# Policies and Multilingualism

## Prof. Rocco W. Ronza

***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

The course aims to introduce students to political, economic and historical perspectives on multilingualism, with a particular focus on linguistic conflicts and the formation and evaluation of linguistic regimes. By the end of the course, students will be able to appreciate the relationship between language and collective identities at national and international level and to evaluate the political and normative issues associated with the rise of “lingua francas” on regional and global scale. They will be aware of the main linguistic policy issues that arising in the different regions of the contemporary world and will be able to assess the consequences of linguistic policy choices made by individuals, organisations and institutions.

***COURSE CONTENT***

Part 1

– Political science and multilingualism

– Native language and second languages; standard languages and dialect clusters.

– Economic approaches to multilingualism.

– Official languages, linguistic policies and linguistic legislation.

– Language, state and nation in European history: from the birth of “common languages” to the protection of linguistic minorities.

Part 2

– Lingua francas, imperial languages and international languages

– The linguistic legacy of European colonialism in America, Asia and Africa.

– From world languages to the rise of Global English.

– The debate on “linguistic justice” in the European Union.

– The rise of English as a global academic language: problems and solutions.

***READING LIST***

S. Rokkan, *Stato, nazione e democrazia*, Il Mulino, Bologna, 2002 (only chapters 5, 6 and 7)

T. De Mauro, *Storia linguistica dell'Italia unita*, Laterza, Bari, 1991 or subsequent editions (only chapters one, two and three).

A. De Swaan, *Words of the World. The Global Language System*, Polity Press, Cambridge, 2001.

P. van Parijs (ed.), *Cultural Diversity and Economic Solidarity*, De Boek, Bruxelles, 2004 (only chapters 13 and 20).

F. Coulmas, «European Integration and the Idea of a National Language», in Id (ed.), *A Language Policy for the European Community. Prospects and Quandaries*, De Gruyer-Mouton, Berlin, 1991, pp. 1-44 or

U. Ammon, «Language conflicts in the European Union», *International Journal of Applied Linguistics*, Vol. 16, No. 3, 2006, pp. 319-338.

P. Caretti, «A margine della sentenza della Corte costituzionale n. 42/2017», in M.A. Cabiddu (a cura di), *L’italiano alla prova dell’internazionalizzazione*. Guerini, Milano, 2017, pp. 129-135.

A. Giudici-R.W. Ronza-V. Pini (a cura di), *Il plurilinguismo svizzero e la sfida dell’inglese. Riflessioni dal laboratorio elvetico a confronto con l’Europa*, Armando Dadò, Locarno, 2020 (only *Introduzione* and chapters 1 and 5).

***TEACHING METHOD***

The first part of the course will consist of a series of lectures and expert testimonies; in the second part, lectures will be combined with expert testimonies and presentations in class by students on topics to be agreed in advance with the lecturer.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The exam has three parts:

1. a written exam (partial) on the first part of the course comprising a number of open questions and a section with multiple-choice questions.

2. a research task on a country or a region, after which students must produce a written report and deliver a presentation in class

3. an oral exam on the contents of the other presentations.

There will be one final mark, of which 50% is based on the written test, 40% the individual research project (20% report, 20% presentation) and 10% the oral exam.

In the written test, students must demonstrate their knowledge of information and concepts discussed in the first part of the course. Assessment will be based on relevance of students’ answers, their appropriate use of specific terminology and their ability to conduct well-structured, coherent argumentations. In their individual research project, students must demonstrate the ability to apply the concepts and issues discussed during lectures to contexts not covered by the lecturer. Students will be assessed on: their ability to formulate research questions appropriate to cases in question, to find and select the necessary information, to use the most suitable theoretical tools selected from those presented on the course, to identify further paths for research. In the final oral exam, students will be assessed on their ability to discuss issues that cut across the various cases or groups of cases presented in class.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

As this course is introductory in nature, there are no prerequisites in terms of content. Students are, however, expected to have acquired basic linguistic knowledge in relation to international relations on other compulsory courses from the degree programme.

In case the current Covid-19 health emergency does not allow frontal teaching, remote teaching will be carried out following procedures that will be promptly notified to students.

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG or on the Faculty notice board.