Year</b>	2005
<b>Title</b>	English Accents and Dialects

<b>Subtitle</b>	
<b>Edition</b>	4th Ed.
<b>Publisher</b>	Hodder Arnold
<b>ISBN</b>	

<b>Course Material</b>	Book
<b>Author</b>	Jenkins, R.
<b>Publishing Year</b>	2008
<b>Title</b>	Social Identity
<b>Subtitle</b>	
<b>Edition</b>	3rd Ed.
<b>Publisher</b>	Routledge
<b>ISBN</b>	

<b>Course Material</b>	Book
<b>Author</b>	Leith, D.
<b>Publishing Year</b>	1997
<b>Title</b>	A Social History of English
<b>Subtitle</b>	
<b>Edition</b>	
<b>Publisher</b>	Routledge
<b>ISBN</b>	

<b>Course Material</b>	Book
<b>Author</b>	Montgomery, M.
<b>Publishing Year</b>	2008
<b>Title</b>	An Introduction to Language and Society
<b>Subtitle</b>	
<b>Edition</b>	
<b>Publisher</b>	Routledge
<b>ISBN</b>	

---

## Notes

This module explores the relationship between the kind of language we use and our identity or sense of self – both in terms of how we see ourselves and how others see us. This is related to the idea of national identity and its contentious relationship to standard language. We explore competing ideas of national identity and the role of multi-culturalism. We look at the role of regional dialect in identity formation and develop skills in describing different kinds of non-standard language. We look at the impact of the mass-media – especially television - both on national identity and on language. We also look at other significant factors in identity formation such as sub-cultures, ethnicity and gender and consider their impact on language.