City University of Hong Kong

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

Part I

Course Title:	Topics in Semantics
Course Code:	LT8422
Course Duration:	One semester
Credit Units:	3
Level:	R8
Medium of Instruction:	English
Prerequisites: *(Course Code and Title)*	LT5403 Semantics and Discourse, CTL5403 Semantics and Discourse or special approval by the Programme Leader
Precursors: *(Course Code and Title)*	Nil
Equivalent Courses: *(Course Code and Title)*	CTL5422 Topics in Semantics
Exclusive Courses: *(Course Code and Title)*	Nil

Part II

Course Aims

This is a research seminar type course. It aims to develop students' research ability through case study, particularly in the following respects: (i) acquisition of in-depth knowledge of current issues in semantics, (ii) critical review of relevant literature, (iii) independent formulation of hypotheses/theories, and (iv) academic argumentation.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

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

No.	CILOs	Weighting (if applicable)
1.	Describe and discuss current issues in semantics	20%
2.	Critically review relevant literature	20%
3.	Independently formulate hypotheses that are explanatorily and theoretically adequate	30%
4.	Verify the hypotheses	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	Group discussion and presentations	1 hour /wk
CILO 2	Take home assignments and reading	1 hour /wk
CILO 3	Analyse given data and formulate hypotheses through in-class assignments	1 hour /wk
CILO 4	Step-by-step proof through group discussion	1 hour /wk

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	Group discussion and presentations	25%	
CILO 2	Take home assignments and reading	25%	
CILO 3	Analyse given data and formulate hypotheses through in-class assignments	25%	
CILO 4	Step-by-step proof through group discussion	25%	

Grading of Student Achievement:

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 demonstrate in the following tasks. **Group discussion/presentations and in-class assignments:** 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 **Take home assignment(s) and reading:** Evidence of excellent knowledge in relevant topics; strong evidence of logical thinking **Data analysis and paper writing:** Evidence of extensive knowledge in the topic; excellent literature review, organization and presentation; excellent analyses with original and logical thinking, adequate citations and references with consistent style (APA or MLA).
B+ B B-	Good ability to demonstrate in the following tasks. **Group discussion/presentations and in-class assignments:** Evidence of critical and analytical ability; evidence of ability to formulate hypotheses; good grasp of theoretical concepts related to the topics under discussion; active participation **Take home assignment(s) and reading:** Evidence of adequate knowledge in relevant topics **Data analysis and paper writing:** Evidence of adequate knowledge in the topic; good literature review, organization and presentation; good and logical analyses; relevant citations and references with consistent style.
C+ C C-	Adequate ability to demonstrate in the following tasks. **Group discussion/presentations and in-class assignments:** Evidence of satisfactory grasp of theoretical concepts related to the topics under discussion; satisfactory participation **Take home assignment(s) and reading:** Evidence of the ability to understand the relevant topics **Data analysis and paper writing:** Evidence of satisfactory knowledge in the topic; satisfactory literature review, organization and presentation; satisfactory analyses; citations and references with inconsistent styles.
D	Barely adequate ability to demonstrate in the following tasks. **Group discussion/presentations and in-class assignments:** Ability to follow the theoretical concepts related to the topics under discussion in spite of some difficulty; satisfactory participation

	Take home assignment(s) and reading: Ability to apply knowledge in the assignments in spite of difficulty **Data analysis and paper writing:** Ability to apply knowledge in the topic in spite of difficulty; barely adequate in handling literature review, organization and presentation; analyses with inaccuracy; no citations or references.

Part III

Keyword Syllabus

Topics will vary according to the interests and specialization of the instructor. The domain of study will be based on a relevant, coherent body of published literature which has played or is currently playing a role in the development of theories in semantics. The seminar will typically consist of an introduction to and critical review of the literature, comparison and evaluation of alternative hypotheses and theories, and data analysis. Students are expected to participate actively in terms of presentations and the writing of research papers.

Recommended Reading
Text(s)

The reading list varies with the topics to be covered in a semester, and will be given out to students in the first week of the course.

Online Resources