

**City University of Hong Kong**  
**Course Syllabus**

**offered by Department of Linguistics and Translation**  
**with effect from Semester A 2018 / 19**

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**Part I Course Overview**

**Course Title:** Introduction to Linguistics

**Course Code:** LT2201

**Course Duration:** One semester

**Credit Units:** 3

**Level:** B2

**Proposed Area:**  
*(for GE courses only)*

Arts and Humanities  
 Study of Societies, Social and Business Organisations  
 Science and Technology

**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)* CTL2201 Introduction to Linguistics

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

## Part II Course Details

### 1. Abstract

(A 150-word description about the course)

This course aims to:

- introduce the field of linguistics as the scientific study of language;
- familiarize students with the interesting issues related to language and language use;
- enable students to acquire the forms, functions and meanings of language in general;
- enable them to discover and analyse language data in real life situation.

### 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 <sup>#</sup>	Weighting* (if applicable)	Discovery-enriched curriculum related learning outcomes (please tick ✓ where appropriate)		
			A1	A2	A3
1.	Understand what language is and what language has in general	25%	✓	✓	
2.	Describe the structure of human natural language	25%		✓	✓
3.	Explain the conceptual foundations of linguistics as a scientific discipline	25%		✓	✓
4.	Apply creatively linguistic methods in the discovery and analysis of real language data	25%	✓	✓	✓
		100%			

\* If weighting is assigned to CILOs, they should add up to 100%.

<sup>#</sup> Please specify the alignment of CILOs to the Gateway Education Programme Intended Learning outcomes (PILOs) in Section A of Annex.

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.)

Final details will be provided to students in their first week of attendance in this course.

TLA	Brief Description	CILO No.						Hours/week (if applicable)
		1	2	3	4			
1	Lectures and discussions	✓	✓	✓	✓			2 hours/wk
2	Tutorials	✓	✓	✓	✓			1 hour/wk
3	Reading, Canvas materials	✓	✓					1-3 hours/wk

#### 4. Assessment Tasks/Activities (ATs)

(ATs are designed to assess how well the students achieve the CIOs.)

Final details will be provided to students in their first week of attendance in this course.

Assessment Tasks/Activities	CILO No.					Weighting*	Remarks
	1	2	3	4			
Continuous Assessment: 60%							
<b>DEC-based LAS Project (Language Around Us):</b> Students are required to discover, analyse and report some interesting or novel language phenomenon, preferably in Hong Kong, by presenting the data with a preliminary analysis.	✓	✓	✓	✓		15%	Students are encouraged to 'discover' language-related issues in everyday communication by collecting linguistic data, making an analysis and seeking an explanation. (3-5 pages DEC report)
<b>DEC-based LT Forum Journal</b> Students are required to attend at least ONE LT Forum Talk (or other language-related talks) and write about the insight and discovery from the talk.	✓	✓	✓	✓		5%	Students are encouraged to 'discover' new research advancement by attending LT Forum talks delivered by international scholars (1 pages)
<b>Reading Previews:</b> to prepare students for the lecture and check students' understanding of the key concepts covered in the weekly reading.	✓	✓				20% 2% each	10 weekly reading questions will be given to encourage previews of the reading and make sure that students understand the key concepts
<b>Tutorial: Problem solving and Group Presentation</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓		20%	Students will be divided into small groups to work on the textbook problems and present their answers
<b>Examination:</b> 40% (duration: 2 hours, at the end of the semester) Final Examination that examines students' analytical power applying different linguistic theories creatively. (CILO No.1, 2, 3, 4)							
						100%	

