

**TERM:** FALL 2025  
**COURSE TITLE:** Reading Multilingual Cities

**COURSE NUMBER:** MDLG 4400.01 **CRN:** 41647

**SECTION TIMES/DAYS:** 3:40-5:20 p.m. **MW**  
**INSTRUCTOR:** Prof. Yu Li

**CORE AREA (IF APPLICABLE):** INT: Interdisciplinary Connections  
**FLAGS (IF APPLICABLE):** N/A

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPAL TOPICS**

This course is a critical introduction to the interdisciplinary field of linguistic landscape (LL) studies. It explores the concept of the LL as the visual representation of languages in public spaces and examines the interplay of language, power, and identity within social, political, and historical contexts. The course emphasizes how linguistic landscapes reflect, maintain, and challenge systems of power, privilege, and oppression. Through critical analysis of class, race, gender and sexuality, religion, migration, and colonialism, students will develop a nuanced understanding of how language operates within these systems. Cross-cultural comparisons between multiple international cities aim to foster students' growth as "persons for others" and agents of change in a diverse and interconnected world.

### **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

By the end of this course, students will be able to: (1) Define and critically analyze the role of linguistic landscapes in shaping and reflecting power structures. (2) Describe the relationship between language and social hierarchies, including class, race, gender and sexuality, migration, and colonialism. (3) Conduct fieldwork on linguistic landscapes in local contexts, gathering data and analyzing the ways in which language use in public spaces reflects or challenges systems of power. (4) Reflect on their own positionality in relation to power and privilege and engage in conversations about social justice through the lens of language. (5) Develop frameworks for action that promote equity, inclusivity, and linguistic justice in both local and global contexts.

### **PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND**

Prerequisite: MDLL 3400 or permission of instructor (please email Dr. Li at [yu.li@lmu.edu](mailto:yu.li@lmu.edu)).

### **REQUIRED TEXTS**

No textbook required. Electronic reading materials will be made available on Brightspace.

### **COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS**

Coursework includes readings, quizzes, discussions, visual diary, field trips and reflections, and a final research project.

**TERM:** FALL 2025  
**COURSE TITLE:** Senior Capstone Project

**COURSE NUMBER:** MDLG 4990.01 CRN 41648  
**SECTION TIMES/DAYS:** TBD  
**INSTRUCTOR:** Prof. Yu Li

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPAL TOPICS**

The Senior Capstone Project requires students to construct a professional-quality portfolio of representative works generated during their MDLG major course of study. These include (1) a carefully selected variety of corrected written, visual, and/or recorded materials created during the required courses (MDLG 3400 and MDLG 4400 / FNLT 4200, or their equivalents) and courses taken in both language concentrations (A and B); (2) an original reflective essay on the University's mission, among other considerations; and (3) a description of extracurricular activities connected to the MDLG major. Students give a presentation of their portfolio and answer questions from a faculty panel at the oral defense. This course is graded CR/NC.

### **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

By completing the Senior Capstone Project, students will be able to demonstrate

- Knowledge of the principal aspects of two additional languages and cultures;
- Proficiency to speak, understand, write, and linguistically analyze the two languages;
- Ability to read a variety of texts in the two languages and discuss their contents, techniques, and cultural significance;
- Ability to analyze a variety of cultural productions (e.g., literature, art, social practices, and media) in the two cultures;
- Clear appreciation of multilingualism and multiculturalism and robust intercultural awareness

### **PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND**

- Senior status;
- Completion of or in progress with all courses required for the MDLG major;
- Instructor's consent to enroll is required.

### **REQUIRED TEXTS**

- No textbooks required.

### **COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS**

- Three to five meetings during the semester;
- Construction and timely submission of (1) an original Reflective Essay, 6-8 pages in length, (2) a Cover Sheet, (3) a Table of Contents, and (4) an annotated List of Extracurricular Activities for the portfolio;
- Oral presentation of portfolio and responses to questions in English and target languages at oral defense.

NOTE: The portfolio must be submitted at least three weeks in advance of the oral defense. Failure to submit the portfolio by the due date and/or failure to participate in the oral presentation will result in a grade of NC.