

**Spring 2019**  
**German 8600: Seminar in Linguistics and Applied Linguistics**

**Language and Society:  
An Introduction to Multilingualism**

**Instructors:** Dr. Carmen Taleghani-Nikazm and Dr. Laura Neuhaus (Bonn University)

**Time:** Wed. 3:00-5:30pm

**Location:** Enarson Classroom Bldg 017

*This course will count towards the GIS in Second Language Studies.*



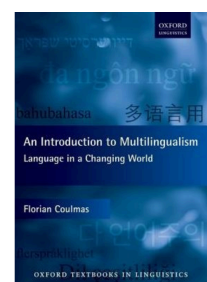
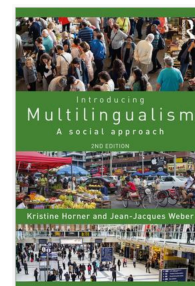
Multilingualism is the norm, not the exception. Individuals have a large number of linguistic resources at their disposal consisting of more than one variety of languages, styles, genres, and accents. This seminar offers an introduction to the many facets of multilingualism in a changing global world. In this seminar, we begin with the key question of what multilingualism actually is and examine the role that languages play in multilingual societies from a social and cultural perspective. We systematically explore multilingualism with respect to individual, institutions, cities, nations, and cyberspace and discuss how in each of these domains, the dynamics of language choice are undergoing changes as a result of economic, political, and cultural forces. In addition, we examine research methods for investigating multilingualism and engage critically with questions and findings. Topics include language contact, maintenance and loss, endangered languages, language planning and politics, multilingual and heritage language education, urban youth language, and language and identities. We will explore these topics and phenomena based on examples from several language groups, including German language varieties, and you will be able to apply concepts to other languages and language varieties.

**Required texts and prerequisites**

Weber, J.-J., & Horner, K. (2012). *Introducing Multilingualism. A Social Approach*. London: Routledge.

Coulmas, F. (2018). *An Introduction to Multilingualism: Language in a Changing World*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

We will read selected chapters from these books. Each chapter and topic will be complemented with journal articles that include examples and cases from several languages. Journal articles will be available on course's Carmen site.



No knowledge of German required. Readings and Discussions are in English.

For questions contact Carmen Taleghani-Nikazm ([taleghani-nikazm.1@osu.edu](mailto:taleghani-nikazm.1@osu.edu)).