

LT5904: LANGUAGE AND CULTURE IN SOCIETY

Effective Term

Semester A 2025/26

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Language and Culture in Society

Subject Code

LT - Linguistics and Translation

Course Number

5904

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

CTL5902 Language, Ideology and Society / LT5902 Language, Ideology and Society

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

This course aims to (i) enable students to explore the ways in which language and culture are mutually embedded in one another and can be advantageously studied in a social context; (ii) increase awareness of discourse both as a means of cultural

and social reproduction and resistance; (iii) enhance students' skills in critiquing cultural and social issues by means of rigorous discourse analysis; (iv) equip students as a new generation of critical-thinking translators and linguists.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Discover how language and culture are mutually embedded and can be usefully studied in a social context.		x	x	
2	Perform critical analysis of discourses to reveal their underlying assumptions and competing ideologies.		x	x	x
3	Critically analyse and comment on the cultural and social issues of the day.		x	x	
4	Apply critical insights to their area of specialization (linguistics or translation studies) as appropriate.		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	Reading	Students will engage in reading academic books and articles and media materials	1, 2, 3, 4	
2	Pre-recorded lecture	Students will engage with the basic concepts and theories, explanation illustration and analysis of discourse samples in the pre-recorded lecture.	1, 2, 3, 4	

3	Face to face class activities	Students will participate in in-class discussion of outstanding issues from the lectures; in-class critical reading exercises followed by free discussion with teacher participation	1, 2, 3, 4	
4	Research paper	Students will work on a topic covered in the course and write a research paper	1, 2, 3, 4	

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

ATs		CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("- for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?
1	Research Paper Students will research either in group or individually on a selected topic and write an essay of 1,500-2,000 words.	1, 2, 3, 4	30	Students can use GenAI tools to brainstorm, gather information, solve problems, format references, and edit language. Students should give proper acknowledgment to all the content from GenAI tools that they incorporated into the assignment and keep a journal of their GenAI conversations. Students should not present texts generated or translated by GenAI tools as their own original work.	Yes

2	In-class Activities Students will engage in text analysis and discussion in groups.	1, 2, 3, 4	20	Students can use GenAI tools to brainstorm, gather information, solve problems, format references, and edit language. Students should give proper acknowledgment to all the content from GenAI tools that they incorporated into the assignment and keep a journal of their GenAI conversations. Students should not present texts generated or translated by GenAI tools as their own original work.	Yes
3	Quiz Students will be required to complete a final quiz to reinforce their understanding of the subject knowledge and applications.	1, 2, 3, 4	20	-	No

Continuous Assessment (%)

70

Examination (%)

30

Examination Duration (Hours)

2

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

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

Criterion

Ability to integrate and apply knowledge learnt and present new insights

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Abundant evidence of insightful integration, and eloquent argumentation

Good

(B+, B, B-) Significant evidence of insightful integration and clear argumentation

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Basic evidence of integration but argumentation can be improved

Marginal

(D) Marginal evidence of integration but argumentation is problematic

Failure

(F) Unacceptable evidence of integration and unacceptable argumentation

Assessment Task

In-class Activities (for students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Ability to identify and apply the subject knowledge through various class activities

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Abundant evidence of understanding, application and critique and eloquent argumentation

Good

(B+, B, B-) Significant evidence of understanding, application and critique and clear argumentation

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Basic evidence of understanding, application and critique but argumentation can be improved

Marginal

(D) Marginal evidence of understanding, application and critique but argumentation is problematic

Failure

(F) Unacceptable evidence of insightful integration and unacceptable argumentation

Assessment Task

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

Criterion

Ability to show understanding of subject knowledge and applications

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Abundant evidence of understanding and eloquent argumentation

Good

(B+, B, B-) Significant evidence of understanding and clear argumentation

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Basic evidence of understanding but argumentation can be improved

Marginal

(D) Marginal evidence of understanding but argumentation is problematic

Failure

(F) Unacceptable evidence of insightful integration and unacceptable argumentation

Assessment Task

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

Criterion

Ability to understand subject knowledge and apply it to the critique of unseen passages

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Abundant evidence of understanding, application and critique and eloquent argumentation

Good

(B+, B, B-) Significant evidence of understanding, application and critique and clear argumentation

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Basic evidence of understanding, application and critique but argumentation can be improved

Marginal

(D) Marginal evidence of understanding, application and critique but argumentation is problematic

Failure

(F) Unacceptable evidence of insightful integration and unacceptable argumentation

Assessment Task

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

Criterion

Ability to integrate and apply knowledge learnt and present new insights

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Abundant evidence of insightful integration, and eloquent argumentation

Good

(B+, B) Significant evidence of insightful integration and clear argumentation

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Basic evidence of integration but argumentation can be improved

Failure

(F) Unacceptable evidence of insightful integration and unacceptable argumentation

Assessment Task

In-class Activities (for students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

Ability to identify and apply the subject knowledge through various class activities

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Abundant evidence of understanding, application and critique and eloquent argumentation

Good

(B+, B) Significant evidence of understanding, application and critique and clear argumentation

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Basic evidence of understanding, application and critique but argumentation can be improved

Failure

(F) Unacceptable evidence of insightful integration and unacceptable argumentation

Assessment Task

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

Criterion

Ability to show understanding of subject knowledge and applications

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Abundant evidence of understanding and eloquent argumentation

Good

(B+, B) Significant evidence of understanding and clear argumentation

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Basic evidence of understanding but argumentation can be improved

Failure

(F) Inadequate evidence of insightful integration and unacceptable argumentation

Assessment Task

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

Criterion

Ability to understand subject knowledge and apply it to the critique of unseen passages

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Abundant evidence of understanding, application and critique and eloquent argumentation

Good

(B+, B) Significant evidence of understanding, application and critique and clear argumentation

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Basic evidence of understanding, application and critique but argumentation can be improved

Failure

(F) Unacceptable evidence of insightful integration and unacceptable argumentation

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

critical applied linguistics; sociolinguistics and power; gender and language; race and class; critical discourse analysis; cohesion and coherence; metaphor and translation; advertising discourse; press release and crisis management; political discourse analysis; translation and culture.

Reading List

Compulsory Readings

Title	
1	Bloor, M. & Bloor, T. (2007). The practice of critical discourse analysis. London: Hodder Arnold.
2	Fairclough, I. & Fairclough, N. (2012). Political discourse analysis: a method for advanced students. Abingdon: Routledge.
3	Pennycook, A. (2001). Critical applied linguistics: a critical introduction. Mahwah, N.J.: L. Erlbaum.

Additional Readings

Title	
1	Charteris-Black, J. (2005). Politicians and rhetoric: The persuasive power of metaphor. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.
2	Fairclough, N. (2010). Critical discourse analysis: the critical study of language. Harlow: Longman.
3	Pennycook, A. (1998). English and the discourses of colonialism. London; New York: Routledge.