

**City University of Hong Kong  
Course Syllabus**

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

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**Part I Course Overview**

**Course Title:** Language and Its Applications

**Course Code:** LT5903

**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) CTL5901 Language, Cognition and Culture /  
LT5901 Language, Cognition and Culture

**Exclusive Courses:**  
(Course Code and Title) Nil

## Part II Course Details

### 1. Abstract

This course aims: (i) to establish in students an awareness of fundamentals of natural language such as compositionality, systematicity, creativity and recursivity; (ii) to illustrate manifestations of these defining features of human language in core areas including phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax and semantics; (iii) to describe the relation between language, people, and society; (iv) to demonstrate the application of science of human language in various aspects of life; and (v) to promote the transfer of knowledge of language and findings of language studies into practice.

Upon completion of the course, students would be able to identify and analyse the human language in general, which is the essential defining characteristic of human beings. Students would also be able to discover, describe, and theorize how language bears on practical aspects of life such as language in use, language technology, and language pedagogy.

### 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.	Discover the basic properties of natural language and how they are related to other aspects of human cognition.		√	√	√
2.	Describe and analyse the phonetic, phonological, syntactic and semantic properties of natural language.		√	√	√
3.	Analyse natural language data; identify and explain patterns in language and language use.		√	√	√
4.	Discover and explain language application in the practical aspects of life		√	√	√
5.	Theorize how knowledge of human language can contribute to society.		√	√	√
		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 – academic books and articles	√	√	√	√	√		
2	Lecture – basic concepts and theories, explanation and illustration of how linguistic data can be analysed systematically	√	√	√	√	√		
3	Class activities – In-class exercises on applying concepts to data analysis; practice of further elaboration of concepts and theories in problem solving activities	√	√	√	√	√		
4	Written assignment – practice of data analysis with explanation and argumentation	√	√	√				
5	Essay writing – exploring issues related to applications of language and linguistics	√	√	√	√	√		

### 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: 60%								
One written assignment of analytic questions	√	√	√				30%	
One essay on topics related to applications of language and linguistics (length: 2,000 words)	√			√	√		30%	
Examination: 40% (duration: 2 hours)								
Accumulative test of students' grasp of knowledge covered in lectures and class activities.								
							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. One written assignment of analytic questions	Demonstrate understanding of the nature of natural languages and basic concepts of linguistics and how they can be used in analysing our language.	Demonstrate strong evidence of capacity to analyse and synthesize; superior grasp of basic concepts of language and linguistics; and evidence of excellent understanding of key issues involved in the nature of natural languages.	Demonstrate some evidence of capacity to analyse and synthesize; grasp of basic concepts of language and linguistics, and evidence of good understanding of key issues involved in the nature of natural languages.	Demonstrate evidence of ability to develop solutions to simple problems in the study; adequate understanding of basic concepts of language and linguistics and key issues involved in the nature of natural languages.	Demonstrate little understanding of basic concepts of language and linguistics and key issues involved in the nature of natural languages.	Demonstrate limited or virtually no understanding of basic concepts of language and linguistics and key issues involved in the nature of natural languages.
2. One essay on topics related to applications of language and linguistics	Demonstrate through writing the ability to critically discuss and appreciate fundamental issues in how linguistics is applied and the applications of language.	Demonstrate strong evidence of excellent ability through writing to critically discuss and appreciate fundamental issues in how linguistics is applied and the applications of language.	Demonstrate some evidence of good ability through writing to critically discuss and appreciate fundamental issues in how linguistics is applied and the applications of language.	Demonstrate adequate ability through writing to discuss fundamental issues in how linguistics is applied and the applications of language.	Demonstrate little ability through writing to discuss fundamental issues in how linguistics is applied and the applications of language.	Demonstrate limited or virtually no ability through writing to discuss fundamental issues in language applications.
3. Examination	Demonstrate understanding of basic concepts in linguistics and	Demonstrate excellent understanding of basic concepts and	Demonstrate good understanding of basic concepts and fundamental	Demonstrate adequate understanding of basic concepts and	Demonstrate little understanding of basic concepts and fundamental issues in	Demonstrate limited or virtually no understanding of basic concepts and

	fundamental issues in language applications.	fundamental issues in linguistics and language applications, and strong evidence of capacity to analyse natural languages.	issues in linguistics and language applications, and some evidence of capacity to analyse natural languages.	fundamental issues in linguistics and language applications.	linguistics and language applications.	fundamental issues in linguistics and language applications.
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**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.)*

Principle of compositionality, systematicity, creativity, recursivity, phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, applied linguistics, language technology, language use, language pedagogy

**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.	Fasold, Ralph W. and Connor-Linton J. <i>An introduction to language and linguistics</i> , 2014. 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
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**2.2 Additional Readings**

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

1.	Aronoff, M., Rees-Miller, J., <i>The handbook of linguistics</i> , 2001. Blackwell Publishers Ltd.
2.	Fromkin, V., Rodman, R. and Hyams, N., <i>An introduction to language</i> , 2011. Wadsworth: Cengage Learning.
3.	O’Grady, W. Archibald, J., Aronoff, M., and Rees-Miller, J. <i>Contemporary linguistics</i> . 2010. 6 <sup>th</sup> edition. Bedford/St. Martin’s.
4.	Pinker, Steven. <i>The language instinct</i> . 2001. New York: HarperCollins.