

City University of Hong Kong

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

Part I

Course Title:	Systemic Functional Linguistics
Course Code:	LT5409
Course Duration:	One semester
Credit Units:	3
Level:	P5
Medium of Instruction:	English
Prerequisites:	Nil
Precursors:	Nil
Equivalent Courses:	CTL5409 Systemic Functional Linguistics
Exclusive Courses:	Nil

Part II

Course Aims

This course aims to

- (1) Emphasize that function and semantics are the basis of human language and communicative activity;
- (2) Study language as a system operating in and being influenced by social context;
- (3) Enable students to generate innovative linguistic analysis using concepts developed in systemic functional linguistics.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

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

No.	CILOs	Weighting (if applicable)
1.	Apply the functional framework to the contrastive study of two or more languages;	
2.	Relate systemic functional methods to the interpretation of meaning and	
3.	Analyze texts, spoken and written.	

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 1-3	Lectures: Essential concepts and issues in Systemic Functional Linguistics; Tutorials: non-essential issues in this field and exercises.	

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 1-3	Exercises and coursework: applying theoretical concepts to the analysis of texts and discourse. In-class test (20%) Group work and presentation involving analysis of a text to be provided (20%) Individual commentary on analyses of a text to be provided (20%)	60%	
CILO 1-3	Essay discussing the application of SFL Theory	40%	

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.

Letter Grade	Grading criteria in relation to assessment activities
A+ A A-	Excellent ability to analyze; strong evidence of original thinking in formulating hypotheses; superior grasp of theoretical concepts related to the topics under discussion; zealous participation in class; evidence of excellent knowledge in relevant topics; strong evidence of logical thinking
B+ B B-	Good evidence of critical and analytical ability; good ability to formulate hypotheses; good grasp of theoretical concepts related to the topics under discussion; active participation in class; good evidence of knowledge in relevant topics
C+ C C-	Some evidence of satisfactory grasp of theoretical concepts related to the topics under discussion; satisfactory participation in class; some ability to understand the relevant topics; some ability to analyse
D	Barely able to follow the theoretical concepts related to the topics under discussion; inadequate participation in class; little ability to apply knowledge in the assignments; analyses with inaccuracy
F	Little or no evidence of familiarity with the theoretical concepts related to the topics under discussion; insufficient participation in class; very limited knowledge of the topics in question; totally incorrect analyses

Part III

Keyword Syllabus

Preliminaries:

Metafunctions, ideational, interpersonal

Groups/Phrases:

Experiential structure and logical structure, Nominal, Verbal, Adverbial, Conjunction & Preposition group

Clauses:

as Message, as Exchange, as Representation

Complex Groups/Phrases and Complex Clauses:

Parataxis and Hypotaxis, Elaboration, Extension, Enhancement, Reports, Ideas and Facts

Syllabus (in detail):

Systemic semantics:

Textual metafunction (type/token ratios, vocabulary use, register); **interpersonal metafunction** (speech- function, exchange structure, involvement and detachment, personal reference, discourse markers); **ideational/experiential metafunction** (propositional content, modality)

Systemic context or register analysis:

Field (what is happening, what is it that the participants are engaged in [the nature of the social interaction taking place]); **Tenor** (who is taking part, the social roles and relationships of participant, the status and roles of the participants); **Mode** (the symbolic organization of the text, persuasive/expository/didactic rhetorical modes, the spoken/written or monologic/dialogic channel of communication)

Systemic text or discourse analysis:

Tokens (individual words); **types** (kinds of words); **lexical density** (ratio of lexical and grammatical items); contrast between lexical density of written text and syntactic density of oral discourse

Recommended Reading

Textbook:

Halliday, M. A. K. (1985[1994]). *An introduction to Functional Grammar*. London: Arnold.

Further readings:

Halliday, M. A. K. and Edward McDonald (2004). Metafunctional profile of the grammar of Chinese, in *Language Typology: A functional perspective*, pp. 305-396, edited by Alice Caffarel, J. R. Martin and Christian M. I. M. Matthiessen, Amsterdam: Benjamins.

Caffarel, Alice, J. R. Martin and Christian M. I. M. Matthiessen (2004). *Language Typology: A functional perspective*. Amsterdam: Benjamins.

Halliday, M. A. K. (edited by Jonathan Webster) (2002). *On Grammar. Volume 1 in the Collected Works of M.A.K. Halliday*. London: Continuum International

Publishing Group – Academi.

Halliday, M. A. K. (edited by Jonathan Webster) (2003). *On Language and Linguistics. Volume 3 in the Collected Works of M.A.K. Halliday*. London: Continuum International Publishing Group – Academi.

Halliday, M. A. K. (edited by Jonathan Webster) (2004-a). *The Language of early Childhood. Volume 4 in the Collected Works of M.A.K. Halliday*. London: Continuum International Publishing Group – Academi.

Halliday, M. A. K. (edited by Jonathan Webster) (2004-b). *The Language of Science. Volume 5 in the Collected Works of M.A.K. Halliday*. London: Continuum International Publishing Group – Academi.

Halliday, M. A. K. (edited by Jonathan Webster) (2005-a). *Computational and Quantitative Studies. Volume 6 in the Collected Works of M.A.K. Halliday*. London: Continuum International Publishing Group – Academi.

Halliday, M. A. K. (edited by Jonathan Webster) (2005-b). *Studies in English language. Volume 7 in the Collected Works of M.A.K. Halliday*. London: Continuum International Publishing Group – Academi.

Halliday, M. A. K. (edited by Jonathan Webster) (2005-c). *Linguistic Studies of Text and Discourse. Volume 2 in the Collected Works of M.A.K. Halliday*. London: Continuum International Publishing Group – Academi.

Hu, Zhuanglin and Fang Yan (1997). *Advances in Functional Linguistics in China: papers from the 22nd International Systemic Functional Congress and 4th Chinese Conference on Systemic Functional Grammar*. Beijing: Tsinghua University Press.

Online Resources

[A glossary of Systemic-Functional Terms](#), by Christian Matthiessen