



蘇州大學
Soochow University

LIN 179 Language and Ethnic Identity

Summer 2024

Course Credits: 4

Contact Hours: 56 hours

Instructor: TBA

Email: TBA

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course delves into the intricate connections between language, race, and ethnicity on a global scale. Students explore linguistic practices of diverse ethnoracial groups, including African, Asian, European, Latinx, and Indigenous communities. Through historical and contemporary analyses, the course examines linguistic impacts of immigration, colonization, and cultural exchanges. Topics cover bilingualism, translanguaging, language shift, and heritage language preservation. Moreover, students investigate how language shapes ethnoracial identity and critically assess instances of linguistic discrimination, alongside strategies for linguistic activism.

Upon Completion of this Course, students will be able to:

1. Understand the interplay of language, race, and ethnicity globally;
2. Analyze linguistic practices of various ethnoracial groups;
3. Explore historical and contemporary contexts influencing language dynamics;
4. Examine bilingualism, translanguaging, and language preservation efforts;
5. Discuss the role of language in ethnoracial identity formation.

PREREQUISITES

N/A

GRADING

Grades will be determined by accumulating points, with 100 points being the maximum, as follows:



ITEM	POINTS
2 Projects	20 Points
Midterm 1	15 Points
Midterm 2	15 Points
2 Papers	20 Points
Final Exam	30 Points
Total	100 Points

Late submissions will be graded at the end of the course. Grades will be assigned according to the following rule:

$A \geq 90 > B \geq 80 > C \geq 70 > D \geq 60 > F$.

We reserve the right to make adjustments to the overall grading policy.

COURSE MATERIALS

Required Texts:

Geneva Smitherman, *Articulate While Black: Barack Obama, Language, and Race in the U.S.*, 1st Edition, Oxford University Press, 2012.

Recommended (Optional) Texts or Other Materials:

None

COURSE TOPICS

MODULE	TASKS
Module 1	<p>Topics:</p> <p>Topic 1: The Language of Leadership: Analyzing Barack Obama's Speeches</p> <p>Topic 2: Code-Switching and Identity in African American Discourse</p> <p>Topic 3: African American Vernacular English (AAVE) in Political Communication</p> <p>Topic 4: Linguistic Strategies of Barack Obama's Rhetoric</p> <p>Assessments:</p> <p>Project 1</p>



Module 2	<p>Topics: Topic 5: The Influence of African American Culture on Language Use Topic 6: Barack Obama's Influence on Language and Race Discourse Topic 7: Sociolinguistic Perspectives on African American Speech Patterns Topic 8: Language and Identity Construction in African American Communities</p> <p>Assessments: Paper 1</p>
Module 3	<p>Topics: Topic 9: Barack Obama's Oratorical Style and Its Cultural Significance Topic 10: The Politics of Language: Race, Power, and Discourse Topic 11: Critical Analysis of Language and Race in Political Contexts Topic 12: Intersectionality of Language and Race in American Society</p> <p>Assessments: Midterm#1 Project 2</p>
Module 4	<p>Topics: Topic 13: The Role of African American Vernacular English in Public Discourse Topic 14: Language Ideologies and Stereotypes in Political Communication Topic 15: African American Linguistic Resilience and Resistance Topic 16: The Legacy of Barack Obama's Language and Rhetoric</p> <p>Assessments: Midterm#2 Paper 2</p>
Module 5	<p>Topics: Topic 17: Language as a Tool for Social Change and Activism Topic 18: Racialized Language Practices in American Politics Topic 19: Language, Power, and Representation in the Media Topic 20: The Sociopolitical Significance of African American Language Varieties</p> <p>Assessments: Final Exam</p>

ATTENDANCE

1) Class attendance is required. Missing classes without permission will lead to decrease in overall grade.

Missing less than two classes: no penalty.

Missing more than two classes: 7% will be taken off from the overall grade.

If the instructor reports a student's frequent missing of class to the Soochow



University Academic Administration Office, the student might get a written warning and might be prohibited from attending final exam.

2) Participants in this course are expected to arrive in class promptly and adequately prepared. The primary objective of this course is to critically engage with the readings and the subject matter. Therefore, course participants are expected to have completed the reading prior to class and prepare thoughtful reflections/commentaries to share with fellow colleagues.

LEARNING REQUIREMENTS

- 1) Late assignments are not acceptable and are subjected to grade deductions.
- 2) Assignments submitted in the wrong format will be counted as not submitted.
- 3) Failure to submit or fulfill any required course component results in failure of the class.
- 4) Make-up for midterm and final exams only with valid excuses, as defined by the University.
- 5) In order to earn a Certificate of Completion, participants must thoughtfully complete all assignments by stated deadlines and earn an average quiz score of 50% or greater.

TECHNOLOGY POLICY

The use of electronic devices in class is distracting, both for the user and for the rest of the class. Only non-programmable calculators can be used in the tests and exam. Any attempts to use cell phones and other electronic communication devices will be seemed as cheating. Laptops are discouraged, unless you use them for activities DIRECTLY related to the course (eg., note taking, reading course documents).

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

Soochow University highly values the academic integrity and aims to promote the academic fairness, honesty and responsibility. Any academic dishonesty behaviors and any attempts to cheats and plagiarism will be reported to the university administration office. A written warning and the relevant penalties will be imposed. The record might be shown on the official university transcript.



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DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION

Soochow University is committed to maintaining a barrier-free environment so that students with disabilities can fully access programs, courses, services, and activities at Soochow University. Students with disabilities who require accommodations for access to and/or participation in this course are welcome.

Note:

Please contact the University Administrative Office immediately if you have a learning disability, a medical issue, or any other type of problem that prevents professors from seeing you have learned the course material.