

**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: Language and Its Applications

Course Code: LT5903

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) CTL5901 Language, Cognition and Culture /
LT5901 Language, Cognition and Culture

Exclusive Courses:
(Course Code and Title) Nil

Part II Course Details

1. Abstract

This course introduces the basic properties of natural language and how they are related to other aspects of human cognition. In order to provide a broad understanding of human languages, this course covers major subfields in Linguistics, including phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, pragmatics, language acquisition, psycholinguistics, neurolinguistics, sociolinguistics, computational linguistics and applied linguistics. Upon completion of the course, students would be able to identify and analyse the human language in general, which is the essential defining characteristic of human beings. Students would also be able to describe and theorize how language bears on practical aspects of life such as language technology and language pedagogy.

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.	Discover the basic properties of natural language and how they are related to other aspects of human cognition.		✓	✓	✓
2.	Describe and analyse the phonetic, phonological, syntactic and semantic properties of natural language.		✓	✓	✓
3.	Analyse natural language data; identify and explain patterns in language and language use.		✓	✓	✓
4.	Discover and explain language application in the practical aspects of life		✓	✓	✓
		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.)

The course is delivered in a blended mode. Lectures will be recorded prior to the in-person meeting hour. Students can revisit online lectures to reinforce learning and prepare before-hand. Pre-recorded lectures are supplemented by face-to-face class activities focusing on team-based learning, application, quizzes, discussions and Q&A.

LTA	Brief Description	CILO No.				Hours/week (if applicable)
		1	2	3	4	
1	Reading – Students will read academic books and articles	√	√	√	√	3 hours
2	Pre-recorded lecture – Students will watch pre-recorded lectures covering basic concepts and theories, including explanation and illustration of how to systematically analyze linguistic data.	√	√	√	√	
3	Face-to-face class activities – Students will participate in class exercises that apply concepts to data analysis and practice elaborating on these concepts and theories in problem solving activities	√	√	√	√	

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%						
In-class group assignments	√	√	√		30%	
One research paper on topics related to language and its applications (length: 2,000 words)	√			√	30%	
End-of-term test	√	√	√	√	40%	
Examination: 0% (duration: / hours)						
					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. In-class group assignments	Demonstrate understanding of the nature of natural languages and basic concepts of linguistics and how they can be used in analysing our language.	Demonstrate strong evidence of capacity to analyse and synthesize; superior grasp of basic concepts of linguistics; and evidence of excellent understanding of key issues involved in the nature of natural languages.	Demonstrate good evidence of capacity to analyse and synthesize; grasp of basic concepts of linguistics, and evidence of good understanding of key issues involved in the nature of natural languages.	Demonstrate some evidence of ability to develop solutions to simple problems in the study; adequate understanding of basic concepts of linguistics and key issues involved in the nature of natural languages.	Demonstrate limited evidence of ability to develop solutions to simple problems in the study; adequate understanding of basic concepts of linguistics and key issues involved in the nature of natural languages.	Demonstrate no understanding of basic concepts of linguistics and key issues involved in the nature of natural languages.
2. One research paper on topics related to language and its applications	Demonstrate through writing the ability to critically discuss and appreciate fundamental issues in how linguistics is applied and the applications of language.	Demonstrate strong evidence of excellent ability through writing to critically discuss and appreciate fundamental issues in linguistics and the applications of language.	Demonstrate evidence of good ability through writing to critically discuss and appreciate fundamental issues in linguistics and the applications of language.	Demonstrate adequate ability through writing to discuss fundamental issues in linguistics and the applications of language.	Demonstrate limited ability through writing to discuss fundamental issues in linguistics and the applications of language.	Demonstrate no ability through writing to discuss fundamental issues in linguistics and the applications of language.
3. End-of-term test	Demonstrate understanding of basic concepts in linguistics and fundamental issues in language applications.	Demonstrate excellent understanding of basic concepts and fundamental issues in linguistics and language applications, and strong evidence of capacity to analyse natural languages.	Demonstrate good understanding of basic concepts and fundamental issues in linguistics and language applications, and some evidence of capacity to analyse natural languages.	Demonstrate adequate understanding of basic concepts and fundamental issues in linguistics and language applications.	Demonstrate limited understanding of basic concepts and fundamental issues in linguistics and language applications.	Demonstrate no understanding of basic concepts and fundamental issues in linguistics and language applications.

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. In-class group assignments	Demonstrate understanding of the nature of natural languages and basic concepts of linguistics and how they can be used in analysing our language.	Demonstrate strong evidence of capacity to analyse and synthesize; superior grasp of basic concepts of linguistics; and evidence of excellent understanding of key issues involved in the nature of natural languages.	Demonstrate good evidence of capacity to analyse and synthesize; grasp of basic concepts of linguistics, and evidence of good understanding of key issues involved in the nature of natural languages.	Demonstrate some evidence of ability to develop solutions to simple problems in the study; adequate understanding of basic concepts of linguistics and key issues involved in the nature of natural languages.	Demonstrate no understanding of basic concepts of linguistics and key issues involved in the nature of natural languages.
2. One research paper on topics related to language and its applications	Demonstrate through writing the ability to critically discuss and appreciate fundamental issues in how linguistics is applied and the applications of language.	Demonstrate strong evidence of excellent ability through writing to critically discuss and appreciate fundamental issues in linguistics and the applications of language.	Demonstrate evidence of good ability through writing to critically discuss and appreciate fundamental issues in linguistics and the applications of language.	Demonstrate adequate ability through writing to discuss fundamental issues in linguistics and the applications of language.	Demonstrate no ability through writing to discuss fundamental issues in linguistics and the applications of language.
3. End-of-term test	Demonstrate understanding of basic concepts in linguistics and fundamental issues in language applications.	Demonstrate excellent understanding of basic concepts and fundamental issues in linguistics and language applications, and strong evidence of capacity to analyse natural languages.	Demonstrate good understanding of basic concepts and fundamental issues in linguistics and language applications, and some evidence of capacity to analyse natural languages.	Demonstrate adequate understanding of basic concepts and fundamental issues in linguistics and language applications.	Demonstrate no understanding of basic concepts and fundamental issues in linguistics and language applications.

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.)

Phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, pragmatics, language acquisition, psycholinguistics, neurolinguistics, sociolinguistics, computational linguistics, applied linguistics.

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.	Lecture notes/slides/readings for the course.
2.	Department of Linguistics, the Ohio State University <i>Language Files: Materials for an Introduction to Language and Linguistics 13th Edition</i> , The Ohio State University Press. 2022.

2.2 Additional Readings

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

1.	Fromkin, V., Rodman, R. and Hyams, N., <i>An introduction to language</i> , 2011. Wadsworth: Cengage Learning.
2.	Fasold, Ralph W. and Connor-Linton J. <i>An introduction to language and linguistics</i> , 2014. 2 nd edition. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
3.	Pinker, Steven. <i>The language instinct</i> . 2001. New York: HarperCollins.