Module Name: LANGUAGE, THE INDIVIDUAL AND SOCIETY  
Module Code: LI1008

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<th>ECTS weighting:</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>Term taught:</th>
<th>Michaelmas term</th>
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Contact Hours: Lectures: 22 hours (1 term, 2 hours per week)

Module Personnel: Prof. Breffni O'Rourke (Module coordinator), Prof. Jeffrey Kallen, Prof. Gessica De Angelis, Prof. Lorna Carson, Prof. Pat Matthews, Prof. Lorraine Leeson, Prof. Adrian Tien, Prof. Sarah O'Brien

Learning Outcomes: By the end of this course students will have the capacity to...

- Engage in critical discussion on a range of relationships that hold between language, the individual and society.
- Problematise the idea that only spoken languages are 'real' languages.
- Evaluate the impact of Age on the rate and route of first and second language acquisition.
- Weigh the merits of different accounts of the relationship between language and thought.
- Critically assess information and views relating to language attitudes, language acquisition and language transmission in multilingual contexts
- Critically analyse issues relating to language and gender.
- Critically assess data and opinions about language endangerment and language revitalisation.

Module Aims and Objectives
How do we acquire language? How are we to interpret the fact that language use varies according to geography, social class, gender and context? Why do languages die? What is the impact of immigration on language attitudes, language acquisition and language transmission? This module attempts to provide the beginnings of answers to such questions, as well as many others relating to language, the individual and society. In the process, a range of theories and evidence in the fields of linguistics, applied linguistics, sociolinguistics and psycholinguistics will be explored and tested.

Module Content
Each week a new topic is introduced and discussed at length over the two lectures. The topics are given below for each week of the course.

Week 1  Introduction – Prof. O'Rourke
Week 2  How do babies learn language? – Prof. De Angelis
Week 3  Do children learn languages better than adults? Prof. O'Brien
Week 4  What ever happened to proper English? – Prof. O'Rourke
Week 5  Does the way you think depend on the language you speak? – Prof. O'Rourke
Week 6  Assignment titles and essay writing guidelines – Prof. O'Rourke
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<tr>
<th>Week 7</th>
<th>READING WEEK – NO LECTURES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 8</td>
<td>Can threatened languages be saved? – Prof. O’Brien</td>
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<td>Week 9</td>
<td>Are signed languages real languages? – Prof. Matthews/Prof. Leeson</td>
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<td>Week 10</td>
<td>If you want to live here you should speak our language! – Prof. Carson</td>
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<td>Week 11</td>
<td>Is language a window into culture? – Prof. Tien</td>
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<td>Week 12</td>
<td>Language and gender – Prof. Kallen</td>
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**Recommended Reading List:** See Blackboard for relevant lists.

**Assessment Details**

**Continuous Assessment:** Essay of 2,500 words (50%). Deadline: 3 p.m. Monday 16 January 2017.

**Written Annual Examination:** Two questions to be answered on the one-hour Language, the Individual and Society Paper (50%)