City University of Hong Kong
Course Syllabus

offered by Department of Linguistics and Translation
with effect from Semester A 2024 / 25

Part I Course Overview

Course Title:	Syntax and Morphology
Course Code:	LT5402
Course Duration:	One semester
Credit Units:	3
Level:	P5
Medium of Instruction:	English
Medium of Assessment:	English
Prerequisites: *(Course Code and Title)*	Nil
Precursors: *(Course Code and Title)*	Nil
Equivalent Courses: *(Course Code and Title)*	CTL5402 Syntax and Morphology
Exclusive Courses: *(Course Code and Title)*	Nil

Part II Course Details

1. Abstract

The course aims to expose students to morphological and syntactic structures of natural language. They will learn how to observe, describe and explain syntactic and morphological phenomena, and apply the analytic skills acquired in class to discover new solutions for new data.

2. Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

(CILOs state what the student is expected to be able to do at the end of the course according to a given standard of performance.)

No.	CILOs	Weighting (if applicable)	Discovery-enriched curriculum related learning outcomes (please tick ✓ where appropriate)		
			A1	*A2*	*A3*
1.	Observe and describe the surface and underlying structures of words, phrases and clauses in terms of tree diagrams and labelled bracketing.	20%	✓	✓	
2.	Analyse the surface and underlying structures of words, phrases and clauses in terms of tree diagrams and labelled bracketing.	20%	✓	✓	✓
3.	Explain the data by the grammatical rules and principles	30%	✓	✓	
4.	Apply the analytic skills learned in class to new data in exercises.	30%		✓	✓
		100%			

A1: Attitude
Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

A2: Ability
Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to real-life problems.

A3: *Accomplishments*
Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

3. Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

(LTAs designed to facilitate students' achievement of the CILOs.)

LTA	Brief Description	CILO No.						Hours/week (if applicable)
		1	2	3	4			
1	**Lecture –** Students will gradually gain a solid foundation for doing theoretical syntax and morphology.	✓	✓	✓	✓			3 hours
2	**Individual Reading –** Students will read lecture and tutorial notes and additional literature proposed by the instructor.	✓	✓	✓	✓			
3	**Exercises –** Students practice applying concepts introduced in the lectures to the analysis of new data.	✓	✓	✓	✓			

4. Assessment Tasks/Activities (ATs)

(ATs are designed to assess how well the students achieve the CILOs.)

Assessment Tasks/Activities	CILO No.						Weighting	Remarks
	1	2	3	4				
Continuous Assessment: 60%								
Assignments Students have two weeks to turn in the assignments on analysis of new data.	✓	✓	✓	✓			30%	
Mid-term quiz Students demonstrate their understanding of the material discussed in the first half of the semester and apply their analytic skills in addressing issues and solving problems with new data.	✓	✓	✓	✓			30%	
Examination: 40% (duration: 2 hours, if applicable)								
							100%	

5. Assessment Rubrics

(Grading of student achievements is based on student performance in assessment tasks/activities with the following rubrics.)

Applicable to students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter

Assessment Task	Criterion	Excellent (A+, A, A-)	Good (B+, B, B-)	Fair (C+, C, C-)	Marginal (D)	Failure (F)
1. Assignments	Demonstration of understanding of the nature of the problems and ability to apply solutions for old problems to new ones.	Demonstration of high understanding of the nature of the problems and ability to apply solutions for old problems to new ones.	Demonstration of significant understanding of the nature of the problems and ability to apply solutions for old problems to new ones.	Demonstration of moderate understanding of the nature of the problems and ability to apply solutions for old problems to new ones.	Demonstration of basic understanding of the nature of the problems and ability to apply solutions for old problems to new ones.	Demonstration of little to no understanding of the nature of the problems and ability to apply solutions for old problems to new ones.
2. Mid-term quiz	Demonstration of understanding of the key concepts in syntax introduced in class and ability to solve novel syntax problems.	Demonstration of high understanding of the key concepts in syntax introduced in class and ability to solve novel syntax problems.	Demonstration of significant understanding of the key concepts in syntax introduced in class and ability to solve novel syntax problems.	Demonstration of moderate understanding of the key concepts in syntax introduced in class and ability to solve novel syntax problems.	Demonstration of basic understanding of the key concepts in syntax introduced in class and ability to solve novel syntax problems.	Demonstration of little to no understanding of the key concepts in syntax introduced in class and ability to solve novel syntax problems.
3. Final exam	Demonstration of understanding of the key concepts in syntax introduced in class and ability to solve novel syntax problems.	Demonstration of high understanding of the key concepts in syntax introduced in class and ability to solve novel syntax problems.	Demonstration of significant understanding of the key concepts in syntax introduced in class and ability to solve novel syntax problems.	Demonstration of moderate understanding of the key concepts in syntax introduced in class and ability to solve novel syntax problems.	Demonstration of basic understanding of the key concepts in syntax introduced in class and ability to solve novel syntax problems.	Demonstration of little to no understanding of the key concepts in syntax introduced in class and ability to solve novel syntax problems.

