Course: *An Introduction to Sociolinguistics*
Number of Credits: 2 Credits
Instructor: Saeed Rezaei
Location: Sharif University of Technology
Office Hours: Mondays (by appointment, please!)
Contact: E-mail: srezaei@sharif.edu  Home Page: sharif.edu/~srezaei
1. **Course Description**
   This is an introductory course to sociolinguistics for M.A. students. As an interdisciplinary/cross-disciplinary field, *Sociolinguistics* derives its theoretical and methodological approaches from several fields including Linguistics, Sociology, and Anthropology. The focus of this course will be on exploring (English) language in its social context; however, several issues with regard to other languages in Iran will be raised. Students native in languages/dialects other than standard Persian will be encouraged to deliver lectures on their languages/dialects, their attitudes towards them, and other sociolinguistic factors therein.

2. **Course Goals**
   By the end of this term, students are expected to:
   - learn about the history, origin, and later developments in the field of sociolinguistics;
   - have a firm understanding of the main areas of research introduced in the syllabus;
   - learn the research methods and data collection approaches in sociolinguistic studies;
   - know about the place of language in society and its sociopolitical power;
   - explore the attitudes of Iranians towards English, Persian, Turkish, and Kurdish;
   - learn to respect and value language diversity and variation.

3. **Scoring Criteria**
   a) **Active Participation** 2 points
      Students are required to attend all the sessions well-prepared. They should bring their questions and comments and add to class discussion. Silent students or reluctant ones will not get this part of the score. Attendance in all sessions is compulsory and three or more unexcused absences will result in the failure of the course! Also, absences/tardiness will negatively affect your final score!
   
   b) **One Presentation** 2 points
      Each student is obliged to have one presentation (for about 15 minutes) based on the topics for each session. These presentations will be based on the papers selected by the course instructor. For each presentation, students are required to have PowerPoint Slides, handouts, and a summary of the paper. Although all students are expected to read the assigned papers, the presenter will have a more profound reading on the topic. This will allow them to delve more deeply into an area of research and hence later be able to write a paper/proposal on the same/related topic.
   
   c) **Midterm Exam** 6 Points
   d) **Final Exam** 10 Points
   e) **Term Paper (Optional)** 2 EXTRA Points
      The topic for the term paper will be confirmed based on the consultations with the course instructor. Students are expected to arrange some appointments with the instructor so that the term paper will emerge *during the term* based on the topics discussed. Students who do not finalize their topics with the instructor and merely submit a paper at the end will receive NO POINTS for their work however good it might be. The paper should be 5000 to 6000 words in length with at least 15 references including books, academic articles, and book chapters.
4. Required Texts and Articles


- Encyclopaedia Iranica. Available online at [http://www.iranicaonline.org](http://www.iranicaonline.org)


5. Recommendations for Further Readings


6. Course Schedule

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Sources</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Introducing the syllabus</td>
<td>Wardhaugh &amp; Fuller (2015), Ch. 1</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>History of Sociolinguistics</td>
<td>Spolsky (2011)</td>
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<td>Fishman (2017)</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Bilingualism</td>
<td>Cenoz (2013)</td>
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<td>Multilingualism</td>
<td>Wei (2017)</td>
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<td>Diglossia</td>
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<td>code-switching/mixing</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Language loss, maintenance, shift and revival</td>
<td>Huss (2017)</td>
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<td>Stilo (1981)</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>World Englishs</td>
<td>Ates et al. (2015)</td>
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<td>Rezaei et al. (2018)</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Language policies and planning</td>
<td>Mirvahedi (2017)</td>
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<td>Mirhosseini &amp; Khodakarami (2016)</td>
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<td>Holmes &amp; Hazen (2013)</td>
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<td>Meyerhoff et al. (2015)</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Iranian languages and dialects</td>
<td>Windfuhr (2009)</td>
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<td>Encyclopaedia Iranica entries on Iranian languages</td>
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<td>Rezaei &amp; Naghibian (2018)</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Language in social networks and media</td>
<td>Lawless (2014)</td>
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<td>Pitkänen-Huhta &amp; Pietikäinen (2017)</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Language Attitudes</td>
<td>Rezaei et al. (2017)</td>
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<td>Mirshahidi (2016)</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Intercultural Communication</td>
<td>Hosseini Fatemi et al. (2016)</td>
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<td>Rahman et al., (2016)</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Linguistic landscape</td>
<td>Amouzadeh &amp; Tavanger (2008)</td>
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<td>Hasrati et al., (2016)</td>
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<td>Rezaei &amp; Tadayyon (2018)</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Anthropological Linguistics and Migration</td>
<td>Borjian (2016)</td>
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<td>Hoffman (1989)</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Research Reports</td>
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Journals
• Anthropological Linguistics
• International Journal of the Sociology of Language
• Journal of Linguistic Anthropology
• Journal of Multicultural Discourse
• Journal of Multilingual and Multicultural Development
• Journal of Sociolinguistics
• Language Variation and Change
• Language Policy
• Language in Society
• Multilingua

• Research on Language and Social Interaction
• Language Problems and Language Planning
• Current Issues in Language and Society
• Current Issues in Language Planning
• Language and Gender
• International Journal of Bilingualism
• Journal of Language and Social Psychology
• World Englishes
• Journal of Intercultural Communication

Late Assignment Policy
The completion of assignments in a timely fashion is appreciated. Late assignments will receive deductions or will be discarded and only in rare cases with convincing causes this rule is waived (unless under certain extenuating circumstances or the instructor’s own extension!). Requests for extensions should reach me no later than a week before the assignment is due.

Professional Writing Policy
Assignments submitted are expected to follow standard writing features vaccinated from language deviations, editorial problems, or APA-related inconsistencies.

Code of Ethics and Academic Integrity
Students accused of intentional/unintentional plagiarism or cheating will receive a failure on this course and will be sent to the Office of Graduate Studies for further penalties.

E-mail Policy
Students are expected to have academic e-mails and check their e-mails each session before the class starts in case handouts are sent to them or specific instructions are given for the class.

Office Hours and Appointment Policy
I will be available during my office hours pasted on my office door. If you have some schedule conflict and cannot meet me during my schedule time, you can e-mail me to arrange an appointment at a mutually convenient alternate time. Please contact me at least two days before the appointment.