



## **Module Specification**

### **Studying Speech Communities**

Version: 2021-22, v2.0, 24 May 2021

#### **Contents**

<b>Module Specification .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Part 1: Information .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Part 2: Description .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Part 3: Teaching and learning methods .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Part 4: Assessment.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Part 5: Contributes towards .....</b>	<b>5</b>

## Part 1: Information

**Module title:** Studying Speech Communities

**Module code:** UPNQ4N-30-2

**Level:** Level 5

**For implementation from:** 2021-22

**UWE credit rating:** 30

**ECTS credit rating:** 15

**Faculty:** Faculty of Arts Creative Industries & Education

**Department:** ACE Dept of Creative & Cultural Industries

**Partner institutions:** None

**Delivery locations:** Frenchay Campus

**Field:** Linguistics

**Module type:** Standard

**Pre-requisites:** None

**Excluded combinations:** None

**Co-requisites:** None

**Continuing professional development:** No

**Professional, statutory or regulatory body requirements:** None

## Part 2: Description

**Overview:** Not applicable

**Features:** Not applicable

**Educational aims:** This module gives students the opportunity to consider how language operates within social settings, and how language use is influenced by factors including age, sex and social class. Students will develop an appreciation of

sociolinguistic theory, explore how linguistic variation can be measured and gain skills in conducting empirical investigations

**Outline syllabus:** Syllabus:

Teaching Block 1

Variationist sociolinguistics

Sociolinguistic Variables and Variants

Regional, Social and stylistic variation

Change from above and below

Teaching Block 2

Phonological theory

Formant measurements

Sociophonetics

Chain-shifting

Data collection

Data analysis techniques

### **Part 3: Teaching and learning methods**

**Teaching and learning methods:** See Assessment

**Module Learning outcomes:**

**MO1** Demonstrate an appreciation for and an understanding of the speech communities they belong to, including Bristol.

**MO2** Demonstrate knowledge of the key concepts of sociolinguistics, including the nature of sociolinguistic data and data collection techniques and the ability to collect and analyse data

**MO3** Analyse and interpret linguistic data relating to sociolinguistic variable (e.g. age, sex, social class)

**MO4** Recognise the most important features of a well-designed research investigation

**MO5** Design and conduct their own research studies

**MO6** Present clearly the results of empirical investigations

**MO7** Demonstrate a knowledge of the key linguistic features which vary across speech communities

**MO8** Demonstrate practical computing skills useful in the analysis of linguistic data

**Hours to be allocated:** 300

**Contact hours:**

Independent study/self-guided study = 220 hours

Face-to-face learning = 80 hours

Total = 300

**Reading list:** The reading list for this module can be accessed at [readinglists.uwe.ac.uk](https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/upnq4n-30-2.html) via the following link <https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/upnq4n-30-2.html>

## **Part 4: Assessment**

**Assessment strategy:** In the first teaching block, students are sensitised to the social variables which govern (or at the very least: influence) linguistic behaviour. They are exposed to relevant recent research in the field and given the opportunity to conduct small-scale surveys as a means of preparing them for larger data collection in TB2. Across TB1 as knowledge and practice increase, students will be given a selection of sociolinguistic scenarios to analyse via a portfolio submission.

In TB2, students will (as part of a group) carry out sociolinguistic interviews, transcription, data collation and data thinning processes. This will then be used as the basis (along with other groups' data) to answer a research question about the speech community in question in the form of a 2,000-word written report. It is expected that students will also include in this report (as an appendix) the empirical sociolinguistic data gathered to complete this task.

**Assessment components:**

**Written Assignment - Component B (First Sit)**

Description: 2,000 word assignment

Weighting: 60 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO5, MO6, MO7, MO8

**Portfolio - Component A (First Sit)**

Description: Sociolinguistic analysis of scenarios

Weighting: 40 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4, MO7

**Written Assignment - Component B (Resit)**

Description: 2,000 word assignment

Weighting: 60 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested:

**Portfolio - Component A (Resit)**

Description: Sociolinguistic analysis of scenarios

Weighting: 40 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested:

**Part 5: Contributes towards**

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

English Language and Linguistics [Sep][SW][Frenchay][4yrs] BA (Hons) 2020-21

English Language and Linguistics [Sep][FT][Frenchay][3yrs] BA (Hons) 2020-21

English Language and Linguistics {Foundation} [Sep][SW][Frenchay][5yrs] BA  
(Hons) 2019-20

English Language and Linguistics [Sep][PT][Frenchay][6yrs] BA (Hons) 2019-20

English Language and Linguistics {Foundation} [Sep][FT][Frenchay][4yrs] BA (Hons)  
2019-20