Title	LI1008 Language, the Individual and Society Maximum student capacity: 55 Credits: 5 ECTS
Course 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.
Course Outline	 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. Tien 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 Week 7 READING WEEK – NO LECTURES Week 8 Can threathened languages be saved? – Prof. O'Brien Week 9 Are signed languages real languages? – Prof. Matthews Week 10 If you want to live here you should speak our language! – Prof. Carson Week 11 Is language a window into culture? – Prof. Tien Week 12 Language and gender – Prof. Kallen

Learning outcomes	 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.
Lecture timetable and venues	The course is taught in Michaelmas term and involves a total of 22 hours of lectures. It will be taught at 3pm on Mondays (Rm 3074) and at 2pm on Tuesdays (Swift Theatre). These lecture rooms are located in the Arts Building. Notes for each lecture and supporting documentation will be posted on blackboard to support independent study and self-paced learning.
Recommended texts	 William O'Grady, John Archibald, and Francis Katamba. 2011. Contemporary Linguistics: An Introduction. 2nd ed. London: Longman. Fromkin, V., Rodman, R. and Hyams, N. (2007) An introduction to language. Boston, MA: Thomson Wadsworth. A number of copies of these texts are available in the library. Lecturers may also recommend supplementary readings each week and a reading list per topic is made available to students.
Assessment requirements Dates for submission	 (i) Essay of not more than 2,500 words. Essay titles will be announced in week 6 of teaching term. Deadline: 3 p.m. Monday 15 January 2018. To be submitted both on paper to the CLCS Office, Arts Building room 4091, and online (online submission details will be provided in week 6). (ii) Written Annual Examination: Two questions to be answered on the one-hour Language, the Individual and Society Paper (50%)

If you have any queries relating to the course you can contact the course coordinator via email (see below for details).

If you have a query that relates to a specific lecture, you should mail the lecturer in question or ask at the end of class.

Additional information

Course Coordinator

Prof. Breffni O'Rourke: orourkeb@tcd.ie

Other lecturers

Prof. Lorna Carson: carsonle@tcd.ie

Prof. Gessica De Angelis: gessica.deangelis@tcd.ie

Prof. Pat Matthews: matthep@tcd.ie
Prof. Jeffrey Kallen: jkallen@tcd.ie
Prof. Adrian Tien: tiena@tcd.ie

Prof. Sarah O'Brien: sarah.obrien@tcd.ie