Language planning is what governments do to determine how languages are used. Historically, these activities promote the use of one or more language(s) and discourage the use of other(s), but many countries have become concerned with protecting regional and ethnic languages whose viability may be threatened.

Spoken on five continents by over 200 million people, French is the language of the majority in some parts of the world and a minority language in danger of extinction in others; and case studies of its situation in Europe (France, Belgium, Switzerland), North America (Canada and the United States), and North (Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia) and West (Cameroon, Senegal and the Ivory Coast) Africa allow us to investigate language policies in a broad spectrum of multilingual settings. As we consider the complex political, economic, and social forces that must be taken into account if language practices are to be institutionalized, we will ask whether such practices can be successful in promoting both social cohesion and unique cultural identities.

AFRE 201

TAUGHT in ENGLISH      Tuesday/Thursday 11:45-1:05

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