

City University of Hong Kong
Course Syllabus

offered by Department of Linguistics and Translation
with effect from Semester A 2022 / 23

Part I Course Overview

Course Title: Pragmatics

Course Code: LT5455

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) Nil

Exclusive Courses:
(Course Code and Title) Nil

Part II Course Details

1. Abstract

This course aims to introduce students to the scientific study of language in use. Students will be able to contrast the principles that underlie the communicative use of language, to apply conversation-structural principles to the inference of meaning. The focus will be on implicature, presupposition, speech acts, and deixis.

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. | Observe the various pragmatic functions of implicatures, presuppositions, speech acts and deixis | 30% | ✓ | | |
| 2. | Analyze the pragmatic properties of utterances and discover and formulate hypotheses that are observationally, descriptively and explanatorily adequate | 30% | ✓ | | |
| 3. | Critically assess and evaluate the empirical generalizations and the theoretical proposals made in the literature of pragmatics. | 15% | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 4. | Implement pragmatic projects | 25% | | ✓ | ✓ |
| | | 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. Teaching and Learning Activities (TLAs)

(TLAs designed to facilitate students' achievement of the CILOs.)

Final details will be provided to students in their first week of attendance in this course.

| TLA | Brief Description | CILO No. | | | | | | Hours/week (if applicable) |
|-----|---|----------|---|---|---|--|--|-------------------------------|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | | | |
| 1 | Lecture: Theoretical foundations of all learning outcomes are laid out in the lecture. Basic ideas are taught during two hours per week, including: implicatures, presuppositions, speech acts, deixis, and relevance theory. | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | |
| 2 | Tutorial: Exercises presented in tutorials will familiarize the students with the theoretical concepts of the lecture and prepare students for their own projects | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | | |
| 3 | Assignments: Students will analyze and synthesize linguistic data helping them apply the notions of the lecture | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | | |
| 4 | Project: Students plan practical steps in the execution of projects; review topics in cross-cultural pragmatics; examine the structure of conversations | | ✓ | | ✓ | | | |

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: 75% | | | | | | | | |
| Participation Students will participate in the discussion to learn and practice their analytical and application abilities | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | 5% | |
| Assignments Apply the knowledge to give linguistic analyses to natural language data. | | ✓ | ✓ | | | | 32% | |
| Test Students will be asked to sit in a test in the middle of the course. They will be assessed on their analytical and application abilities. | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | 20% | |
| Student Project Students pick one topic in the area of pragmatics, make a class presentation, and write a written report. | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | 18% | |
| Examination: 25% (duration: 2 hours) Students will be asked to sit in an examination at the end of the course. They will be assessed on their analytical and application abilities. (CILO No. 1,2) | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | 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 in Semester A 2022/23 and thereafter

| Assessment Task | Criterion | Excellent (A+, A, A-) | Good (B+, B) | Marginal (B-, C+, C) | Failure (F) |
|--------------------|--|---|---|--|---|
| 1. Participation | Students will participate in class activities to learn and practice their analytical and application abilities | Demonstrates high level of initiative in class activities; | Demonstrates initiative in class activities; | Marginal engagement in class activities. | Few signs of preparation and participation in in class activities; |
| 2. Assignments | Apply linguistic analyses to natural language data. | Properly documented assignments; precise, clear writing; and excellent and accurate analysis. | Properly documented assignments; Precise, clear writing; and good analysis. | Properly documented assignments; Writing contains errors and analysis is marginal in quality. | Irrelevance of content; Unreadability (including major grammatical or structural problems); Academic Dishonesty including Plagiarism. |
| 3. Test | They will be assessed on their analytical and application abilities. | Excellent understanding of concepts, terminology and findings in pragmatics research | Good understanding of concepts, terminology and findings in pragmatics research; | Marginal understanding of concepts, terminology and findings in pragmatics; | Failure to demonstrate understanding of content; |
| 4. Student Project | Students pick one topic in the area of pragmatics, make a class presentation, and write a written report. | Well-organized presentation; Properly documented abstract and report; Precise, clear writing; All criteria addressed clearly, to a very high level. | Well-organized presentation; Properly documented abstract and report; Precise, clear writing; All criteria addressed clearly. | Properly documented abstract and report; Work has grammatical errors; Most criteria addressed only marginally. | Irrelevance of content; Unreadability (including major grammatical or structural problems); Academic Dishonesty including Plagiarism. |

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|---------|--|--|---|---|--|
| 5. Exam | They will be assessed on their analytical and application abilities. | Excellent understanding of concepts, terminology and findings in pragmatics; | Good understanding of concepts, terminology and findings in pragmatics; | Satisfactory understanding of concepts, terminology and findings in pragmatics; | Failure to demonstrate understanding of content; |
|---------|--|--|---|---|--|

Applicable to students admitted before Semester A 2022/23

| Assessment Task | Criterion | Excellent (A+, A, A-) | Good (B+, B, B-) | Fair (C+, C, C-) | Marginal (D) | Failure (F) |
|--------------------|--|---|---|---|--|---|
| 1. Participation | Students will participate in the discussion to learn and practice their analytical and application abilities | Demonstrates high level of initiative in discussion; | Demonstrates initiative in discussion; | Demonstrates control in discussion; | Demonstrates control in discussion; | Few signs of preparation and participation; |
| 2. Assignments | Apply the knowledge to give linguistic analyses to natural language data. | Properly documented assignments; Precise, clear writing; | Properly documented assignments; Precise, clear writing; | Properly documented assignments; Precise, clear writing, with few grammatical errors; | Properly documented assignments; Work is adequately written, with some grammatical errors; | Irrelevance of content; Unreadability (including major grammatical or structural problems); Academic Dishonesty including Plagiarism. |
| 3. Test | They will be assessed on their analytical and application abilities. | Excellent understanding of concepts, terminology and findings in Pragmatics; | Clear understanding of concepts, terminology and findings in pragmatics; | Good understanding of concepts, terminology and findings in pragmatics; | Satisfactory understanding of concepts, terminology and findings in pragmatics; | Failure to demonstrate understanding of content; |
| 4. Student Project | Students pick one topic in the area of pragmatics, make a class presentation, and write a written report. | Well-organized presentation; Properly documented abstract and report; Precise, clear writing; | Well-organized presentation; Properly documented abstract and report; Precise, clear writing; | Properly documented abstract and report; Precise, clear writing, with few grammatical errors; All criteria addressed clearly. | Properly documented abstract and report; Work is adequately written, with some grammatical errors; Most criteria addressed adequately. | Irrelevance of content; Unreadability (including major grammatical or structural problems); Academic Dishonesty including Plagiarism. |

| | | | | | | |
|---------|--|--|--|---|---|--|
| | | All criteria addressed clearly, and most to a high level. | All criteria addressed clearly, and most to a high level. | | | |
| 5. Exam | They will be assessed on their analytical and application abilities. | Excellent understanding of concepts, terminology and findings in Pragmatics; | Clear understanding of concepts, terminology and findings in pragmatics; | Good understanding of concepts, terminology and findings in pragmatics; | Satisfactory understanding of concepts, terminology and findings in pragmatics; | Failure to demonstrate understanding of content; |

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.)

implicature, presupposition, speech acts, deixis, relevance theory

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.)

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| 1. | Yan Huang | Pragmatics, Oxford University Press |
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2.2 Additional Readings

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

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| 1. | Nil |
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