

**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:** Computational Linguistics

**Course Code:** LT5411

**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)* CTL5411 Computational Linguistics

**Exclusive Courses:**  
*(Course Code and Title)* Nil

## Part II Course Details

### 1. Abstract

This course aims at introducing students with various academic backgrounds to the quantitative aspects of language and the basic concepts of the application of computational techniques in language processing. The course will introduce quantitative notions about corpus data and explain how such data can be statistically described, analysed and tested. It will also cover topics selected from a wide range of issues and challenges of the field, including but not limited to multilingual computing, using computers in linguistic studies, natural language processing, and the use of large corpora in natural language applications. This course will also provide students with a foundation for further research in relevant areas.

### 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.	Identify key computational linguistic concepts and issues in major areas of study in the field, and recognize the importance of a quantitative approach to the study of human language.	30%	✓	✓	✓
2.	Explain the theoretical basis underlying major computational approaches to handling these issues, conduct and critique quantitative analysis of linguistic data.	40%	✓	✓	✓
3.	Review the development of one or more major area of research in computational linguistics, and devise innovative solutions to the critical issues based on quantitative observations and analysis.	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				
1	<b>Lectures</b> Students will engage in lecture activities regarding the major issues and concepts in computational linguistics and introduce different approaches to their solution. Interaction between instructor and students is expected.	✓	✓					2 hours
2	<b>Discussion</b> Students will discuss the theories and algorithms, and/or hands-on practical exercises involving the use of computational tools for various language processing tasks, to reinforce the concepts covered in lectures.	✓	✓					1 hour
3	<b>Independent Study</b> Students will conduct independent studies on a selected topic in a major area of research in computational linguistics	✓	✓	✓				
4	<b>Presentation</b> Students will present a selected topic in a major area of research in computational linguistics.	✓	✓	✓				

### 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					
Continuous Assessment: 100%								
<b>Assignments</b> on theories and applications in computational linguistics	✓	✓					30%	
<b>Quiz(zes)</b> on concepts and issues in computational linguistics, and theoretical basis underlying some computational approaches to their solutions	✓	✓					30%	
<b>Independent studies</b> on a selected topic in a major area of research in computational linguistics with <b>term essay</b> and class presentation (~3,000 words)	✓	✓	✓				40%	
Examination: % (duration: , 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	Ability to demonstrate competence in theories and applications in computational linguistics	High	Significant	Moderate	Basic	Not even reaching marginal levels
2. Quiz(zes)	Ability to demonstrate competence in concepts and issues in computational linguistics	High	Significant	Moderate	Basic	Not even reaching marginal levels
3. Independent studies	Ability to perform independent research on a selected topic in computational linguistics	High	Significant	Moderate	Basic	Not even reaching marginal levels

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	Ability to demonstrate competence in theories and applications in computational linguistics	High	Significant	Basic	Not even reaching marginal levels
2. Quiz(zes)	Ability to demonstrate competence in concepts and issues in computational linguistics	High	Significant	Basic	Not even reaching marginal levels
3. Independent studies	Ability to perform independent research on a selected topic in computational linguistics	High	Significant	Basic	Not even reaching marginal levels

## 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.)*

Natural language processing: Tokenisation, Morphological analysis, Part-of-speech tagging, Context-free rules, Parsing, Semantic representation, Disambiguation, Rule-based methods, Corpus-based methods, Statistical methods

Linguistic computing: Frequency counts, Quantitative methods in linguistic studies, Linguistic corpora, Text markup, Corpus annotation, Concordance

Natural language applications: Machine translation, Information retrieval, Information extraction, Natural language generation

Multilingual computing: Character encoding, Input and display, Internationalization and localization

### 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.	Manning, C.D. and Schutze, H. (1999). Foundations of Statistical Natural Language Processing. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press.
2.	Jurafsky, D. and Martin, J.H. (2009). Speech and Language Processing: An Introduction to Natural Language Processing, Computational Linguistics, and Speech Recognition (2nd Edition). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Prentice Hall.
3.	Allen, J. (1995). Natural Language Understanding. Redwood City, CA: Benjamin/Cummings.
4.	Oakes, M. (1998). Statistics for Corpus Linguistics. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press.

#### 2.2 Additional Readings

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

1.	Grishman, R. (1986) Computational Linguistics: An Introduction. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.
2.	Indurkha, N. and Damerau, F.J. (2010) Handbook of Natural Language Processing. Boca Raton, FL: Chapman & Hall.
3.	McEnery, T. and Wilson, A. (1996) Corpus Linguistics. Edinburgh, UK: Edinburgh University Press.
4.	Mitkov, R. (2003) Oxford Handbook of Computational Linguistics. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
5.	黃昌寧、李涓子 (2002) 《語料庫語言學》 北京：商務印書館
6.	俞士汶 (2003) 《計算語言學概論》 北京：商務印書館
7.	Journal and conference papers at ACL Anthology <a href="http://www.aclweb.org/anthology-index/">http://www.aclweb.org/anthology-index/</a>