# Policies and Multilingualism

## Prof. Rocco W. Ronza

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

The course aims to introduce students to political issues related to linguistic diversity, particularly the management of conflicts between different language communities and the formation of language policies and regimes at local and international level. By the end of the course, students will be able to appreciate the role played by the relationship between language and collective identity within national political systems and international relations, as well as the consequences of the rise of lingua francas on a regional and global scale. They will be able to understand the most relevant linguistic and political issues still at play in various regional contexts, and to assess the consequences of language policy choices made by individuals, organisations and institutions.

***COURSE CONTENT***

## Concepts and theories

- Political science and multilingualism.

- Standard languages and dialects; native and second languages.

- Official languages, language policies and language legislation.

- Instrumental and constitutive concepts of language

## Language, state and nation in European history

- The formation of “common languages” in Europe

- From the French Revolution to the affirmation of the principle of language-based nationality

- Beyond the principle of nationality: from the protection of minorities to European multilingualism

## Languages and politics in the international system

Lingua francas and imperial languages

Language and nation-building outside Europe: America, Asia and Africa.

Globalisation and the rise of the world languages

The rise of Global English: lingua franca or “hegemonic language”?

***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.

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.