

**University of Arkansas - Fort Smith**  
**5210 Grand Avenue**  
**P. O. Box 3649**  
**Fort Smith, AR 72913-3649**  
**479-788-7000**

### **General Syllabus**

#### **FORL 2503 Language and Society**

Credit Hours: 3                      Lecture Hours: 3              Laboratory or other types of Hours: 0

Prerequisite(s): ENGL 1203 Composition I or ENGL 1233 Honors Composition  
 Effective Catalog: 2020-2021

#### **I. Course Information**

##### **A. Catalog Description**

Study of the basic characteristics of language and its use and variations in society.

##### **B. Additional Information**

This course surveys topics in the study of language related to its use in society, including how it is used differentially according to the gender, age, ethnicity, and nationality of the speaker, and depending on the context, genre, level of formality and medium of communication.

#### **II. Student Learning Outcomes**

##### **A. Subject Matter**

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Identify features of language and possible variations
2. Recognize social and contextual factors that influence variations in language form and language use
3. Report on observed variations in language form and language use
4. Interpret observations based on knowledge of social and contextual factors that influence language form and use
5. Examine language form and use in a specific area related to class topics

##### **B. University Learning Outcomes**

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

###### **Analytical Skills**

###### **Critical Thinking Skills**

Students will identify problems/issues related to language and society and reflect on potential solutions/consequences related to these problems/issues

through writing and oral assignments.

**Communication Skills (written and oral)**

Students will communicate proficiently. Students will communicate both orally and in writing throughout the class on topics related to language and society.

**Ethical Decision Making**

Students will model ethical decision-making processes. Students will develop in this area by identifying and discussing various ethical issues related to the topics of the class.

**Global and Cultural Perspectives**

Students will reflect upon cultural differences and their implications for interacting with people from cultures other than their own. Students will develop in this area by discussing, either orally or in writing, global and cultural perspectives related to course topics.

**IV. Major Course Topics**

- A. The nature of language: structure and origins
- B. Language, culture, and ethnicity
- C. Language and medium of communication
- D. Language in the professions (e.g. education, law/criminal justice, business, health care, STEM)
- E. Language and politics
- F. Language and gender
- G. Standard and non-standard language