

STATES OF LANGUAGE AND LANGUAGES OF STATES

The Politics of Language

GOV 2573 – Spring 2020

Tuesdays and Thursdays 8:30-9:55

VAC South 303

Professor Ericka Albaugh
phone: 721-5233
email: ealbaugh@bowdoin.edu

Office Hours (Hubbard 209A):
Tuesday and Thursday 3:00 – 4:30/5:00 PM
or by appointment

Synopsis

This course will examine the relationship between politics and language. Governments historically have tried to spread a single language within their populations through education and military conscription. What are the roots of this motivation? Does language standardization deepen the possibility for citizen participation and democracy? How have minority language groups responded? As the right to language has become a global norm, what effects will this have on the cohesiveness of existing states? Will globalization bring with it linguistic fragmentation or the worldwide spread of a few languages such as English, Arabic, and Chinese? This course will look at the language question in the United States as well as in cases drawn from Europe, Asia and Africa. It will also ask students to choose a country in which to evaluate the historical and present state of languages and language(s) of state.

Expectations

I do not expect you to have any prior training in language or politics. I do ask for diligent attention to reading and written assignments, participation in class and readiness to learn. I expect that no one will plagiarize and all will adhere strictly to the Academic Honor Code: <https://www.bowdoin.edu/dean-of-students/student-handbook/the-academic-honor-code-and-social-code.html>

I strongly prefer note-taking by hand, rather than with a computer. Please put phones in backpacks.

Learning Goals

I believe every student is capable of learning all material presented, even as they approach learning from different strengths. The course will use diverse methods to value and stretch all class members.

- In terms of CONTENT, you will learn to:
 - o Observe the variety of language constellations around the world
 - o Appreciate how languages shift over time and space
 - o Understand causal and normative theories about language outcomes
 - o Consider multiple policy options regarding language within state boundaries
- In terms of SKILLS, you will learn:
 - o *Strategic reading and note-taking*: extracting the central points efficiently and purposely
 - o *Qualitative research*: finding descriptive and policy information about languages/states
 - o *Quantitative research*: discovering/calculating information about languages/speakers
 - o *Presentation*: interviewing/sharing information with class members
 - o *Synthesis and analysis*: describing and articulating differences among theories/cases
 - o *Evaluation*: adjudicating among theories/proposing policy options

Readings

There is only one required book for the course. It is available for purchase, and it will be on 2-hour reserve in H-L Library. The remaining reading assignments are drawn from a variety of sources, available on [e-reserves](#) [ER] or otherwise electronically as indicated in the course outline.

Nicholas Ostler, *The Last Lingua Franca*. New York: Walker & Co, 2010.

Course Requirements (see Assignments & Activities handout for more detail)

1. Class Participation	20%
2. Group Exercise	10%
3. Concept Quiz	15%
4. Research Project	30%
5. Final Exam	25%

Assignments

1. Class Participation
 - a. *Contribution* (each session):
 - i. Keep up with the readings and come to class prepared to discuss them. Become the class expert on the language situation in a country of your choice by researching its language history, following its current language politics, and sharing your knowledge with the class wherever appropriate.
 - ii. The **Community-Based Option** of volunteering to tutor at Portland Adult Education would also provide an avenue for bringing new insights to class.
 - b. *Discussion Leadership* (one session):
 - i. Kick off our discussion of the topic for the day by making an observation or posing a question to the class. Email me by 8:00 pm the evening before with some of your thoughts. You might note how the authors for the day relate to each other, how they might relate to prior discussions, or how you found a particular point interesting or troubling. This is also an excellent venue to begin exploring how the day's topic may be reflected in your chosen country.
2. Group Exercise (**2/25**)
3. Concept Quiz (**3/3**): definitions, paragraph answers
4. Research Project (max 10 pages; final due **5/1**)
 - a. Description (≈4 pages; due **3/27**)
 - b. Analysis & Prescription (≈4 pages; working draft **4/23**)
5. Final Exam (**5/12**): definitions, paragraph answers, short essay

