

LT5430: SPECIAL TOPICS IN LINGUISTICS

Effective Term

Semester B 2024/25

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Special Topics in Linguistics

Subject Code

LT - Linguistics and Translation

Course Number

5430

Academic Unit

Linguistics and Translation (LT)

College/School

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CH)

Course Duration

One Semester

Credit Units

3

Level

P5, P6 - Postgraduate Degree

Medium of Instruction

English

Medium of Assessment

English

Prerequisites

Nil

Precursors

Nil

Equivalent Courses

CTL5430 Special Topics in Linguistics

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

To explore the theoretical foundations of one or more dominant schools of thought in the study of language, with reference to their methodological assumptions and achievements as manifested in investigations of the core areas of phonetic,

phonology, syntax and semantics. Emphasis will be placed on modern linguistic theories, which may include major paradigms such as Saussurean theory, Prague School Linguistics, American Structuralism, Generative Grammar, and Functional Linguistics. When needed, the course may also cover the Pedagogical Grammar of English.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Identify major issues in the field		x	x	
2	Capture important literature in the field		x	x	
3	Provide critical review of the literature		x	x	x
4	Compare alternative hypotheses and theories, and independently formulate hypotheses/theories on a specific topic.		x	x	x
5	Conduct independent research on a particular topic, discovering and formulating hypotheses that are descriptively, explanatorily and theoretically adequate.		x	x	x

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 real-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.

Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

LTAs		Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)
1	1	Lectures and seminars: Lectures for presenting concepts. Seminars will typically consist of an introduction to and critical review of the literature, comparison and evaluation of alternative hypotheses and theories, and data analysis.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	

2	2	Assignments and papers: Students are required to complete assignments based on what they have learnt in class. Students are expected to participate actively in terms of writing their individual research papers.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	
3	3	Independent learning: Materials are posted onto the blackboard from time to time, and students are advised to refer to these materials for independent learning.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

ATs		CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks (e.g. Parameter for GenAI use)
1	1st Assignment - Analytic questions	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	25	
2	2nd Assignment - Analytic questions	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	25	
3	3rd Assignment - Analytic questions (25%) - One 2000-word essay (25%)	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	50	

Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

1st Assignment (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Demonstrate understanding of basic concepts in linguistic theories and how they can be used in analysing natural languages.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Demonstrate strong evidence of capacity to analyse and superior grasp of basic concepts in linguistic theories; and evidence of excellent understanding of key issues involved in analysing natural languages at lexical, phrasal, and sentence levels.

Good

(B+, B, B-) Demonstrate some evidence of capacity to analyse and synthesize; grasp of basic concepts of linguistic theories and evidence of good understanding of key issues involved in analysing natural languages at lexical, phrasal, and sentence levels.

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Demonstrate evidence of ability to develop solutions to simple problems in the study of linguistic theories; adequate understanding of key issues involved in analysing natural languages at lexical, phrasal and sentence levels.

Marginal

(D) Demonstrate little understanding of basic concepts of semantics and key issues involved in analysing natural languages at lexical, phrasal and sentence levels.

Failure

(F) Demonstrate limited understanding or virtually no understanding of basic concepts of linguistic theories and key issues involved in analysing natural languages.

Assessment Task

2nd Assignment (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Demonstrate understanding of basic concepts in conducting linguistic analysis. Show the capacity to analyse natural languages at all levels.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Demonstrate excellent understanding of basic concepts in conducting linguistic analysis, and strong evidence of capacity to analyse natural languages at all levels.

Good

(B+, B, B-) Demonstrate good understanding of basic concepts in conducting linguistic analysis, and some evidence of capacity to analyse natural languages at all levels.

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Demonstrate adequate understanding of basic concepts in conducting linguistic analysis.

Marginal

(D) Demonstrate little understanding of basic concepts in conducting linguistic analysis.

Failure

(F) Demonstrate limited understanding or virtually no understanding of basic concepts in conducting linguistic analysis.

Assessment Task

3rd Assignment (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Apart from the ability of conducting linguistic analysis, demonstrate through writing the ability to critically discuss and appreciate issues in linguistics.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Apart from the ability of conducting linguistic analysis, demonstrate strong evidence of excellent ability through writing to critically discuss and appreciate issues in linguistics.

Good

(B+, B, B-) Apart from the ability of conducting linguistic analysis, demonstrate some evidence of good ability through writing to critically discuss and appreciate issues in linguistics.

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Apart from the ability of conducting linguistic analysis, demonstrate adequate ability through writing to discuss fundamental issues in linguistics.

Marginal

(D) Apart from the ability of conducting linguistic analysis, demonstrate little ability through writing to discuss fundamental issues in linguistics.

