

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

Course Title: Sociolinguistics

Course Code: LT5408

Course Duration: 1 Semester

Credit Units: 3

Level: P5

Medium of Instruction: English

Prerequisites: Nil

Precursors: Nil

Equivalent Courses: CTL 5408 Sociolinguistics

Exclusive Courses: Nil

Part II

Course Aims

This course aims to address issues related to the uses and users of languages in Hong Kong SAR and China on the whole after studying the basics of sociolinguistics. This course is to orient students to key sociolinguistic issues facing Hong Kong, a complex speech community facing substantial political and social changes after the handover in 1997.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

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

No.	CILOs	Weighting (if applicable)
1.	Analyse the relevance of linguistic norms for various types of communication found in actual language use;	20%
2.	Relate to the issues involved in bilingualism, and social functions of language to their community;	20%
3.	Discover and explain the relationship between standard and non-standard varieties of a language and comment critically on the concept of language planning;	20%
4.	Compare and contrast cultural diversity and cultural differences as reflected in language; and	20%
5.	Apply the concept of sociolinguistic variables innovatively	20%

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 1-5	Lectures: Lectures will be used to motivate students to learn the subject matter, explain the key concepts and provide ample examples from the textbook and reference materials.	2 hours
CILO 1-5	Reading: Reading chapters and supplementary materials on the topics so as to enable the concepts to sink into students' mind.	2.5 hours
CILO 1-5	Class discussion and exercises: These will be used to identify points of interest or places where students do not fully master so that they learn how to solve linguistic problems using scientific research methodology. There will also be a group presentation of a journal paper.	1 hour

CILO 1-5	Blackboard: Blackboard and email will be used as a forum to encourage students to carry on their study a bit further and help them communicate with the teacher and classmates concerning the course.	0.5 hour
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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 1-5	Presentation A presentation on a recent journal paper with a written report	40%	
CILO 1-5	Quiz (1 ½ to 2 hours) A final quiz that assesses students' understanding of sociolinguistics and their ability to discuss issues from sociolinguistic perspectives	50%	
CILO 1-5	Classroom participation Students have to discuss critically and participate actively in the class activities	10%	

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.

Excellent A+ A A-	Good B+ B B-	Adequate C+ C C-	Marginal D
1. Excellent command of knowledge in sociolinguistics.	1. Good command of knowledge in sociolinguistics.	1. Adequate command of knowledge in sociolinguistics.	1. Marginal command of knowledge in sociolinguistics.
2. Excellent ability to discover and report on sociolinguistics issue	2. Good ability to discover and report on sociolinguistics issue	2. Fair ability to discover and report on sociolinguistics issue	2. Marginal ability to discover and report on sociolinguistics issue
3. Excellent application of concepts in sociolinguistics.	3. Good application of concepts in sociolinguistics.	3. A certain degree of application of concepts in sociolinguistics.	3. Marginal application of concepts in sociolinguistics.

Excellent A+ A A-	Good B+ B B-	Adequate C+ C C-	Marginal D
4. Excellent group presentation and critical review which show high ability in knowledge application.	4. Good group presentation and critical review which show high ability in knowledge application.	4. Fair group presentation and critical review which show fair ability in knowledge application.	4. Marginally acceptable group presentation and critical review which show marginal ability in knowledge application.

Part III

Keyword Syllabus

Introduction to sociolinguistics; language, dialects and varieties; pidgin, creole, and lingua-franca; bilingualism and diglossia; code switching and code mixing; speech community; regional and social variation; variation studies; language, culture and thought; solidarity and politeness; speech acts; language and gender; language and power; Language planning and language policy – the case in Hong Kong, and in China; English as an International Language

Recommended Reading

Text(s)

Reading List / materials:

Wardhaugh, R. (2010) *An Introduction to Sociolinguistics*. 6th edition. Oxford: Wiley Blackwell.

References:

Downes, W. (1984) *Language and Society*. London: Fontana.

Fasold, R. (1984) *The Sociolinguistics of Society*. Oxford: Blackwell.

Fasold, R. (1990) *Sociolinguistics of Language*. Oxford: Blackwell.

Holmes, J. (2013) *An Introduction to Sociolinguistics*. 4th edition, Essex: Pearson.

Hudson, R.A. (1996) *Sociolinguistics*. Cambridge: C.U.P.

Labov, W. (1972) *Sociolinguistic Patterns*. Philadelphia: U. of Pennsylvania Press.

Lord, R. & B. K.Y. Tsou (1985) *The Language Bomb*. Hong Kong: Longman.

陳原 (1984) 《社會語言學》 香港：商務印書館。

黃宣範 (1994) 《語言、社會與族群意識》 台北：文鶴出版有限公司。

鄒嘉彥、游汝傑 (2001) 《漢語與華人社會》 香港：香港城市大學出版社。

徐大明、陶紅印、謝天蔚 (1997) 《當代社會語言學》，北京：中國社會科學出版社。

And other journal articles and reading materials.

Online Resources

Sociolinguistics

by Walt Wolfram. Language as social behavior, language attitudes.

Discourse Analysis

by Deborah Tannen. Discourse and frames, turn-taking, discourse markers, speech acts.

Multilingualism

by Guadalupe Valdés. Multilingualism and bilingualism.

Georgetown: Sociolinguistics Resources

Links to sociolinguistics resources on the web.

Language Policy Web Site

James Crawford's site on language policy, including English Only movement, English Plus, bilingual education, endangered languages, and language rights.