COURSE OUTLINE

Date	Session	Assignments	Pages
INTRODUCTION			
Tue 1/21	Session 1	None In Class: "Can English Remain the 'World's 'Favourite' Language" and "Why Angolan Singer Writes Songs in Kimbundu"	
Thu 1/23	Session 2	Situating Global Languages In-Class Activity: Linguistic Inventory Kanishk Tharoor, "Swimmer Among the Stars" in <i>Swimmer Among the Stars</i> (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2017), pp. 3-19 [Blackboard/Syllabus]	16
US IMMIGRATION & LANGUAGE POLICY			
Tue 1/28	Session 3	Shirley Brice Heath, "Why No Official Tongue?" [1976] in James Crawford, ed., <i>Language Loyalties</i> (1992): 20-30 [ER] Rubén Rumbaut and Douglas Massey, "Immigration and Language Diversity in the United States" <i>Daedalus</i> 142, 3 (Summer 2013): 141-154 [Academic Search Complete]	10 13
Thu 1/30	Session 4	Nancy Benac, "Workers, Strivers, Huddled Masses: Immigration in America" Associated Press 26 January 2017 Jack Schneider, "Memory Test: A History of U.S. Citizenship Education and Examination" <i>Teachers College Record</i> 112, 9 (Sept 2010): 2379-2404 [Blackboard/Syllabus] Nicholas Ostler, "The Edges of English" in <i>The Last Lingua Franca</i> (2010), pp. 3-30.	≈3 20 28
Tue 2/4	*8:00 AM* Session 5	Citizenship Training with Moey Burchenal David Crystal, "Why English? The Historical Context" in <i>English as a Global Language</i> , 2nd ed. (2003) pp. 29-71 (lots of maps!) [ER] (Will discuss Thursday) Read ahead	≈30
LANGUAGE SPREAD			
Thu 2/6	Session 6	Philip Gooden, "Chaucer's English," "The Age of Shakespeare," and "Faith and Science," in <i>The Story of English: How the English Language Conquered the World</i> (2009), pp. 61-70, 80-83, 85-106, 107-120 [ER]	50
Tue 2/11	Session 7	Nicholas Ostler, intro to "The Pragmatism of Empire," conclusion to "When the Writ of Persian Ran," parts of "Traders' Languages and the Language for Trade" and "God's Own Language" in <i>The Last Lingua Franca</i> (2010) pp. 65-67, 111-113, 114-123 and 141-146 and 161-162, 167-169 Nicholas Ostler, parts of "Triumphs of Fertility," "Contesting Europe: Celt, Roman, German and Slav," "The First Death of Latin," and	≈20

"The Second Death of Latin" in *Empires of the Word* (2005), pp. 116-117, 134-137, 167-173, 295-314, 315-321, 325-330 [ER] ≈35

LANGUAGE, NATIONALISM, AND DEMOCRACY

Thu 2/13	Session 8	Linda Cardinal and Selma Sonntag, "Introduction" in <i>State Traditions and Language Regimes</i> (2017): pp. 3-14 [ER]	11
		Jean Laponce "Politics and the Law of Babel" <i>Social Science Information</i> 40, 2 (2001), pp. 179-194	15
		(excerpt) Max Weber, "Formal and Substantive Rationalization" in <i>Economy and Society</i> , Vol. 2 (1922/1968), pp. 809-811 [ER]	3
		(skim) Eric Hobsbawm, "The Government Perspective" in <i>Nations and Nationalism Since 1780</i> (1992), 80-100 [ER]	<20
Tue 2/18	Session 9	John Stuart Mill, "Of Nationality as Connected with Representative Government" in <i>Considerations on Representative Government</i> (1861/1882), pp. 308-319 [ER]	11
		(excerpt) Karl Deutsch, "Communication" and "National Consciousness" in <i>Nationalism and Social Communication</i> (1953), pp. 97 and 172-176 [ER]	6
		Ernest Gellner, "Industrial Society" in <i>Nations and Nationalism</i> (1983/2008), pp. 19-37 [ER]	18
		Benedict Anderson, "The Origins of National Consciousness" <i>Imagined Communities</i> (1991), pp. 37-46 [E-book and Blackboard/Syllabus]	10
Thu 2/20	Session 10	Eugen Weber, "A Wealth of Tongues," "France, One and Indivisible," and "Migration," in <i>Peasants into Frenchmen: The Modernization of Rural France</i> (1976), pp. 67-94, 95-114, 278-291, [ER]	50
Tue 2/25	Session 11	Eugen Weber, "Military Service" and "Schools and Schooling" in <i>Peasants into Frenchmen: The Modernization of Rural France</i> (1976), pp. 292-302 and 303-338 [ER]	47
		Group Exercise	

