

LT5455: PRAGMATICS

Effective Term

Semester B 2024/25

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Pragmatics

Subject Code

LT - Linguistics and Translation

Course Number

5455

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

Nil

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

This course aims to introduce students to the scientific study of language in use. Students will be able to contrast the principles that underlie the communicative use of language, to apply conversation-structural principles to the inference of meaning. The focus will be on implicature, presupposition, speech acts, and deixis.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Observe the various pragmatic functions of implicatures, presuppositions, speech acts and deixis	30	x		
2	Analyze the pragmatic properties of utterances and discover and formulate hypotheses that are observationally, descriptively and explanatorily adequate	30	x		
3	Critically assess and evaluate the empirical generalizations and the theoretical proposals made in the literature of pragmatics.	15	x	x	
4	Implement pragmatic projects	25		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	Lecture: Theoretical foundations of all learning outcomes are laid out in the lecture. Basic ideas are taught during two hours per week, including: implicatures, presuppositions, speech acts deixis and relevance theory.	1, 2	
2	2	Tutorial: Exercises presented in tutorials will familiarize the students with the theoretical concepts of the lecture and prepare students for their own projects	1, 2, 4	

3	3	Assignments: Students will analyze and synthesize linguistic data helping them apply the notions of the lecture	1, 2, 4	
4	4	Project: Students plan practical steps in the execution of projects; review topics in cross-cultural pragmatics; examine the structure of conversations	2, 4	

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

ATs		CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks (e.g. Parameter for GenAI use)
1	Participation Students will participate in the discussion to learn and practice their analytical and application abilities	1, 2	5	
2	Assignments Apply the knowledge to give linguistic analyses to natural language data.	2, 3	32	
3	Test Students will be asked to sit in a test in the middle of the course. They will be assessed on their analytical and application abilities.	1, 2	20	
4	Student Project Students pick one topic in the area of pragmatics, make a class presentation, and write a written report.	3, 4	18	

Continuous Assessment (%)

75

Examination (%)

25

Examination Duration (Hours)

2

Additional Information for ATs

Exam: Students will be asked to sit in an examination at the end of the course. They will be assessed on their analytical and application abilities. (CILO No.1,2)

Assessment Rubrics (AR)

Assessment Task

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

Criterion

Students will participate in the discussion to learn and practice their analytical and application abilities

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Demonstrates high level of initiative in discussion;

Good

(B+, B, B-) Demonstrates initiative in discussion;

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Demonstrates control in discussion;

Marginal

(D) Demonstrates control in discussion;

Failure

(F) Few signs of preparation and participation;

Assessment Task

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

Criterion

Apply the knowledge to give linguistic analyses to natural language data.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Properly documented assignments; Precise, clear writing;

Good

(B+, B, B-) Properly documented assignments; Precise, clear writing;

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Properly documented assignments; Precise, clear writing, with few grammatical errors;

Marginal

(D) Properly documented assignments; Work is adequately written, with some grammatical errors;

Failure

(F) Irrelevance of content; Unreadability (including major grammatical or structural problems); Academic Dishonesty including Plagiarism.

Assessment Task

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

Criterion

They will be assessed on their analytical and application abilities.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Excellent understanding of concepts, terminology and findings in Pragmatics;

Good

(B+, B, B-) Clear understanding of concepts, terminology and findings in pragmatics;

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Good understanding of concepts, terminology and findings in pragmatics;

Marginal

(D) Satisfactory understanding of concepts, terminology and findings in pragmatics;

Failure

(F) Failure to demonstrate understanding of content;

Assessment Task

Student Project (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Students pick one topic in the area of pragmatics, make a class presentation, and write a written report.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Well-organized presentation; Properly documented abstract and report; Precise, clear writing; All criteria addressed clearly, and most to a high level.

Good

(B+, B, B-) Well-organized presentation; Properly documented abstract and report; Precise, clear writing; All criteria addressed clearly, and most to a high level.

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Properly documented abstract and report; Precise, clear writing, with few grammatical errors; All criteria addressed clearly.

Marginal

(D) Properly documented abstract and report; Work is adequately written, with some grammatical errors; Most criteria addressed adequately.

Failure

(F) Irrelevance of content; Unreadability (including major grammatical or structural problems); Academic Dishonesty including Plagiarism.

Assessment Task

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

Criterion

They will be assessed on their analytical and application abilities.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Excellent understanding of concepts, terminology and findings in Pragmatics;

Good

(B+, B, B-) Clear understanding of concepts, terminology and findings in pragmatics;

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Good understanding of concepts, terminology and findings in pragmatics;

Marginal

(D) Satisfactory understanding of concepts, terminology and findings in pragmatics;

Failure

(F) Failure to demonstrate understanding of content;

Assessment Task

Participation (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

Students will participate in class activities to learn and practice their analytical and application abilities

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Demonstrates high level of initiative in class activities;

Good

(B+, B) Demonstrates initiative in class activities;

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Marginal engagement in class activities.

Failure

(F) Few signs of preparation and participation in in class activities;

Assessment Task

Assignments (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

Apply linguistic analyses to natural language data.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Properly documented assignments; precise, clear writing; and excellent and accurate analysis.

Good

(B+, B) Properly documented assignments; Precise, clear writing; and good analysis.

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Properly documented assignments; Writing contains errors and analysis is marginal in quality.

Failure

(F) Irrelevance of content; Unreadability (including major grammatical or structural problems); Academic Dishonesty including Plagiarism.

Assessment Task

Test (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

They will be assessed on their analytical and application abilities.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Excellent understanding of concepts, terminology and findings in pragmatics research

Good

(B+, B) Good understanding of concepts, terminology and findings in pragmatics research;

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Marginal understanding of concepts, terminology and findings in pragmatics;

Failure

(F) Failure to demonstrate understanding of content;

Assessment Task

Student Project (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

Students pick one topic in the area of pragmatics, make a class presentation, and write a written report.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Well-organized presentation; Properly documented abstract and report; Precise, clear writing; All criteria addressed clearly, to a very high level.

Good

(B+, B) Well-organized presentation; Properly documented abstract and report; Precise, clear writing; All criteria addressed clearly.

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Properly documented abstract and report; Work has grammatical errors; Most criteria addressed only marginally.

Failure

(F) Irrelevance of content; Unreadability (including major grammatical or structural problems); Academic Dishonesty including Plagiarism.

Assessment Task

Exam (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

They will be assessed on their analytical and application abilities.

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Excellent understanding of concepts, terminology and findings in pragmatics;

Good

(B+, B) Good understanding of concepts, terminology and findings in pragmatics;

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Satisfactory understanding of concepts, terminology and findings in pragmatics;

Failure

(F) Failure to demonstrate understanding of content;

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

implicature, presupposition, speech acts, deixis, relevance theory

Reading List

Compulsory Readings

Title	
1	Yan Huang Pragmatics Oxford University Press

Additional Readings

Title	
1	Nil