

LING 7800  
'Bilingualism in Context'  
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Recent decades have played host to an enormous surge in research on bilingualism. This spike in interest has generated many (sometimes competing) perspectives on bilingual issues from a range of academic traditions and sub-disciplines, including not only Linguistics and Applied Linguistics, but also Anthropology, Sociology, and Communication Studies (amongst others). The result is a body of literature that is not only robust in terms of its findings, but also diverse in terms of its methodologies and theoretical frameworks.

This graduate-level seminar on 'Bilingualism in Context' will actively engage with this body of research by approaching both 'bilingualism' and 'context' from a variety of perspectives, with a significant focus on code-switching phenomena. At the more 'micro' end of the spectrum, we will look at bilingualism in terms of language production and comprehension, drawing on studies from cognitive/psycholinguistics, experimental phonetics, and conversation analysis. At the more 'macro' end of the spectrum, we will tackle topics such as bilingual education, official/institutionalized mono-/bi-/multilingualism, and the ideologies surrounding these issues, drawing on research from sociolinguistics, sociology, and linguistic anthropology. Significant time will also be dedicated to bridging the micro-macro gap, with an aim toward developing an understanding of bilingualism that is layered and contextualized.

The objectives of this course, then, are two-fold. First, most obviously, the goal is to provide a concrete, substantive understanding of various aspects of bilingualism, from a range of perspectives and contexts. The second, more overarching goal, though, is concerned with theoretical frameworks and methodologies, and their implications for research on linguistic phenomena *in general*. The course should thus equip students with an array of tools, and an eye toward interdisciplinarity, which can also be used to tackle *non*-bilingualism-specific pursuits in future coursework and research.