\* The weightings should add up to 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-)	Adequate (C+, C, C-)	Marginal (D)	Failure (F)
1. LAS Project (Language Around us)	Keen observation Linguistic data Basic analysis	Superior collection and presentation of data; excellent observation and analysis; excellent language proficiency	Good collection and presentation of data; good observation and analysis; excellent language proficiency	Adequate collection and presentation of data; Adequate observation and analysis; Adequate language proficiency	Inadequate collection and presentation of data; Adequate observation and analysis; Adequate language proficiency	Poor collection and presentation of data; poor observation and analysis; poor language proficiency
2. LT Forum journal	Active attendance Interest in the topic Detailed report	Superior grasp of the content of the talk and excellent feedback with insightful critique or comments; excellent language proficiency	Good grasp of the content of the talk and good feedback with insightful critique or comments. Good language proficiency	Adequate grasp of the content of the talk and good feedback with insightful critique or comments. Good language proficiency	Inadequate grasp of the content of the talk and good feedback with insightful critique or comments. Good language proficiency	Poor grasp of the content of the talk and poor feedback with no insightful critique or comments. Poor language proficiency
3. Weekly Preview Questions	Weekly preview of the reading	Superior grasp of the subject matter; excellent analytical skills and language proficiency.	Good grasp of the subject matter; good analytical skills and language proficiency.	Adequate grasp of the subject matter; able to apply analytical skills to some extent; adequate language proficiency but with careless mistakes at times.	Problematic understanding of the subject matter; weak in analytical skills and language proficiency.	Little evidence of familiarity of the subject matter; unable to apply analytical skills; poor language proficiency.
4. Problem solving and Group Presentation	Teamwork and oral presentation	Superior problem solving skills and excellent oral presentation	Good problem solving skills and Good oral presentation	Adequate problem solving skills and fair oral presentation	Inadequate problem solving skills and problematic oral presentation	Poor problem solving skills and poor oral presentation
5. Final Exam	Full understanding of the class content (lecture and tutorial)	Superior grasp of the subject matter; evidence of extensive knowledge base; excellent analytical skills and language proficiency.	Good grasp of the subject matter; evidence of good knowledge base; good analytical skills and language proficiency.	Adequate grasp of the subject matter; able to apply analytical skills to some extent; adequate language proficiency with some mistakes.	Problematic understanding of the subject matter; weak in analytical skills and language proficiency.	Little evidence of familiarity of the subject matter; unable to apply analytical skills; poor language proficiency.

**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.)*

1. Linguistics as a scientific discipline
  - Properties of human natural language
  - Linguistics as a science
  - Competence and performance
2. Subfields of linguistics
  - Phonetics, Phonology, morphology, Syntax, Semantics, Pragmatics
  - Sociolinguistics, Neurolinguistics, Language Acquisition
3. Structure of human natural language
  - Structure of words
  - Patterning of sounds
  - Notions of constituent and category in grammar
  - Sense and reference
4. Uses and users of language
  - Language varieties
  - Dialect, Register, Genre, Style
  - Bilingualism
  - Cross-cultural communication

**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.	Yule, G. 2014. 6 <sup>th</sup> edition. <i>The Study of Language</i> . CUP.
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**2.2 Additional Readings**

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

1.	George Lakoff and Mark Johnson (2003). <i>Metaphors we live by</i>
2.	Steven Pinker. (1994). <i>The Language Instinct: the New Science of Language and Mind</i>
3.	Fromkin, V. & Rodman R., Hyams, N. (2011). <i>An Introduction to Language</i> , 9 <sup>th</sup> ed.
4.	<i>Language Files: Materials for an Introduction to Language and Linguistics</i> , 12th Edition, Department of Linguistics at the Ohio State University, June 2011.
5.	<a href="#">Lewis Carroll</a> . <i>Alice in the Wonderland (Through the Looking Glass)</i>
6.	Online Resources: <a href="http://www.lshk.org/">http://www.lshk.org/</a> Linguistic Society of Hong Kong <a href="http://www.sil.org/linguistics/">http://www.sil.org/linguistics/</a> Linguistics in SIL <a href="http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Linguistics">http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Linguistics</a> Linguistics-Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

### Weekly Schedules and Topics

WEEK/DATE	TOPIC	PREVIEW READING	NOTE
W1 / Sept 05	Introduction of the class What is language?	Ch. 2 (Ch. 1)	Add and Drop
W2 / Sept 12	Ch2-Animal vs. human communication	Ch. 3	Language Instinct
W3 / Sept 19	Ch3- Sounds of language (Phonetics)	Ch. 4	PQ1
W4 / Sept 26	Ch4- Sound patterns of language (Phonology)	Ch. 5	PQ2
W5 / Oct 03	Ch5-Word formation	Ch. 6	PQ3
W6 / Oct 10	Ch6-Morphology	Ch. 7	PQ4
W7 / Oct 17	Holiday		
W8 / Oct 24	Ch7-Grammar	Ch. 8	PQ5
W9 / Oct 31	Ch8-Syntax	Ch. 9	PQ6
W10 / Nov 07	Ch9-Semantics	Ch. 10	PQ7 Metaphors we live by
W11/Nov 14	Ch10-Pragmatics	Ch. 11	PQ8
W12/ Nov 21	Ch11-Discourse analysis	Ch. 12	PQ9
W13/ Nov 28	Ch12-Language and the brain (Neurolinguistics)	Ch. 13	PQ10
Dec 3-8	Revision period	Reviews	
Dec 10-22	Final exam		

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