Failure

(F) Demonstrate limited understanding or virtually no understanding of basic concepts in conducting linguistic analysis or limited ability in discussing fundamental issues in linguistics.

Assessment Task

1st Assignment (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

Demonstrate understanding of basic concepts in linguistic theories and how they can be used in analysing natural languages.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Demonstrate strong evidence of capacity to analyse and superior grasp of basic concepts in linguistic theories; and evidence of excellent understanding of key issues involved in analysing natural languages at lexical, phrasal, and sentence levels.

Good

(B+, B) Demonstrate some evidence of capacity to analyse and synthesize; grasp of basic concepts of linguistic theories and evidence of good understanding of key issues involved in analysing natural languages at lexical, phrasal, and sentence levels.

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Demonstrate evidence of ability to develop solutions to simple problems in the study of linguistic theories; adequate or little understanding of key issues involved in analysing natural languages at lexical, phrasal and sentence levels.

Failure

(F) Demonstrate limited understanding or virtually no understanding of basic concepts of linguistic theories and key issues involved in analysing natural languages.

Assessment Task

2nd Assignment (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

Demonstrate understanding of basic concepts in conducting linguistic analysis. Show the capacity to analyse natural languages at all levels.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Demonstrate excellent understanding of basic concepts in conducting linguistic analysis, and strong evidence of capacity to analyse natural languages at all levels.

Good

(B+, B) Demonstrate good understanding of basic concepts in conducting linguistic analysis, and some evidence of capacity to analyse natural languages at all levels.

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Demonstrate adequate or little understanding of basic concepts in conducting linguistic analysis.

Failure

(F) Demonstrate limited understanding or virtually no understanding of basic concepts in conducting linguistic analysis.

Assessment Task

3rd Assignment (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

Apart from the ability of conducting linguistic analysis, demonstrate through writing the ability to critically discuss and appreciate issues in linguistics.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Apart from the ability of conducting linguistic analysis, demonstrate strong evidence of excellent ability through writing to critically discuss and appreciate issues in linguistics.

Good

(B+, B) Apart from the ability of conducting linguistic analysis, demonstrate some evidence of good ability through writing to critically discuss and appreciate issues in linguistics.

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Apart from the ability of conducting linguistic analysis, demonstrate adequate or little ability through writing to discuss fundamental issues in linguistics.

Failure

(F) Demonstrate limited understanding or virtually no understanding of basic concepts in conducting linguistic analysis or limited ability in discussing fundamental issues in linguistics.

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

The domain of study will be based on a relevant, coherent body of published literature which has played or is currently playing a role in the development of theories in the core areas of phonetics phonology, morphology, syntax and semantics in addition to other areas such as psycholinguistics computational linguistics etc., with an emphasis on acquisition of in-depth knowledge of the current issues in linguistic theory critical review of relevant literature and independent formulation of hypotheses/theories.

Due to its nature, the course may cover topics from one of the following areas: Pedagogic Grammar of English, Phonetics, Phonology, Morphology, Syntax, Semantics, Discourse Analysis, Computational Linguistics, Psycholinguistics, etc., depending on the need of the students and the expertise of the instructor.

Reading List

Compulsory Readings

Title	
1	Lappin, S. (1997) The Handbook of Contemporary Semantic Theory. Oxford: Blackwell Publishers.
2	Wolfram, W., M. Baltin & C. Collins. (2000) The Handbook of Contemporary Syntactic Theory. Oxford: Blackwell Publishers.
3	Spencer, A. & A. Zwicky (2001) The Handbook of Morphology. Blackwell Publishers.
4	Bernhardt, B. H. & J. P. Sternberger (1997) The Handbook of Phonological Development: from the Perspective of Constraint-Based Non-linear Phonology. Academic Press.
5	Hardcastle, W. J. & J. Laver (1999) The Handbook of Phonetic Sciences. Blackwell Publishers.

6	Mitkov R. (2003) The Oxford Handbook of Computational Linguistics. Oxford University Press.
7	Gernsbacher M. A. (1994) The Handbook of Psycholinguistics. Elsevier Academic Press.

Additional Readings

Title	
1	Haegeman Liliane. (2006) Thinking Syntactically: A Guide to Argumentation and Analysis. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing.
2	Cook, Vivian. (1993) Linguistics and Second Language Acquisition. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.
3	Haegeman Liliane and Jacqueline Gueron. (1999) English Grammar: A Generative Perspective. Oxford: Blackwell Publishers.
4	Aronoff M., Rees-Miller, J., The handbook of linguistics 2001. Blackwell Publishers Ltd.