



## **Module Specification**

### **Studying Speech Communities**

Version: 2026-27, v1.0, Approved

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## Part 1: Information

**Module title:** Studying Speech Communities

**Module code:** UPNB7D-30-2

**Level:** Level 5

**For implementation from:** 2026-27

**UWE credit rating:** 30

**ECTS credit rating:** 15

**College:** College of Arts, Technology and Environment

**School:** CATE School of Arts

**Partner institutions:** None

**Field:** Linguistics

**Module type:** Module

**Pre-requisites:** None

**Excluded combinations:** None

**Co-requisites:** None

**Continuing professional development:** No

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

## Part 2: Description

**Overview:** This module examines how language interacts with the society around us and how language use is influenced by factors including age, sex and social class.

**Features:** Not applicable

**Educational aims:** Students will develop their understanding of sociolinguistic theory, explore how linguistic variation can be measured and gain skills in

conducting empirical investigations. This module ensure that students will receive training in core research skills, focusing on the ethical and practical considerations involved when collecting and working with different forms of data.

**Outline syllabus:** Topics likely to be covered include: regional variation; languages in contact; language and social class; gender, sexuality and language; language and age(ing); language attitudes and stereotypes; multilingualism and contact; research methods (ethics, data collection and analysis); sociolinguistic fieldwork; linguistic landscapes.

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

**Teaching and learning methods:** Teaching and learning will be delivered through a combination of lecture, workshop, seminar, and tutorial formats, as appropriate. Student learning will also be supported by the university's VLE, where teaching slides, reading lists, weekly preparation, discussion boards and lecture recordings are hosted. Students will also be able to access assessment briefs from the start of teaching and will be offered bespoke assessment advice during scheduled teaching time. In addition, students will have regular opportunities to discuss their teaching and learning with the module teaching team, both in-person or online.

**Module Learning outcomes:** On successful completion of this module students will achieve the following learning outcomes.

**MO1** Explore a wide range of historical and cultural contexts, deepening own understanding of their influence and impacts.

**MO2** Recognise the most important features of a well-designed project and apply this knowledge in designing a sociolinguistic study.

**MO3** Refine time management strategies, anticipating potential challenges, and prioritising tasks to manage workload effectively.

**MO4** Engage in reflective practice, reviewing personal strengths and areas for growth, and proactively seeking feedback to improve their work.

**Hours to be allocated:** 300

**Contact hours:**

Independent study/self-guided study = 228 hours

Face-to-face learning = 72 hours

**Reading list:** The reading list for this module can be accessed at [readinglists.uwe.ac.uk](https://rl.talis.com/3/uwe/lists/5F088613-0EA1-5408-018C-BA0F97DABA6F.html?lang=en-GB&login=1) via the following link <https://rl.talis.com/3/uwe/lists/5F088613-0EA1-5408-018C-BA0F97DABA6F.html?lang=en-GB&login=1>

**Part 4: Assessment**

**Assessment strategy:** Assessment will be a portfolio. This is designed to test various learning outcomes and areas of the module curriculum. Students have some choice in the topic, language data and/or format they use.

The portfolio will comprise three elements which amount to a sociolinguistic research project, including data collection, the research report, and a reflective piece. This project will test students' understanding of the essential elements of effective research project design, and their ability to apply this knowledge in applying appropriate analytic methods to conduct a small-scale study of a speech community of their choice.

Formative feedback: in advance of the final deadline, students will be offered assessment consultations to discuss their plans, and the opportunity to receive feedback on a partial draft version of their written work.

The resit assessment will match the first sit.

**Assessment tasks:****Portfolio (First Sit)**

Description: Portfolio of 3 elements (equivalent 4000 words)

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4

**Portfolio (Resit)**

Description: Portfolio of 3 elements (equivalent 4000 words)

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4

**Part 5: Contributes towards**

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

English Language and Linguistics [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2025-26