

**City University of Hong Kong**

**Information on a Course**  
offered by Department of Linguistics and Translation  
with effect from Semester A in 2014/2015

---

---

**Part I**

<b>Course Title:</b>	Syntax and Morphology
<b>Course Code:</b>	LT5402
<b>Course Duration:</b>	One semester
<b>Credit Units:</b>	3
<b>Level:</b>	P5
<b>Medium of Instruction:</b>	English
<b>Prerequisites:</b>	Nil
<b>Precursors:</b>	Nil
<b>Equivalent Courses:</b>	CTL5402 Syntax and Morphology
<b>Exclusive Courses:</b>	Nil

**Part II**

**Course Aims**

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.

### Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

*Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:*

No.	CILOs	Weighting (if applicable)
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%

### Teaching and Learning Activities (TLAs)

*(Indicative of likely activities and tasks designed to facilitate students' achievement of the CILOs. Final details will be provided to students in their first week of attendance in this course)*

CILO No.	TLAs	Hours/week (if applicable)
CILO 1-4	In the lectures, learn (a) how complex morphological structures are built up from simpler ones; (b) how morphological structures are related to the phonological structure and semantics; (c) how phrases are built from morphological units; (d) how phrases and clauses are structurally represented; (d) why some logically possible morphological and syntactic structures are excluded by general constraints on the morphology and syntax in natural language..	2 hours
CILO 2-4	In the tutorials, discussion and practice of how methods for solving old problems can be used to recognize problems in new data and applied to discover new solutions.	1 hour
CILO 1-4	In assignments, the skills of argumentation learned in class and the tutorials are applied to new data.	2 hours
CILO 1-4	On Blackboard, clarification and other questions going beyond the lectures and tutorials may be raised.	0.5 hour

### Assessment Tasks/Activities

(Indicative of likely activities and tasks designed to assess how well the students achieve the CILOs. Final details will be provided to students in their first week of attendance in this course)

CILO No.	Type of Assessment Tasks/Activities	Weighting (if applicable)	Remarks
CILO 1-4	Participation (In-class individual assignments)	10%	
CILO 1-4	Assignments (four)	20%	
CILO 1-4	Midterm quiz (2 hrs)	35%	
CILO 1-4	Final exam (2 hrs)	35%	

**Grading of Student Achievement:** Refer to Grading of Courses in the Academic Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Degrees.

Grading pattern: standard (A+, A, A-...F). Grading is based on students' performance in assessment tasks/activities.

A+ A A-	Excellent understanding of concepts, terminology and findings in Syntax and Morphology; Demonstrates high level of initiative in discussion; Properly documented assignments; Precise, clear writing; All criteria addressed to a high level.
B+ B B-	Clear understanding of concepts, terminology and findings in Syntax and Morphology; Demonstrates initiative in discussion; Properly documented assignments; Precise, clear writing; All criteria addressed clearly, and most to a high level.
C+ C C-	Good understanding of concepts, terminology and findings in Syntax and Morphology; Demonstrates control in discussion; Properly documented assignments; Precise, clear writing, with few grammatical errors; All criteria addressed clearly

D	<p>Satisfactory understanding of concepts, terminology and findings in Syntax and Morphology;</p> <p>Demonstrates control in discussion;</p> <p>Properly documented assignments;</p> <p>Work is adequately written, with some grammatical errors;</p> <p>Most criteria addressed adequately.</p>
F	<p>Work may fail for any or all of the following reasons:</p> <p>Failure to demonstrate understanding of content;</p> <p>Few signs of preparation and participation;</p> <p>Irrelevance of content;</p> <p>Unreadability (including major grammatical or structural problems);</p> <p>Plagiarism.</p>

### **Part III**

#### **Keyword Syllabus**

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.

#### **Textbook**

Morphology and Syntax: Tools for Analyzing the World's Languages/ written by J. Albert Bickford. 1998. Dallas: the Summer Institute of Linguistics.

## **Recommended Reading**

### **Text(s)**

Contemporary linguistics : An introduction / edited by William O'Grady, Michael Dobrovolsky, Francis Katamba. 1997. London/New York: Longman.

Linguistics: An introduction to linguistic theory / written by Victoria A. Fromkin (editor) ... [et al.]. 2000. Malden, MA/Oxford, UK: Blackwell Publishing.

What is morphology? by Mark Aronoff and Kirsten Fuderman. 2011. Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell.

Syntactic theory, by Geoffrey Poole. 2002. Hampshire, NY: Palgrave.

## **Online Resources**