

City University of Hong Kong
Course Syllabus

offered by Department of Linguistics and Translation
with effect from Semester A 2017 / 18

Part I Course Overview

Course Title: Cognition and Language Differences

Course Code: LT5461

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 provides students with fundamental concepts and approaches to the interaction between cognition and linguistic differences, with an emphasis on Second Language Acquisition (SLA). This course addresses questions related to how humans learn additional languages to their first languages and what role grammars play in the process of SLA. It will guide students through analysing and interpreting empirical data, and exploring the ways in which research informs practice. How theoretical and methodological developments have shaped current research in SLA will be surveyed. Students should view this course as an opportunity to identify questions related to language teaching in their future coursework and career.

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.	To develop an expert and personally relevant understanding of second language learning and the interaction between cognition and linguistic variation		✓	✓	
2.	To become familiar with theories, methods, and findings in SLA		✓	✓	
3.	To develop ability to read and critique SLA research literature meaningfully		✓	✓	✓
4.	To support students through the process of conducting and reporting on a research project that explores a related topic		✓	✓	✓
		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	4	5		
1	Reading The textbook and additional readings related to the topics covered by the course. Students should complete the assigned readings for the week before coming to class.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
2	Lecture There will be a two-hour lecture every week that discusses concepts introduced in the course materials.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		2 hours
3	Tutorial Exercise questions on the key concepts and theories introduced in the lecture will be given during the one-hour tutorial for group discussion.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		1 hour
4	Written assignment Assignments will be given in the form of problem sets.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		

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	5			
Continuous Assessment: 100%								
Assignments 2-3 written assignments will be distributed during the semester	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		30%	
Oral presentation & discussion Students will present and lead the class discussion of one topic related to this course	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		20%	
Essay Students will write an essay addressing one topic related to this course	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		50%	Requirements of the essay will be announced in the first class meeting
Examination: 0%								
							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-)	Fair (C+, C, C-)	Marginal (D)	Failure (F)
1. Assignments	How the answers reflect the student's knowledge and understanding of the course content	The answers can fully reflect the student's knowledge and understanding of the course content	The answers can generally reflect the student's knowledge and understanding of the course content	The answers can mostly reflect the student's knowledge and understanding of the course content	The answers can only marginally reflect the student's knowledge and understanding of the course content	The answers do not reflect the student's knowledge and understanding of the course content at all
2. Oral presentation & discussion	How the issue and content are presented; whether sufficient material is covered and understood; style and formality are appropriate	The issue and content are well presented; sufficient material is covered and understood; style and formality are highly appropriate	The issue and content are properly presented; sufficient material is covered and understood; style and formality are mostly appropriate	Certain content is not properly presented; insufficient material is covered and understood; style and formality are sometimes inappropriate	Important content is not presented; insufficient material is covered and understood; style and formality are inappropriate	Important content is not presented or prepared for presentation; insufficient material is covered and understood; style and formality are generally inappropriate
3. Essay	The content coverage, research skills, and academic writing qualities	The content coverage, research skills, and academic writing qualities are all excellent	The content coverage, research skills, and academic writing qualities are generally satisfactory	The content coverage, research skills, and academic writing qualities are decent	The content coverage, research skills, and academic writing qualities are unsatisfactory	The paper does not show understanding in the content, and does not reflect any skills in research and academic writing

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.)

Aptitude, Aspect Hypothesis, awareness, age factors, bilingualism, multilingualism, cognition and affect, implicit/explicit interface, cognitive-interactionist approach, competence, Comprehensible Input/Output Hypothesis, controlled processing, Critical Period Hypothesis, markedness, Likert scales, working memory tasks, developmental sequence, Fundamental Difference Hypothesis, grammaticality judgements, Interaction Hypothesis, interlanguages, L1 vs. L2 acquisition, L1-L2 interaction, L2 Motivational Self System, Linguistic Coding Differences Hypothesis, self-regulation theory, transfer, Universal Grammar

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.)

1.	Nil
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2.2 Additional Readings

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

1.	Anderson, S. R., and Lightfoot, D. W. (2002). <i>The Language Organ: Linguistics as Cognitive Physiology</i> . New York, NY: Cambridge University Press.
2.	Byrd, D., and Mintz, T. (2010). <i>Discovering Speech, Words, and Mind</i> . Willey-Blackwell.
3.	Carroll, D. W. (2007). <i>Psychology of Language</i> , 5 th ed. Belmont, California: Wadsworth/Thomson Learning.
4.	Celce-Murcia, M. and Olshtain, E. (2000). <i>Discourse and Context in Language Teaching</i> . Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
5.	Cook, V. (2008). <i>Second Language Learning and Language Teaching</i> , 4 th ed. London: Arnold.
6.	Field, J. (2005). <i>Language and the Mind</i> . London: Routledge.
7.	Gass, S. M. and Selinker, L. (2008). <i>Second Language Acquisition: An Introductory Course</i> . Routledge.
8.	Gentner, D. and Goldin-Meadow, S. (Eds.). (2003). <i>Language in Mind: Advances in the Study of Language and Thought</i> . Cambridge: MIT Press.
9.	Kovecses, Z. (2006) <i>Language, Mind, and Culture: A Practical Introduction</i> . Oxford: Oxford University Press.
10.	Lightbown, P. M., and Spada, N. (2013). <i>How Languages are Learned</i> , 4 th ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
11.	Meisel, J. M. (2011). <i>First and Second Language Acquisition: Parallels and Differences</i> . Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
12.	Mitchell, R., Myles, F., and Marsden, E. (2013). <i>Second Language Learning Theories</i> , 3 rd ed. London: Hodder Education.
13.	Ortega, L. (2009). <i>Understanding Second Language Acquisition</i> . New York, NY: Routledge.