

LING 7800  
‘Bilingualism in Context’  
Chase Wesley Raymond

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.