

GE3108: LANGUAGE IN ART, INVENTION AND INSPIRATION

Effective Term

Semester A 2022/23

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Language in Art, Invention and Inspiration

Subject Code

GE - Gateway Education

Course Number

3108

Academic Unit

Linguistics and Translation (LT)

College/School

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CH)

Course Duration

One Semester

Credit Units

3

Level

B1, B2, B3, B4 - Bachelor's Degree

GE Area (Primary)

Area 1 - Arts and Humanities

Medium of Instruction

English

Medium of Assessment

English

Prerequisites

Nil

Precursors

Nil

Equivalent Courses

Nil

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

Over the course of history, as the need has arisen for new ways to talk about the world experienced around us and in us, humankind has relied on the power of language to creatively go where no language has gone before, as evidenced in our literature, and the discourses of science, religion and politics. The great works of poets, novelists, dramatists, e.g. Robert Frost, Cormac McCarthy, J.B. Priestley, draw on the same resources of language available to us all, but thanks to their creative crafting, their works have achieved recognition as being examples of verbal art. Scientific theorizing would not be possible except by means of the meaning-making power in language to turn our common-sense view of experience as dynamic happenings into a metaphorical world of static things which can be observed, investigated and explained. Religious language has the potential to inspire, whether through sermons, hymns, prayers or other sacred texts. Political discourse has led humankind to and away from the brink of war. This course dissects examples of poetry and plays, as well as scientific, religious and political discourse to discover what is going on in the language of art, invention and inspiration.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs	Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1 Develop a critical awareness of the language resources enabling creativity and knowledge construction		x		
2 Apply text analysis techniques to recognize use of language resources enabling creativity and knowledge construction			x	
3 Hands-on experience with dissecting example texts employing language resources enabling creativity and knowledge construction			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.

Teaching and Learning Activities (TLAs)

TLAs	Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)
1 Lecture	Fundamentals of language resources enabling creativity and knowledge construction	1, 2, 3	2

2	Supervised participation in online chat group discussion	Discussion of basic concepts and application of text analysis techniques for recognizing language resources enabling creativity and knowledge construction	2, 3	1
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Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks (e.g. Parameter for GenAI use)	
1	Midterm test	1, 2, 3	20	
2	Term paper (1000-1200 words)	1, 2, 3	20	Commenting on the use of language in a particular text, which may be literary, technical/scientific, religious, or political in nature.
3	Participation in supervised online chat group discussion on assigned topics	1, 2, 3	20	Engaging in group chat/discussion via Canvas

Continuous Assessment (%)

60

Examination (%)

40

Examination Duration (Hours)

2

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

1. Midterm

Criterion

Understanding of fundamental concepts related to the discussion of linguistics resources enabling creativity and knowledge construction

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

High

Good (B+, B, B-)

Significant

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Moderate

Marginal (D)

Basic

Failure (F)

Not even reaching marginal levels

Assessment Task

2. Participation in supervised online chat group discussion on assigned topics and exercises.

Criterion

Understanding of fundamental concepts related to the discussion of linguistics resources enabling creativity and knowledge construction

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

High

Good (B+, B, B-)

Significant

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Moderate

Marginal (D)

Basic

Failure (F)

Not even reaching marginal levels

Assessment Task

3. Examination

Criterion

Understanding of fundamental concepts related to the discussion of linguistics resources enabling creativity and knowledge construction

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

High

Good (B+, B, B-)

Significant

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Moderate

Marginal (D)

Basic

Failure (F)

Not even reaching marginal levels

Assessment Task

4. Term paper

Criterion

Ability to dissect example texts and critically evaluate use of language resources for enabling creativity and knowledge construction

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

High

Good (B+, B, B-)

Significant

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Moderate

Marginal (D)

Basic

Failure (F)

Not even reaching marginal levels

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

Weeks 1-2

Three histories: critical steps in the evolution of meaning

- A child' s history
- A language' s history
- A text' s history

Week 3

What is metaphor?

Week 4

Verbal Art

- Poetry: Edwin Thumboo' s A poet reading
- Drama: J.B. Priestley' s An Inspector Calls

Week 5

Verbal Science: Newton' s Opticks

Week 6 – Midterm Test

Week 7-8

- Verbal Art in Scientific discourse: Darwin' s Origin of Species
- Science in Verbal Art: Tennyson' s In Memoriam

Week 9-10

- Verbal Art in Religious discourse: The Psalms
- Religion in Verbal Art: Cormac McCarthy' s Sunset Limited

Week 11-12

- Verbal Art in Political discourse – Churchill' s war-time speeches
- Politics in Verbal Art – Langston Hughes Let America be America Again

Week 13

The future of language and knowledge

Reading List

Compulsory Readings

Title	
1	Targeted readings including poetry, drama, scientific texts, political speeches, etc. as identified in course syllabus – see III.1 above.

Additional Readings

Title	
1	Webster, J. (Ed.) (2009). Volumes 2, 5, 7, 8 of The Collected Works of M.A.K. Halliday (Bloomsbury)
2	Webster, J. (2015). Understanding Verbal Art: A Functional Linguistic Approach (Springer)
3	Hasan, R. (1989). Linguistics, Language and Verbal Art (Oxford University Press)
4	Lukin, A. (Forthcoming). War and its ideologies: A social-semiotic theory and description (Springer)

Annex (for GE courses only)

A. Please specify the Gateway Education Programme Intended Learning Outcomes (PILOs) that the course is aligned to and relate them to the CILOs stated in Part II, Section 2 of this form:

Please indicate which CILO(s) is/are related to this PILO, if any (can be more than one CILOs in each PILO)

PILO 2: Explain the basic methodologies and techniques of inquiry of the arts and humanities, social sciences, business, and science and technology

1

PILO 3: Demonstrate critical thinking skills

2, 3

PILO 4: Interpret information and numerical data

2, 3

PILO 5: Produce structured, well-organised and fluent text

1, 3

PILO 7: Demonstrate an ability to work effectively in a team

2

PILO 8: Recognise important characteristics of their own culture(s) and at least one other culture, and their impact on global issues

1, 2, 3

PILO 9: Value ethical and socially responsible actions

1, 2, 3

PILO 10: Demonstrate the attitude and/or ability to accomplish discovery and/or innovation

3

B. Please select an assessment task for collecting evidence of student achievement for quality assurance purposes. Please retain at least one sample of student achievement across a period of three years.

Selected Assessment Task

Examination