

**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: Philosophy of Language

Course Code: LT5413

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) CTL5413 Philosophy of Language

Exclusive Courses:
(Course Code and Title) Nil

Part II Course Details

1. Abstract

This course aims to help students explore the multifaceted problems in the part of the philosophy of language which is closely related to their study with a view to broadening their intellectual horizons, deepening their understanding of language, sharpening their awareness of human cognition, and reinforcing their analytical and critical skills for tackling theoretical issues in their respective disciplines from the philosophical perspective. It also intends to enhance students' intellectual rigour and foster their critical spirit for the pursuit of examined scholarship.

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.	Explain the central issues in the philosophy of language relevant to their disciplines		✓	✓	
2.	Demonstrate a good knowledge of current literature on the philosophy of language		✓	✓	
3.	Analyse and evaluate conceptual issues from the logico-philosophical perspective		✓	✓	✓
4.	Demonstrate skills and techniques in analytical and critical thinking		✓	✓	✓
		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 self-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 with in-class discussion	✓						3 hours lecture; including in-class discussion
2	Lecture with in- class discussion on assigned readings		✓					
3	Lecture for student term project presentation			✓	✓			

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: 100%								
Presentation	✓	✓	✓	✓			30%	
Research paper on a specific problem (15 pages)	✓	✓	✓	✓			70%	
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. Presentation	1.1 Ability to explain the central issues in the philosophy of language relevant to their disciplines; 1.2 Ability to analyse and evaluate conceptual issues from the logico-philosophical perspective.	1. Excellent knowledge of key issues, basic concepts, ideas, principles and theories in philosophy of language.	1. Good knowledge of key issues, basic concepts, ideas, principles and theories in philosophy of language. 2. Good application of learned knowledge from the course to analysis and understanding of interesting language phenomena.	1. Adequate basic knowledge of key issues, basic concepts, ideas, principles and theories in philosophy of language. 2. Fair application of learned knowledge from the course to analysis and understanding of interesting language phenomena.	1. Basic knowledge of key issues, basic concepts, ideas, principles and theories in philosophy of language. 2. Marginal application of learned knowledge from the course to analysis and understanding of interesting language phenomena.	1. Poor familiarity with the subject matter. 2. Poor ability or fail to apply basic knowledge from this course to analysis and understanding of relevant language phenomena.
2. Research paper	1.1 Ability to explain the central issues in the philosophy of language relevant to their disciplines; 1.2 Ability to analyse and evaluate conceptual issues from the logico-philosophical perspective; 1.3 Ability to demonstrate analytical and critical thinking	2. Excellent, creative application of learned knowledge from the course to analysis and understanding of interesting language phenomena. 3. Very active participation and high performance.	3. Active participation and good performance.	3. Adequate participation and fair performance. 4. Basic familiarity with the subject matter as a whole.	3. Marginal participation and fair performance. 4. Marginal familiarity with the subject matter as a whole.	3. Poor participation and poor performance.

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. Presentation	1.1 Ability to explain the central issues in the philosophy of language relevant to their disciplines; 1.2 Ability to analyse and evaluate conceptual issues from the logico-philosophical perspective.	1. Excellent knowledge of key issues, basic concepts, ideas, principles and theories in philosophy of language. 2. Excellent, creative application of learned knowledge from the course to analysis and understanding of interesting language phenomena.	1. Good knowledge of key issues, basic concepts, ideas, principles and theories in philosophy of language. 2. Good application of learned knowledge from the course to analysis and understanding of interesting language phenomena.	1. Adequate basic knowledge of key issues, basic concepts, ideas, principles and theories in philosophy of language. 2. Fair or marginal application of learned knowledge from the course to analysis and understanding of interesting language phenomena.	1. Poor familiarity with the subject matter. 2. Poor ability or fail to apply basic knowledge from this course to analysis and understanding of relevant language phenomena.
2. Research paper	1.1 Ability to explain the central issues in the philosophy of language relevant to their disciplines; 1.2 Ability to analyse and evaluate conceptual issues from the logico-philosophical perspective; 1.3 Ability to demonstrate analytical and critical thinking	3. Very active participation and high performance.	3. Active participation and good performance.	3. Adequate or marginal participation and fair performance. 4. Basic or marginal familiarity with the subject matter as a whole.	3. Poor participation and poor performance.

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.)

The linguistic turn; Central questions in the philosophy of language; Philosophy and semantics; Philosophy and syntax; Philosophy and pragmatics; Philosophical foundations of linguistic theories; Language and the world; Language and the mind; Language and knowledge; Language and science; Language and arts; Language and life; human language vs. animal language

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.	Katz, Jerrold J. (Ed). 1985. <i>The Philosophy of Linguistics</i> . Oxford: OUP.
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2.2 Additional Readings

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

1.	Austin, J. L. 1975. <i>How To Do Things With Words</i> . Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard UP.
2.	Black, Max. 1993. "More about metaphor". In Andrew Ortony (ed.), <i>Metaphor and Thought</i> . 2 nd ed. Cambridge: CUP.
3.	Grice, Paul. 1989. <i>Studies in the Way of Words</i> . Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard UP.
4.	Harris, Roy. 1981. <i>The Language Myth</i> . London: Duckworth.
5.	Lakoff, George. 1993. "The contemporary theory of metaphor", in Andrew Ortony (ed.), <i>Metaphor and Thought</i> . 2 nd ed. Cambridge: CUP.
6.	Miller, Alexander (Ed.). 2007. <i>Philosophy of Language</i> . 2 nd ed. Oxon: Routledge
7.	Orwell, George. 1968. "Politics and the English Language", in <i>Complete Works</i> . London: Secker & Warburg, 735-744.
8.	Selected entries from <i>Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy</i> ; <i>The Cambridge Dictionary of Philosophy</i> ; <i>The Oxford Companion to Philosophy</i> ; <i>The Blackwell Introduction to Philosophy</i> ; and many other online sources.