

**City University of Hong Kong
Course Syllabus**

**offered by Department of Linguistics and Translation
with effect from Semester B 2015 / 16**

Part I Course Overview

Course Title: Language in Legal Settings

Course Code: LT5513

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) CTL5513 Language in Legal Settings

Exclusive Courses:
(Course Code and Title) Nil

Part II Course Details

1. Abstract

This course aims to help students explore (1) the inter-relationship between language, society, and law; (2) the workings of language in legal settings; and (3) the sociolinguistic issues of language and law with special reference to the issues relating to Hong Kong in its transformation from a unilingual to a bilingual legal system.

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.	Explain the basic features and functions of language and how law functions through language		✓	✓	✓
2.	Describe and explain some of the major sociolinguistic issues relating to language and law		✓	✓	✓
3.	Describe and explain the current sociolinguistic issues relating to legal bilingualism in Hong Kong		✓	✓	✓
		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.)

TLA	Brief Description	CILO No.						Hours/week (if applicable)
		1	2	3				
1	Lecture; open class discussion	✓	✓	✓				2 hours lecture; 1 hour tutorial

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					
Continuous Assessment: 50%								
1 research paper (10 pages) on a current issue relating to language and law in the context of Hong Kong.	✓	✓	✓				50%	
Examination: 50% (duration: 2 hours) Open book formal examination: Students are required to give an analytical account of the questions. (CILO No.1-3)								
							100%	

5. Assessment Rubrics

(Grading of student achievements is based on student performance in assessment tasks/activities with the following rubrics.)

Assessment Task	Criterion	Excellent (A+, A, A-)	Good (B+, B, B-)	Adequate (C+, C, C-)	Marginal (D)	Failure (F)
1. Research paper	Demonstrate understanding of basic concepts, discuss a current sociolinguistic issue relating to legal bilingualism in Hong Kong, and write about it in a fluent and coherent manner.	Demonstrate excellent understanding of basic concepts through explanation and illustration, discuss a current sociolinguistic issue relating to legal bilingualism in Hong Kong with great insights, and write about it in a fluent and coherent manner.	Demonstrate good understanding of basic concepts through explanation and illustration, discuss a current sociolinguistic issue relating to legal bilingualism in Hong Kong in depth, and write about it in a fluent and coherent manner.	Demonstrate adequate understanding of basic concepts through explanation and illustration, discuss a current sociolinguistic issue relating to legal bilingualism in Hong Kong in some depth, and write about it adequately.	Demonstrate little understanding of basic concepts, show little ability in discussing a current sociolinguistic issue relating to legal bilingualism in Hong Kong, and writing about it in a coherent manner.	Demonstrate no understanding of basic concepts, show no ability in discussing a current sociolinguistic issue relating to legal bilingualism in Hong Kong, and writing about it in a coherent manner.
2. Examination	Demonstrate understanding of basic concepts, and discuss sociolinguistic issues relating to legal bilingualism in Hong Kong.	Demonstrate excellent understanding of basic concepts and provide excellent discussions of sociolinguistic issues relating to legal bilingualism in Hong Kong.	Demonstrate good understanding of basic concepts and provide good discussions of sociolinguistic issues relating to legal bilingualism in Hong Kong.	Demonstrate adequate understanding of basic concepts and provide adequate discussions of sociolinguistic issues relating to legal bilingualism in Hong Kong.	Demonstrate little understanding of basic concepts and display little ability in discussing sociolinguistic issues relating to legal bilingualism in Hong Kong.	Demonstrate no understanding of basic concepts and display no ability in discussing sociolinguistic issues relating to legal bilingualism in Hong Kong.

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.)

Language, law, and society; the nature of legal language; sociolinguistic issues in language and law

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.)

Relevant chapters in the following books:

1.	Allott, A.N. 1965. <i>Law and language</i> . School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London.
2.	Cao, D. 2008. <i>Obscurity and clarity in the law</i> . London: Ashgate. (chapter 6)
3.	Coulthard, M. & Johnson, A. 2007. <i>An introduction to forensic linguistics: language in evidence</i> . London: Routledge. (chapter 6)
4.	Gibbons, J. 2003. <i>Forensic linguistics: an introduction to language in the justice system</i> . Oxford: Blackwell. (chapter 9)
5.	Klinck, D.R. 1992. <i>The word of the law</i> . Carleton: Carleton University Press. (chapter 5)

Other updated reading materials may be assigned from time to time.

2.2 Additional Readings

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

Relevant chapters in the following books:

1.	Hudson, R.A. 1980. <i>Sociolinguistics</i> . Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
2.	Hutton, C. 2014. <i>Word meaning and legal interpretation</i> . London: Palgrave Macmillan.
3.	Mooney, A. 2014. <i>Language and Law</i> . London: Palgrave Macmillan.
4.	Wardhaugh, R. 1992. <i>An introduction to sociolinguistics</i> . 2 nd ed. Oxford: Blackwell.

Other updated reading materials may be recommended from time to time.