Applicable to students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024

Assessment Task	Criterion	Excellent (A+, A, A-)	Good (B+, B)	Marginal (B-, C+, C)	Failure (F)
1.Assignments	Demonstration of understanding of the nature of the problems and ability to apply solutions for old problems to new ones.	Demonstration of excellent understanding of the nature of the problems and ability to apply solutions for old problems to new ones.	Demonstration of good understanding of the nature of the problems and ability to apply solutions for old problems to new ones.	Demonstration of marginal understanding of the nature of the problems and ability to apply solutions for old problems to new ones.	Little to no demonstration of understanding of the nature of the problems and ability to apply solutions for old problems to new ones.
2. Mid-term quiz	Demonstration of understanding of the key concepts in syntax introduced in class and ability to solve novel syntax problems.	Demonstration of excellent understanding of the key concepts in syntax introduced in class and ability to solve novel syntax problems.	Demonstration of good understanding of the key concepts in syntax introduced in class and ability to solve novel syntax problems.	Demonstration of marginal understanding of the key concepts in syntax introduced in class and ability to solve novel syntax problems.	Little to no demonstration of understanding of the key concepts in syntax introduced in class and ability to solve novel syntax problems.
3. Final exam	Demonstration of understanding of the key concepts in syntax introduced in class and ability to solve novel syntax problems.	Demonstration of excellent understanding of the key concepts in syntax introduced in class and ability to solve novel syntax problems.	Demonstration of good understanding of the key concepts in syntax introduced in class and ability to solve novel syntax problems.	Demonstration of marginal understanding of the key concepts in syntax introduced in class and ability to solve novel syntax problems.	Little to no demonstration of understanding of the key concepts in syntax introduced in class and ability to solve novel syntax problems.

Part III Other Information (more details can be provided separately in the teaching plan)

1. Keyword Syllabus

(An indication of the key topics of the course.)

Basic Notions: Syntax and morphology as components of grammar, competence and performance, infinite rule-governed creativity, levels of adequacy, universal and particular grammar, principles and parameters.
Structure and Formation of Words: Morphemes, morphological features, derivation, inflection, compounding, morphological structures.
Lexicon: Categorization and subcategorization, thematic roles, selectional restrictions.
Structure: Noun phrases, verb phrases, adjective phrases, prepositional phrases, inflections, complementizers, types of clauses.
Syntactic Rules: Question formation, relativization, topicalization, passivization, raising, head movement.
Syntactic Principles: structural relations, structural conditions on licensiing negative polarity items and binding, constraints on movement.

2. Reading List

2.1 Compulsory Readings

(Compulsory readings can include books, book chapters, or journal/magazine articles. There are also collections of e-books, e-journals available from the CityU Library.)

1.	Poole, Geoffrey. 2002. *Syntactic Theory*. Hampshire, NY: Palgrave.
2.	Lecture notes and in-class exercises.

2.2 Additional Readings

(Additional references for students to learn to expand their knowledge about the subject.)

1.	Haegeman, Liliane. 1994. *Introduction to Government and Binding Theory*. Second edition. Oxford: Blackwell.
2.	What is morphology? by Mark Aronoff and Kirsten Fuderman. 2011. Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell.
3.	Adger, David. 2003. *Core syntax: A minimalist approach*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
4.	Contemporary linguistics : An introduction / edited by William O'Grady, Michael Dobrovolsky, Francis Katamba. 1997. London/New York: Longman.