LANGUAGE AND EMPIRE

Thu 2/27	Session 12	Nicholas Ostler, parts of "In the Train of Empire: Europe's Languages Abroad" in <i>Empires of the Word</i> (2005), pp. 403-420, 444-446 [ER]	20
		Abram de Swaan, "Introduction: the Global Language System" in <i>Words of the World</i> (2001), pp. Skim 1-17; read 18-21 [ER]	≈10
		(skim) Robert Phillipson, "Colonial Linguistic Inheritance" <i>Linguistic Imperialism</i> (1992), pp. 109-135 [ER]; focus on pp. 115, 123, 127	≈15
Tue 3/3	Session 13	Concept Quiz	
Thu 3/5	Session 14	TBA	

SPRING BREAK (3/6-3/22) – Enjoy!!

Tue 3/24	Session 15	INDIA Asha Sarangi, "India's Language Regime: The Eighth Schedule" in Linda Cardinal and Selma Sonntag, eds. <i>State Traditions and Language Regimes</i> (2015), pp. 205-216 [ER]	11
		Srinivasa Rao, "India's Language Debates and Education of Linguistic Minorities" <i>Economic & Political Weekly</i> (6 September 2008): 63-68 [Blackboard/Syllabus]	6
		Santosh Kumar Khare, "Truth about Language in India" <i>Economic and Political Weekly</i> 37, 50 (Dec 2002): 4993-4994. [Blackboard/Syllabus]	2
Thu 3/26	Session 16	ALGERIA Ericka Albaugh, "Language and Education in Africa under Mission and Colonial Influence" in <i>State-Building and Multilingual Education in Africa</i> (2014); read pp. 1-20; skim 21-33; read 33-36 [Blackboard/Syllabus]	<30
		Jules Ferry, "On French Colonial Expansion" (1884)	3
		Mohamed Benrabah, "Language and Politics in Algeria" in <i>Language, Ethnic Identity and the State</i> , edited by William Safran and Jean Laponce (2005), pp. 59-75 [ER]	17

FRI 3/27 Descriptive Section of Paper Due – 5:00 pm

Tue 3/31	Session 17	Salikoko Mufwene, "Language Birth and Death" <i>Annual Review of Anthropology</i> 33 (October 2004): 201-219 [JSTOR]	15
		Ericka Albaugh, "Language Movement and Civil War in West Africa" in Albaugh and de Luna, ed. <i>Tracing Language Movement in Africa</i> (2017), pp.187-211 [ER]	24

LANGUAGE, EDUCATION, AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Thu 4/2	Session 18	Abram de Swaan, "The Elementary Curriculum as a National Communication Code" in <i>In Care of the State</i> (1988), pp. 52-66, 71-87 [ER]	32
		Andy Green, John Preston and Ricardo Sabates, "Education and Social Cohesion: A Distributional Approach" <i>Compare</i> 33, 4 (Dec 2003): 453- 268 [Academic Search Complete]	16
Tue 4/7	Session 19	Stephen May, "Language, Education and Minority Rights" in <i>Language and Minority Rights</i> , 2 nd ed. (2012), pp. 175-195 [ER]	20
		Stéphanie Rousseau and Eduardo Dargent, "The Construction of Indigenous Language Rights in Peru: A Language Regime Approach" <i>Journal of Politics in Latin America</i> 11, 2 (2019): 161-180 [Blackboard/Syllabus]	20

Thu 4/9	Session 20	Kathleen Heugh, "Language Policy and Education in Southern Africa" in <i>Encyclopedia of Language and Education</i> , 2 nd Ed., Volume 1, ed. Stephen May and Nancy Hornberger (2008): 355-367 [Library E-Book]	13
		Chinua Achebe, "The African Writer and the English Language" in <i>Morning Yet on Creation Day</i> (1975): 91-103 [ER]	12
		Ngugi Wa Thiong'o, "The Language of African Literature" in <i>Decolonizing the Mind</i> (1986): 4-30 [ER]	26
Tue 4/14	Session 21	Tove Skutnabb-Kangas and Robert Phillipson "A Human Rights Perspective on Language Ecology" in (Volume 9 of) <i>Encyclopedia of Language and Education</i> , 2 nd edition, ed. Nancy H. Hornberger (2008), pp. 3-14 [Library e-Book]	12
		Tove Skutnabb-Kangas and Robert Phillipson "Linguicide" in <i>Concise Encyclopedia of Sociolinguistics</i> , ed. Mesthrie Rajend (2001), pp. 567-570	4
		(excerpt) Will Kymlicka and Alan Patten, "Introduction: Language Rights and Political Theory" in <i>Language Rights and Political Theory</i> (2003), pp. 26-31 [ER]	5
		Michael Blake, "Language Death and Liberal Politics" in Will Kymlicka and Alan Patten, eds., <i>Language Rights and Political Theory</i> (2003), pp. 210-229 [ER]	20
Thu 4/16	Session 22	David Laitin and Rob Reich, "A Liberal Democratic Approach to Language Justice" in <i>Language Rights and Political Theory</i> , ed. Will Kymlicka and Alan Patten (2003) pp. 80-104 [ER]	25
		Douglas Kibbee "Language Policy and Linguistic Theory" in <i>Languages in a Globalising World</i> , ed. Jacques Maurais and Michael Morris (2003), pp. 47-57 [Blackboard/Syllabus]	10
		H.E. Baber, "Dilemmas of Multiculturalism: An Introduction" <i>The Monist</i> 95, 1 (2012): 5-6; 12-13 (portions) [Academic Search Complete]	4
Tue 4/21	Session 23	Daniele Archibugi, "The Language of Democracy: Vernacular or Esperanto" <i>Political Studies</i> 53 (2005), pp. 545-553 (not entire) [Academic Search Complete] [continued....]	8
		Peter Ives, "Cosmopolitanism and Global English: Language Politics in Globalisation Debates" <i>Political Studies</i> 58, 3 (2010), pp. 516-535 [Academic Search Complete]	20
		Robert Phillipson, "Lingua franca or lingua frankensteinia? English in European Integration and Globalization" <i>World Englishes</i> , 27/2 (2008), pp. 250-264 (not entire) [Academic Search Complete]	15

LANGUAGE AND GLOBALIZATION

Thu 4/23	Session 24	(skim) Nicholas Ostler, "How Various in the Future?" in <i>The Last Lingua Franca</i> (2010), pp. 31-62 Bring working draft of paper to class	32
Tue 4/28	Session 25	Nicholas Ostler, "Regeneration," "Ruin & Relegation," "Resignation" and "Other Big Beasts" in <i>The Last Lingua Franca</i> (2010), pp. 173-181, 192-202, 203-222, 225-248	62
Thu 4/30	Session 26	Nicholas Ostler, "The Jungle is Neutral" and "Under an English Sun" in <i>The Last Lingua Franca</i> (2010), pp., 249-266, 267-286 Foued Laroussi, "Arabic and the New Technologies" in <i>Languages in a Globalising World</i> ed. Jacques Maurais and Michael Morris (2003), pp. 250-258 [<i>E-brary and Blackboard/Syllabus</i>]	37 9
FRI 5/1 Final Paper Due – 5:00 pm			
Tue 5/5	Session 27	TBA John McWhorter, "What the World Will Speak in 2115" <i>Wall Street Journal</i> 2 January 2015	4

FINAL EXAM: TUESDAY, MAY 12TH (8:30 – 11:30 AM)